

IELTS

Writing Task 2

Target 7.0



Total guide to IELTS Writing Task 2
Key vocabulary, writing skills & tips
Test practice & model answers

Achieve your goal

Peter Wright
Joyce Salas

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Unit 1: Opinion Essays

Test Tips – Opinion Essays

- ⇒ There are three types of opinion essays.
- ⇒ **Do you agree or disagree? - To what extent do you agree with the statement?**
These are exactly the same question and can be answered in the same way.
- ⇒ **Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?**
- ⇒ **Is this a positive or negative development?**
- ⇒ Opinion essays require you to state your opinion or position in response to the statement.
- ⇒ The structure and content of the essay will depend on the position/opinion you take.
- ⇒ Once you have decided on your position, stay with it and don't change your mind half way through your answer. You don't have time to rewrite and restructure your essay.

Essay Structure

Note: The essay structures apply to the “agree or disagree”, “positive or negative” and “Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?” essays.

Essay Structure: 100% (One side)

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paraphrase the statement. Include your thesis statement.

Paragraph 2: One side

1, maximum 2 reasons (ideas) why you believe in one side - with supporting details.

Paragraph 3: One side

1, maximum 2 more reasons (ideas) why you believe in one side - with supporting details.

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

Restate (paraphrase) your position and main reasons for one side from the body paragraphs. No new information.

Exercise 4: Paraphrasing the task. Put the synonyms in the correct category.

pros	surpass	predominate
overshadow	upsides	downsides
benefits	drawbacks	cons

advantages	disadvantages	outweigh

growth	favorable	destructive
optimistic	shift	constructive
regressive	detrimental	change

positive	negative	development

concur with	differ from	contradict
subscribe to	side with	dissent from

agree	disagree

Example: Thesis statement

Opinions on food are changing rapidly and there are many who believe that everyone should follow a vegetarian diet because it would have a positive impact on our health and the environment.

Do you agree or disagree?

I equally concur with and dissent from with this proposal and this essay will outline the reasons why.

Practice task: Write the thesis statement for the practice task.

Exercise 5: Punctuation.

Rewrite the following introductions with correct punctuation.

A: in recent times traveling abroad has become more accessible cheaper and popular this essay will expand on the writers opinion which is feasible as to why this trend is equally favorable and detrimental

B: it has become popular in some nations particularly in my own country for parents to educate their children at home rather than place them in a preschool which is traditional this essay will detail the reasons why the cons greatly outweigh the pros of this practice

Practice task: Write the introduction (paraphrase and thesis statement) for the practice task.

Note: A band 8 sample answer for the **Unit 2 Practice Task** is in the answer key.

Some people think that science should be part of everyone's education, while others disagree.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Plan the body paragraphs

Test Tips – Planning the body paragraphs

- ⇒ Candidates often run out of time on this question. So, it needs careful planning.
- ⇒ In the planning stage, think of the reasons for both points of view and your own opinion.

Example:

While some people consider global warming to be the most pressing environmental problem, others believe that deforestation has a more devastating impact on our world.

Introduction: Your opinion does not agree with the other views.

Paragraph 2:

Global warming causes
Extreme weather conditions
Rising sea levels

Paragraph 3:

Deforestation causes
Loss of animal habitat
Animal extinction

Paragraph 4:

Overpopulation causes
Too much demand on resources
Rising global temperatures

Practice task: Plan the body paragraphs for the practice task according to the thesis statement you've already written.

Conclusion

Exercise 5: Choose the best conclusion.

- A. In conclusion, another cause of obesity is greed. Too many people do not know when they have had enough to eat and cannot control themselves. Governments, therefore, should take responsibility for educating their citizens to be more responsible for their weight levels and physical fitness.
- B. In conclusion, an unhealthy diet and lack of exercise have resulted in obesity amongst people.
- C. In conclusion, an unhealthy diet and lack of exercise have resulted in obesity amongst people. Governments, therefore, should take responsibility for educating their citizens to be more responsible for their weight levels and physical fitness.

Practice task: Write the conclusion.

Test practice

Time yourself when completing the tasks. When you have finished, compare your answers to the band 8 models.

Model Answer 6

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.
Write about the following topic.

An increasing number of professional, such as teachers and doctors are leaving their own poorer countries to work in developed countries.

What are the reasons for this trend? What effect does it have on the countries professionals are leaving?

Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer 7

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.
Write about the following topic.

These days many young people are spending less time doing outdoor activities and enjoying nature.

*What are the reasons for this?
How can we encourage them to do more of these activities?*

Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Unit 5: Multiple Questions

Test Tips – Task Requirements

- ⇒ Multiple questions are also known as “double questions” or “direct questions”
- ⇒ The task requires you to answer questions in response to a statement.
- ⇒ There are usually 2 questions and the topics are usually social.
- ⇒ You might be required to answer 3 questions but this is very rare.
- ⇒ You should give equal weight to answering both questions.
- ⇒ The questions can be closed (requiring a yes/no answer) and you need to expand on your answer giving supporting details.

Analyze the task

The arts, including theatre, music and art considered to have an important role in society.

Do you think the arts have a vital role in today’s society?

Should the arts be included in the school curriculum?

Exercise 1: Choose the correct task requirement.

- A. I should give my opinion about the role of the arts in the school curriculum.
- B. I need to discuss whether the arts have an important role in society today.
- C. I should discuss if the arts are important in society today and if they should be a part of the school curriculum.

Essay Structure

Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paraphrase the statement. Include your thesis statement.

Paragraph 2: Answer the first question

1, maximum 2 ideas with supporting details.

Paragraph 3: Answer the second question

1, maximum 2 ideas with supporting details.

Paragraph 4: Conclusion

Restate the main ideas from the body paragraphs. No new information.

Model Answer 10

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic.

In today's world, people spend a lot of money on appearance because they want to look younger.

Why is this happening?

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

In contemporary society, a sizeable amount of money is being spent by individuals on their physical appearance. This essay will detail the reasons for this trend and explain why it is a completely negative phenomenon.

Consumers are spending considerably on trying to look younger because international companies heavily promote their products and treatments at affordable prices. Their sales techniques are successful because they pander to vanity and insecurity. It has become common for people who are not especially wealthy to spend on cosmetic surgery, which they believe makes them look more attractive and boosts their self-confidence. In addition, treatments to slow the aging process have become increasingly popular. These services have become particularly popular with celebrities and wealthy people who, in turn, endorse these companies.

I believe this is a negative trend that is driven by the desire for profit. Companies take advantage of peoples' lack of self-worth by offering superficial solutions such as cosmetic surgery. There are numerous documented cases where these surgical enhancements have caused emotional distress because of malpractice. Instead of wasting money on this type of practice, people would be better advised to consult with professionals who can help them combat low self-esteem. Furthermore, there is little credible evidence that the aging process can be delayed but, despite this, businesses are offering expensive treatments.

In conclusion, today people are spending more money than ever before on products and services to appear younger and even slow down the aging process. This is totally negative because individuals are being taken advantage of by unscrupulous companies that prioritize profit.

260 words