

# 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**

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## About the Book

### IELTS Writing Task 2 **Target 7.0**

IELTS Writing Task 2 Target 7.0 is a step-by-step guide to writing a band 7.0 essay. It takes you through the task requirements for each essay type, gives practice of the essential IELTS writing skills, and provides band 8.0 model answers.

#### Who is the book for?

This book is suitable for IELTS students and candidates who have just started on their IELTS study program, along with more experienced students who need to achieve a band 7.0 plus to pursue their life goals.

#### How to use the book?

The book can be used as a self-study guide and is also suitable for IELTS teachers to use in their lessons, either as a complete course book or supplementary material. You can work through each unit or focus on essay types that you might be having difficulty with.

#### Unit Contents

This book focuses on **ALL** IELTS writing Task 2 essay types.

Each unit has...

- ⇒Explanation of the requirements for each task type.
- ⇒Essential practice of IELTS writing skills.
- ⇒Language practice exercises and activities.
- ⇒Test practice questions from IELTS past papers.
- ⇒Band 8.0 model answers .

#### About the Authors

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**Introduction**

**Time Management & Word Count**

The instructions say, “*Write at least 250 words*”. Even though there is no IELTS restriction on the number of words you can write, writing 300 + words on Task 2 is really not necessary and is not effective time management. Nevertheless, there is no penalty for writing more than 250 words.

Answers under the word count are penalized in the Task Response criterion. When the examiner sees that your answer is short, they will count the number of words and impose a penalty.

Number of words	Task Response
240 +	No penalty
210 - 239	Minus 1 band
Under 210	Minus 2 bands

**How Words are Counted**

Numbers, dates and time are counted as words in the writing test.

- 30,000 = one words
- 55 = one word
- 9.30 am = one word
- 12.06.2022 = one word

Dates written as both words and numbers are counted separately.

- *12th July* = one number and a word

Symbols with numbers are not counted.

- 55% = one word (the symbol “%” is not counted as a word).
- “55 percent” is counted as one word and one number.

Hyphenated words like “*up-to-date*” are counted as one word.

Compound nouns, written as one word, are counted as one word.

- *blackboard* = one word

If you copy sentences or parts of sentences from the task description, the words will be deducted from the word count.

Words and numbers in brackets are counted. This sentence has 9 words. The number in brackets is counted as a word.

- “*The majority of energy was generated by electricity (55%).*”

### Test Tips – Time Management

- Don't spend longer than 40 minutes on Task 2.
- Time yourself when doing test practice tasks.
- Aim for 250-270 words.

Always plan your essay. This will have a positive effect on your time management.

Counting words can be time consuming. After each paragraph, quickly count the words and write the number on your answer sheet so you don't need to recount.

- The Computer Delivered IELTS test has an automatic word count onscreen.

### Formal Vs Informal Language

IELTS Writing Task 2 is an academic essay and needs to be written in a formal style or tone. Some differences between formal and informal style.

Formal	Informal
Write words in full <i>I will, I am</i>	Use contractions <i>I'll, I'm</i>
Don't use idioms <i>All things considered...</i>	Use idioms At the end of the day...
No abbreviations, write words in full <i>The maximum amount...</i>	Use abbreviations <i>The max amount...</i>
Don't use imperative voice <i>Can you call me?</i>	Use imperative voice <i>Give me a call.</i>
Don't use colloquial expressions <i>He was dismissed.</i>	Use colloquial expressions <i>He got the sack.</i>

### Grading

Task 2 is worth 67% of your overall writing band score, and answers are graded according to the IELTS Writing Public band descriptors.

You are graded in 4 criteria – Task Response, Coherence and Cohesion, Lexical Resource and Grammatical Range & Accuracy.

The criteria are equally weighted with 25% awarded for each category and the writing band score is the average of the four.

## Task Response

Even though each criterion is equally weighted at 25% each, Task Response is the most important category as it is possible to get a lower band score than the other criteria if you do not answer the question.

The sub categories in Task Response are...

- Addressing the prompt
- Appropriate format
- Stating a clear position
- Extending and supporting your main ideas

### Addressing the prompt

This means answering the question

**Band 7:** *The main parts of the prompts are appropriately addressed.*

**Example:** For both views & own opinion question, you have included a discussion of both views and stated your own opinion.

### Appropriate format

**Band 6:** *Appropriate format used.*

**Example:** The essay DOES NOT include headings, sub-headings, numbered lists and/or bullet points. Task 2 is an academic essay and should be written only in paragraphs.

### Stating a clear position

It's important that your opinion or "position" is clearly stated and your reasons to support it are consistently given throughout your answer. You also need to draw conclusions based on your position.

**Band 7:** *A clear and developed position is presented*

**Example:** For agree or disagree questions, the writer express a clear position ("totally agree") and the main ideas match this position.

### Extending and supporting your main ideas

**Band 7:** *Main ideas are extended and supported*

Your main ideas will be stated in your body paragraphs. These ideas should be supported by "any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience" as stated in the instructions.

### Test Tips – Task Response

- ⇒ To address all parts of the task, analyze the question to understand the task requirements of the essay type.
- ⇒ Be familiar with the structure/format of all essay types.
- ⇒ Always plan your essay. This will help you answer all parts in a balanced and appropriate way.
- ⇒ Decide on your position/opinion and stick with it. Do not change your opinion half way through your answer.
- ⇒ When expanding on your reasons for your position in the body paragraphs, always include supporting details.
- ⇒ The task instruction already guides you on supporting details when they say include "any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience"

## Coherence and Cohesion

The Coherence and Cohesion criterion is almost the same for Writing Tasks 1 and 2. The only difference in Task 2 is the inclusion of *paragraphing*.

**Coherence** refers to the flow of your writing. Examiners are looking for how you have organized your answer into distinct paragraphs.

**Cohesion** refers to the use of cohesive devices or linking phrases and words that connect and show the relationship between parts of sentences and paragraphs.

**A list of cohesive devices page can be found on page 45**

The sub categories in Coherence & Cohesion are...

- Organization of information and ideas. Clear progression
- Effective paragraphing
- Use of cohesive devices
- Referencing and substitution

### Organization of ideas & effective paragraphing

**Band 7:** *Information and ideas are logically organized. Paragraphing is generally used effectively. Presents a clear, central topic within each paragraph.*

Task 2 is an academic essay and you are expected to have distinct paragraphs that include an introduction, body paragraphs and a conclusion.

### Cohesive devices

**Band 7:** *A range of cohesive devices used... some inaccuracies.*

You can still achieve a band 7 even though you have made some mistakes in the choice of cohesive devices (linking words).

### Referencing and substitution

**Band 6:** *Referencing and substitution may lack flexibility and clarity.*

Referencing is using pronouns (it, they, them, this, these... etc.) to avoid repeating what you mentioned earlier.

Substitution is using synonyms and paraphrase to avoid repeating what you mentioned earlier.

### Test Tips – Coherence & Cohesion

- ⇒ Structure the Task 2 essay into clear paragraphs - introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion.
- ⇒ In the body paragraphs, avoid “listing” ideas - that is giving a list of ideas with little or no supporting details (explanation and examples).
- ⇒ Each body paragraph should have one central topic that is supported with your knowledge, experiences and examples.
- ⇒ Use a range of cohesive devices (linking words). Cohesive devices can also be used between sentences and are not restricted to the beginning of the sentence.

**Example:** **However**, the disadvantages should not be ignored.

The disadvantages **however**, should not be ignored.

- ⇒ Avoid repetition by using referencing and substitution.

## Lexical Resource

This criterion grades your vocabulary resource (range) and how accurately you use it. The main requirements to achieve a band 7 are...

- **Sufficient resource:** Vocabulary used flexibly and accurately.
- **Idiomatic items:** The use of some less common idioms.
- **Style:** Task 2 is a formal report and you should not use informal language.
- **Collocation:** This is accurately using collocation.
- **Word choice, spelling and word formation:** You can still achieve a band 7 in spite of errors.

## Grammatical Range and Accuracy

The Grammatical Range and Accuracy criterion measures your range of grammar (from simple to complex sentences) and accurate use. The main requirements to achieve a band 7 are...

- **Complex structures:** You should try to use more complex grammatical structures.
- **Errors in grammar and punctuation:** You can still achieve a Band 7 even though you make a few errors and these do not impede communication, and the majority of your sentences are error free.

## Planning

Planning your Task 2 answer is essential for success. Don't be intimidated by the suggested time limit of 40 minutes. It's more than enough time to plan and write a high scoring answer.

Planning your answer will...

- Manage the time effectively
- Organize your ideas
- Keep you on topic
- Enable you to address all parts of the task

Try the following approach.

- Analyze the question and the instructions. Then write your introduction. Spend about 5 minutes on this.
- Next, plan the content of your body paragraphs. You can write your plan on the question paper or if you are taking the Computer Delivered test, most test centers provide paper and a pencil.
- When planning, write your ideas for the body paragraphs in prompt words.
- Select the ideas to include in your body paragraphs. One or two main ideas are enough. Do not list all your ideas. Spend about 5 minutes on this.
- After planning, write your body paragraphs. Spend about 20 minutes on this.
- Then write your conclusion. Spend about 5 minutes on this.
- Finally, reread your answer and correct any obvious vocabulary, grammar and punctuation mistakes. **DO NOT** attempt to rewrite sections. Spend about 5 minutes on this.



Action	Time
1. Analyze the question & write the introduction	5 minutes
2. Plan the body paragraphs	5 minutes
3. Write the body paragraphs	20 minutes
4. Write the conclusion	5 minutes
5. Final check	5 minutes
	40 minutes

## Introduction

An IELTS Writing Task 2 introduction should contain a **paraphrase** of the rubric (the task statement) and a **thesis statement**.

Avoid a general discussion of the topic or “academic hook”

### Paraphrase:

Paraphrasing the task statement shows examiners that you understand the task and what you are required to write. Do not copy parts of the rubric as this will be deducted from your word count. Limit the paraphrase to 1 sentence.

*Many people believe that the current system of both teachers and students in the classroom will no longer exist by the year 2050.*

*To what extent do you agree with this opinion?*

### Paraphrase of the statement

*It is claimed by a majority that the contemporary practice of students interacting with teachers in actual classrooms is forecast to disappear by 2050.*

You can paraphrase by using...

**Synonyms:** Words and phrases that have similar meaning.

**Example:** Statement: believed - Paraphrase: claimed

### Changing the form of the word:

**Example:** from verb to noun: believe - belief (*Many hold the belief that...*)

### Using different grammatical structures.

**Example:** Statement: Many people believe - Paraphrase: *It is claimed by a majority*

## Thesis Statement

After paraphrasing the statement, write the thesis statement which has 2 parts. These parts can be in any order.

1. A statement of intent or purpose - what you will do in your essay.
2. State your position/opinion in response to the instructions.

**Example:** To what extent do you agree with this opinion?

*I strongly disagree with this statement, and this essay will detail the reasons why.*

**Pronouns:** It is acceptable to use pronouns in your thesis statement.

**Example:** *I strongly disagree with this statement and I will detail the reasons why in my essay.*

Stating a clear position is a main requirement of the Task Response criterion.

**Band 7:** *presents a clear position throughout the response.*

State your position clearly in the introduction and be consistent in following it all the way through your essay.

## Body Paragraphs

In planning stage 2, you have already listed the ideas in support of your position. Now you should select which ideas you want to include in your answer.

When selecting, choose the ideas that you can easily provide supporting details for. Which ideas can you give clear and relevant reasons and examples for?

Avoid “listing”. This is where you choose too many ideas to include in your body paragraphs. One and a maximum of two ideas are enough as each one needs to have supporting details. One main idea per paragraph should be enough if it is properly supported.

### Topic Sentence

Start the body paragraph with a **topic sentence** that summarizes what you will write in the paragraph. A topic sentence is an introduction to the content of your paragraph.

**Example:** *I believe that remote learning is not an effective approach when it comes to teaching children and adolescents.*

### Supporting Details

After the topic sentence, you should provide relevant supporting details using your knowledge, experience and give examples.

**Example:** *This is because these groups of pupils lack the concentration levels for distance learning where it is necessary to sit in front of a screen for long periods, usually at home where there are too many distractions.*

## Giving Examples

Examples don't need to be 100% true or accurate. They can come from many sources such as articles, documentaries, official research, personal experience, etc.

You can introduce examples with phrases such as, “*According to government research...*” or “*For instance, my experience of remote learning was...*”

When giving examples, you can back them up with statistics and, again, these don't need to be 100% genuine.

**Example:** *For instance, in my country in 2018, political leaders implemented a pilot scheme of studying remotely with several secondary schools. The result was that 80% of pupils had worse academic results when compared to other institutions that did not employ such a system.*

## Conclusion

A clear and relevant conclusion is as important as all the other elements of your answer. According to the Task Response criterion, unclear conclusions will be graded at band 6.

### What to include?

A conclusion is a summary of the content of your essay. It should show the examiner that you are bringing everything to a close.

Always begin with a simple... “To conclude,” or “In conclusion,”. IELTS Writing Task 2 is a formal, academic essay so avoid colloquial expressions such as...

*“In a nutshell,” or “When all's said and done,”*

- Restate your position (for opinion questions) from the introduction. Don't copy your position word for word. Use synonyms and paraphrase.
- Restate the main reasons for your position from the body paragraphs. Don't include the supporting details. Don't copy your main reasons word for word. Use synonyms and paraphrase.
- Conclusions should be limited to one or two sentences.

### What NOT to include?

- Never include any new information in the conclusion. A conclusion is a summary of what you have already written. Ideas with supporting details should be in the body paragraphs.
- Avoid generalizations and keep it relevant and specific to your answer.

## 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 questions 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:** These 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.

**Essay Structure: 50-50 (both sides are equally valid)****Paragraph 1: Introduction**

Paraphrase the statement. Include your thesis statement.

**Paragraph 2: One side**

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

**Paragraph 3: The other side**

1, maximum 2 reasons why you believe in the other side - with supporting details.

**Paragraph 4: Conclusion**

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

**Analyze the Task**

*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?*

**Exercise 1:** Choose the correct task requirement.

**A:** I should agree or disagree that switching to a meat free diet would benefit my well-being because it is a trending topic.

**B:** I should agree or disagree that giving up eating meat would benefit my well-being along with benefitting the environment even though many people believe otherwise.

**C:** I should agree or disagree with the growing belief that not eating meat products would result in a healthy lifestyle and being environmentally friendly.

**Introduction: Paraphrase the Statement**

**Exercise 2:** Choose the best paraphrase sentence for the task above.

**A:** An increased awareness of how a meat free diet can benefit our health and the environment has resulted in the widely held belief that everyone should become vegetarian.

**B:** Becoming a vegetarian is one of the hottest topics debated on many platforms such as social media because a lot of people believe it would have a positive impact on one's health and the environment.

**Practice Task:** Paraphrase the task in one sentence.  
**Note:** A band 8 sample answer for the **Unit 1 Practice Task** is in the answer key.

*In many countries, it is mandatory for school children to wear school uniforms.*

*Do the advantages of this policy outweigh the disadvantages?*

### Introduction: Thesis Statement

#### Test Tips – Thesis Statement

- ⇒ The thesis statement has 2 parts. These can be in any order.
  1. A statement of intent or purpose - what you will do in your essay.
  2. State your position/opinion in response the instructions.
  
- ⇒ For opinion questions, there are 2 possible positions you can take.
  1. 100% one side OR the other
  2. 50-50 both sides are equally valid
  
- ⇒ Taking the position of “mostly”, “partially”, “somewhat” is not particularly clear and you will need to give more reasons for one side than the other. Your answer will be unbalanced. Therefore, it is not recommended to take this position.

**Band 7 Task Response:** *a clear and developed position is presented.*

ELTS Writing Task 2 is a formal academic essay and the language used to state your position/opinion should be in formal style.

**Exercise 3:** Put the following expressions for stating your position in the formal or informal column.

I reckon	In my opinion	If you ask me, I think	From my perspective
As far as I am concerned	I guess	From my point of view	I suppose
In my view	I believe	I think	To be honest

Formal	Informal

**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 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

## Plan the Body Paragraphs

### Test Tips – Planning Body Paragraphs

- ⇒ After you have written the introduction, plan your body paragraphs. Take 5 minutes for this.
- ⇒ Don't try to brainstorm as many ideas as possible.
- ⇒ Limit your ideas to 2 or 3 main ones.
- ⇒ Write your ideas for the body paragraphs in prompt words, not full sentences.
- ⇒ Select a maximum of 2 main ideas that you can expand on with supporting details.

### Example:

*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?*

**Introduction: Position - 50-50 - (both sides are equally valid)**

Paragraph 1:

Benefits of vegetarian

Improved health

Environment - less factory farming - example, less deforestation

Paragraph 2:

Eating meat - important for physical development

Meat industry - employs many people

Contribute to country economy

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

## Write the Body Paragraphs

### Test Tips – Body Paragraphs

- ⇒ After you have planned the content of the body paragraphs, you should write them in 20 minutes.
- ⇒ Choose the ideas from your plan that you can easily provide supporting details for.
- ⇒ Start the body paragraph with a topic sentence that summarizes what you will write in the paragraph.
- ⇒ All ideas should be supported with your knowledge, experience and relevant examples.
- ⇒ Avoid "listing". This is where you choose too many ideas to include in your body paragraphs. One and a maximum of two ideas is enough.



**Exercise 6:** Choose the best topic sentence for the following paragraph.

*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?*

\_\_\_\_\_ Specifically, medical research has proved conclusively that vegetarians are less likely to develop health-related issues such as obesity or cardio-vascular diseases. High cholesterol levels, moreover, can be reduced and controlled by eliminating meat from our diet. Additionally, sourcing food from alternatives to meat can reduce the negative environmental impact of industrial meat farming, where huge swathes of natural habitat are lost every year to deforestation.

**A:** On the one hand, there are several benefits to becoming a vegetarian.

**B:** Vegetarians usually enjoy better health than meat eaters.

**Exercise 7:** Choose the correct cohesive device.

*Meat consumption, 1. \_\_\_\_\_, is considered to be a reliable and essential source of vitamins and minerals that are crucial in maintaining physical health. A vegetarian diet lacks the important nutrients which are vital, 2. \_\_\_\_\_, when it comes to the healthy development of children. 3. \_\_\_\_\_, these deficiencies need to be addressed by a high intake of supplements. 4. \_\_\_\_\_, meat production is a billion-dollar industry on which millions of people rely upon for employment. 5. \_\_\_\_\_, switching to a vegetarian culture would result in the loss of their livelihood.*

- |                   |                 |                   |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. A: however     | B: although     | C: even though    |
| 2. A: furthermore | B: for example  | C: in contrast    |
| 3. A: Besides     | B: Namely       | C: As a result    |
| 4. A: In addition | B: Consequently | C: In other words |
| 5. A: Next        | B: Therefore    | C: In addition    |

### Test Tips – Concession

⇒ When the writer chooses '**one side**', she can use concession where she acknowledges an opposite opinion before she states the main idea that remote learning is not suitable for youngsters.

**Example:** *While it is true that remote learning has become an increasingly popular and convenient method of learning especially for adults and college students, I believe that this approach is not effective when it comes to children and adolescents.*

⇒ Using concession is a very useful strategy to use in the topic sentence and you don't need to back it up with supporting details.

⇒ This is an example of a more complex sentence that will score higher in Grammatical Range and Accuracy and Coherence and Cohesion criteria.

#### Expressions for Concession

**Admittedly** + (opposite opinion); **nevertheless**, I am convinced that (your opinion)

**I accept that** + (opposite opinion); **in spite of this**, I believe that (your opinion)

**Although it may seem** + (opposite opinion); **however**, I would argue that (your opinion)

**Practice Task:** Write the body paragraphs using your plan.

## Conclusion

**Exercise 8:** Read the conclusion and delete the inappropriate and irrelevant information.

*To conclude, in my opinion, I believe a balance of meat and vegetables in one's diet is the healthiest option. that would have the advantage of safeguarding people's jobs. According to the Department of Health' research in 2024, this has been proven to be the most suitable choice. However, consumption of meat ought to be reduced for health and environmental reasons, and alternatives should be considered. For example, meat substitute produced in a laboratory is an option.*

**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 1

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

***Many people believe it is better to learn something in a group rather than individually. Do you agree or disagree?***

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

Write at least 250 words.

#### Model Answer 2

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

**Today, children spend a lot of their free time watching TV.**

**Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of this practice?**

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

Write at least 250 words.

#### Model Answer 3

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

**The development of technology has resulted in more employees working from home.**

**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.

## Unit 2: Discuss Both Views and Give Your Own Opinion

### Test Tips – Task Requirements

- ⇒ This essay combines discussion with opinion.
- ⇒ This is one of the more challenging essays since you are asked to write more than the other question types.

**Band 7 Task Response:** *The main parts of the prompt are appropriately addressed.*

- ⇒ This means you have discussed both views and stated your own opinion all with supporting details.

**Band 5 Task Response:** *The main parts of the prompt are incompletely addressed.*

- ⇒ This can mean you may have discussed both points of view but have not given your own opinion with supporting details.
- ⇒ Your own opinion can agree with one of the points of view but you should give a different reason/idea.
- ⇒ It is not advisable to agree with both points of view because it will require two different reasons/ideas why and will take longer to write.
- ⇒ You can give a different view that does not agree with the other points of view, with supporting details.

### Analyze the Task

*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.*

*Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.*

**Exercise 1:** Are the following sentences about the task above true or false?

1. I need to agree with one of the viewpoints.
2. I should have a different opinion from both of the views.
3. I should state why people have 2 different viewpoints only.
4. I should say why people have these different viewpoints and describe my own point of view.

## Essay Structure

There are 2 possible structures depending on your own opinion. It can agree with one of the points of view or you can take the position (opinion) that does not agree with the other viewpoints.

### Structure: Your opinion does not agree with the other views

#### Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paraphrase the statement. Include your thesis statement.

#### Paragraph 2: One point of view

1 reason (idea) why people have this view .

Begin with a topic sentence – the main reason why they have this view.

Expand with supporting details – your knowledge, experience, and examples.

#### Paragraph 3: Other point of view

1 reason why people have this point of view.

Begin with a topic sentence – the main reason why they have this view.

Expand with supporting details – your knowledge, experience, and examples.

#### Paragraph 4: Your point of view

1 reason why you have this point of view.

Begin with a topic sentence – the main reason why you have this view.

Expand with supporting details – your knowledge, experience, and examples.

#### Paragraph 5: Conclusion

Restate (paraphrase) both points of view and your own opinion.

No new information.

### Structure: Your opinion agrees with one of the points of view

#### Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paraphrase the statement. Include your thesis statement.

#### Paragraph 2: One point of view

1, maximum 2 reasons why people have this point of view.

Begin with a topic sentence – the main reason why they have this view and state clearly that you agree with it.

Expand with supporting details – your knowledge, experience, and examples.

#### Paragraph 3: Other point of view

1, maximum 2 reasons why people have this point of view.

Begin with a topic sentence – the main reason why they have this view.

Expand with supporting details – your knowledge, experience, and examples.

#### Paragraph 5: Conclusion

Restate (paraphrase) both points of view and your own opinion.

No new information.

## Introduction: Paraphrase the Task

### 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.*

*Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.*

*It is believed by some that global warming is the greatest threat to our environment, while others contend that deforestation is more destructive.*

## Introduction: Thesis Statement

### Test Tips – Thesis Statement

- ⇒ Because this essay type requires you to write more than others, keep the thesis statement concise.
- ⇒ You can write a **general statement** OR a general statement along with **stating your position** in the thesis statement.

### Example:

**General statement:** *This essay will elaborate on both these viewpoints and detail the writer's position.*

### Stating your position

*This essay will elaborate on both these positions and explain why over-population is the primary cause of environmental issues.*

**Exercise 2:** Choose the best introduction for the task.

*Some people think that governments should ban dangerous sports, while others think people should have the freedom to do any sports or activity.*

*Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

**A:** *The subject of government intervention in prohibiting certain types of leisure activities because of their hazardous nature is an issue of personal freedom and civil liberties. While some agree that governments need to ban dangerous sports, there are others who contend that citizens are responsible enough to make their own choices. In this essay, I will elaborate on both of these viewpoints and explain my own belief.*

**B:** *Some argue that everybody should be able to choose any activities they wish to do, while others contend that sports that pose a danger should be banned. This essay will discuss both viewpoints and detail the writer's opinion.*

**C:** *Dangerous sports should be banned by governments but others think people should have freedom to make up their minds. This essay will give the writer's own opinion.*

**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 both 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.

## Write the Body Paragraphs

### Test Tips – Body Paragraphs

- ⇒ Choose the ideas from your plan that you can easily provide supporting details for.
- ⇒ If you are writing a five paragraph answer, one or a maximum of two main ideas is enough.

**Exercise 3: Referencing** - using pronouns to avoid repetition.  
Replace the **highlighted words** with a pronoun.

It has been scientifically proven that the Earth’s temperature has increased steadily. According to Dr. Jones of the UN Climate Council, **the temperature** has risen over a relatively short period of time. Furthermore, **Dr. Jones** has produced evidence to prove global warming has had an adverse effect on the world’s climate . The UN Climate Council has predicted an increase in extreme weather conditions. **The UN Climate Council** foresee regular instances of drought and flooding and **drought and flooding** will become more widespread.

**Exercise 4: Substitution** - using synonyms and paraphrase to avoid repetition.  
Replace the **highlighted words** with a synonym or paraphrase.

Deforestation, in addition, has accelerated with huge swathes of natural habitats destroyed. For instance, **deforestation** in the Amazon rainforest has reduced the size of the rainforest. The effect on indigenous animals has been dire with many **indigenous animals** pushed to the brink of extinction through the loss of their natural habitat. The **extinction** of these animals will be permanent and several **animals** have already disappeared.

**Exercise 5: Cohesive Devices**  
Choose the correct linking word for the gaps

The negative effects of both trends are significant; 1. \_\_\_\_\_, they are symptoms of the root problem which is overpopulation. 2. \_\_\_\_\_, the world’s population now stands at approximately 8 billion and is projected to increase to 10 billion by 2050. 3. \_\_\_\_\_, this has placed increasing demands on the earth’s natural resources and increased the levels of CO2 emissions to an extent that the rise in global temperatures is out of control. Extreme heatwaves, 4. \_\_\_\_\_, are now commonplace.

- |                    |                      |                |
|--------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. A. additionally | B. however           | C. for example |
| 2. A. For instance | B. Whereas           | C. Even though |
| 3. A. Consequently | B. While             | C. Next        |
| 4. A. whereas      | B. on the other hand | C. as a result |

**Practice Task:** Write the body paragraphs using your plan.



## Conclusion

**Exercise 6:** Choose the best conclusion for the example task.

A. In conclusion, global warming has contributed to life threatening weather conditions and the rise in sea levels, while deforestation has contributed to the extinction of several species. However, both are the result of the spectacular rise in the world's population to levels that have become unsustainable.

B. To conclude, global warming, deforestation and over-population pose a threat to our environment. In addition, our reliance on fossil fuels adds another concern that we should be wary of because of the pollution to the atmosphere.

C. In conclusion, if the population continues to rise at such a rapid rate, the Earth's resources are in danger of depletion, which in turn will lead to global conflict.

**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 4

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

*Many people think that it is easier to lead a healthy lifestyle in the countryside. Others believe that there are health benefits to living in cities.*

*Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

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

#### Model Answer 5

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

*Some countries allow teenagers to have a part-time job. Some people think this is a good idea, while others disagree.*

*Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

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

## Unit 3: Causes/Problems & Solutions/Effects

### Test Tips – Task Requirements

This question type requires you to identify problems/causes of a topic and offer solutions or describe the effects. The topics are usually social.

⇒ The wording of the questions can vary. For example....

#### **Causes**

*“What do you think are the reasons for this?” “Why is this happening?”*

#### **Problems**

*“What issues does this situation create?” “What types of issues arise from this?”*

#### **Solutions**

*“What can be done to reverse this?” “What measures can be taken to prevent this?”*

#### **Effects**

*“What are the consequences of this trend?” “What effect does this have on a country?”*

**Band 7 Task Response:** *The main parts of the prompt are appropriately addressed.*

⇒ This means you have discussed, equally, both problems/causes and solutions/effects, all with supporting details.

**Band 5 Task Response:** *The main parts of the prompt are incompletely addressed.*

⇒ This can mean you may have discussed the problems/causes more than the solutions/effects or vice-versa.

⇒ When answering this task, always give equal weight to both parts of the question.

### Essay Structure

#### **Paragraph 1: Introduction**

Paraphrase the statement. Include your thesis statement.

#### **Paragraph 2: Problems/causes**

1, maximum 2 ideas (problems/causes) - with supporting details.

#### **Paragraph 3: Solutions/effects**

1, maximum 2 ideas (solutions/effects) - with supporting details.

#### **Paragraph 4: Conclusion**

Restate your main ideas in both body paragraphs (problems/causes) and (solutions/effects). No new information.

## Analyze the Question

*In some countries, the average weight of people is increasing, and their health and fitness are suffering.*

*What are the reasons for this and what measures could be taken to reverse this trend?*

**Exercise 1:** Choose the correct task requirement.

**A:** I should describe the problems people have when they become obese and describe the effects it has on their bodies.

**B:** I should identify the causes of weight gain in people and describe some solutions to prevent it.

**C:** I should identify the reasons why people are getting fatter and describe the consequences of the trend.

## Introduction: Paraphrase the Task

### Test Tips – Complex Sentences

⇒ Using complex sentences to paraphrase the task will show a higher range of grammar and have a positive effect on your Grammatical Range and Accuracy band score.

### Example:

#### Simple paraphrase.

*In a few nations, the mean weight of citizens is rising, and their well-being is decreasing.*

#### Complex sentence beginning with a noun or noun phrase.

*Obesity, in recent years, has become prevalent in certain nations, which has resulted in a decline in the levels of well-being.*

#### Complex sentence beginning with a passive structure.

*It has been recorded in several nations that the mean weight of their citizens is rising, which in turn is having a negative impact on their wellness.*

**Exercise 2:** Change the following sentence into complex ones.

#### Simple paraphrase.

*In a lot of nations, pupils attention levels in school have decreased.*

#### Complex sentence beginning with a noun or noun phrase.

*Research has indicated....*

#### Complex sentence beginning with a passive structure.

*It has been shown....*

**Practice Task:** Write the introduction (paraphrase) for the practice task.

**Note:** A band 8 sample answer for the **Unit 3 Practice Task** is in the answer key.

*In many countries, students' concentration in the classroom has decreased.*

*What are the reasons for this? What are some possible solutions?*

## Introduction: Thesis Statement

### Test Tips – Thesis Statement

- ⇒ For these task types, it is sufficient to write a general statement about what you will do in your answer.
- ⇒ It's not necessary to mention any problems/causes or solutions/effects in your thesis statement.
- ⇒ These can be expanded upon in your body paragraphs.

### Example:

**General Statement:** *This essay will expand on the causes of this trend and propose some ways to address it.*

**Practice Task:** Write the thesis statement (paraphrase) for the practice task.

## Plan the Body Paragraphs

### Test Tips – Planning the Body Paragraphs

- ⇒ In the planning stage, think about and list the problems/causes and solutions/effects.
- ⇒ List the supporting details for each problem/cause and effect/solution.
- ⇒ Always use prompts, not full sentences.
- ⇒ After you have made a list, choose one, maximum two, problems/causes and effects/solutions
- ⇒ Choose according to which supporting details you can expand on the most using your knowledge, experience and examples.

### Example:

*In some countries, the average weight of people is increasing, and their health and fitness are suffering.*

*What are the reasons for this and what measures could be taken to reverse this trend?*

Paragraph 2:

*Causes*

*Diet - convenience/processed/fast foods*

*Lack of exercise - sedentary lifestyle, work practices*

Paragraph 3:

*Solutions*

*Education - dangers of bad diet, starting at school*

*Awareness raising for adults - government programs encourage exercise*

**Practice Task:** Plan the body paragraphs for the practice task.

**Exercise 3:** Choose the correct cohesive device for the gaps.

The major reasons for weight gain, in my estimation, are an imbalanced diet along with a sedentary lifestyle. 1. \_\_\_\_\_, people nowadays have a preference for convenience food because they either do not have sufficient time to prepare a healthy meal or they are probably ignorant of the negative effects these fast foods have on their health. 2. \_\_\_\_\_, the idle lifestyle many citizens live is, 3. \_\_\_\_\_, a result of the changes in working practices. Jobs that were once done entirely by humans have become increasingly automated, 4. \_\_\_\_\_ in the industrial sector. 5. \_\_\_\_\_, employees in other fields spend an inordinate amount of time in front of computer screens.

- |                    |                 |                  |
|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. A. For instance | B. Consequently | C. In comparison |
| 2. A. Although     | B. In addition  | C. Hence         |
| 3. A. even though  | B. besides      | C. I believe     |
| 4. A. especially   | B. furthermore  | C. even though   |
| 5. A. Furthermore  | B. Granted that | C. First of all  |

**Exercise 4:** Re-write the paragraph using correct punctuation

education can be the key to stemming this unhealthy trend which in turn will lighten the states health care expenses throughout the education system children need to be taught the importance of a healthy balanced diet in a curriculum that also values and practices physical education moreover citizens could be encouraged through government health-awareness programs to do more physical exercise having their awareness raised on the ill-effects of weight gain and the numerous benefits of maintaining fitness people can be incentivized to make positive lifestyle adjustments

**Practice Task:** Write the body paragraphs using your plan.

## 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 4: Advantages & Disadvantages

### Test Tips – Task Requirements

- ⇒ This question type requires you to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a topic.
- ⇒ Topics are always social and nothing controversial.
- ⇒ You are **NOT** required to give your opinion or decide if the advantages outweigh the requirements.
- ⇒ If you give your opinion about which outweighs the other, it can be graded as “irrelevant” in the Task Response criterion.
- ⇒ You should discuss the advantages and disadvantages equally, that is, an equal number of ideas for both with supporting details.
- ⇒ If you discuss more advantages than disadvantages or vice-versa, you will get a lower score in Task Response because you have not completely addressed the task.

### Analyze the Task

*The internet has made knowledge available to people throughout the world. The majority of this knowledge is free.*

*Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this trend.*

**Exercise 1:** Choose the correct task requirement.

- A. I should decide if the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.
- B. I should discuss the advantages and disadvantages of spending time on the internet.
- C. I need to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of accessing information and knowledge on the internet.

### Essay Structure

#### Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paraphrase the statement. Include your thesis statement.

#### Paragraph 2: Advantages or Disadvantages

1, maximum 2 advantages or disadvantages with supporting details.

#### Paragraph 3: Advantages or Disadvantages

1, maximum 2 advantages or disadvantages with supporting details.

#### Paragraph 4: Conclusion

Restate the main advantage and disadvantage from the body paragraphs. No new information.

## Introduction: Paraphrase the Task

**Exercise 2:** Put the synonyms for advantage and disadvantage in the correct column.

pro con benefit drawback positive negative hindrance help

Advantage	Disadvantage

**Example:**

*The internet has made knowledge available to people throughout the world. The majority of this knowledge is free.*

*Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this trend.*

*The population of the planet can effortlessly access information, at no cost, on the internet.*

## Introduction: Thesis Statement

### Test Tips – Thesis Statement

- ⇒ For this task type, it is sufficient to write a general statement about what you will do in your answer.
- ⇒ It's not necessary to mention any advantages or disadvantages in your thesis statement.
- ⇒ These can be expanded upon in your body paragraphs.

**Example:**

*This essay will discuss both the positives and negatives of the trend.*

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

**Note:** A band 8 sample answer for the **Unit 4 Practice Task** is in the answer key.

*Many university students nowadays live away from their home and their parents because of their university location, while others live with their families.*

*What are the advantages and disadvantages of each situation?*



## Plan the Body Paragraphs

### Test Tips – Planning the Body Paragraphs

- ⇒ In the planning stage, think about and list the advantages and disadvantages with supporting details
- ⇒ Always use prompts, not full sentences.
- ⇒ After you have made a list, choose one, maximum two ideas.
- ⇒ Choose according to which supporting details you can expand on the most using your knowledge, experience and examples.

#### Example:

Paragraph 2:

Advantages

*Convenience - access knowledge quickly*

*All topic covered - thru variety sources - example, Wikipedia*

Paragraph 3:

Disadvantages

*Inaccurate information, not verified*

*Online security - fake sources*

**Practice Task:** Plan the body paragraphs for the practice task.

**Exercise 3: Substitution** - using synonyms and paraphrase to avoid repetition.  
Replace the **highlighted words** with a synonym or paraphrase.

The main benefit of sourcing knowledge on the internet is convenience. A quick **1. internet** search for **2. knowledge**, on any topic, will reveal countless sites to choose from. For example, when I **3. search** for tips on IELTS Writing Task 2, the results show a selection of **4. sites** from various sources and I can choose the one that catches my attention.

**Exercise 4: Referencing** - using pronouns to avoid repetition.  
Replace the **highlighted words** with a pronoun.

In addition, the internet has information on any topic you might want to access. **1. The internet** has numerous contributors and **2. contributors** update their sites all the time. For instance, last year, when I searched for information on Messi, I opened a particular site and **3. this site** had an extremely detailed biography of **4. Messi**.

**Exercise 5:** Complete the gaps with the correct preposition.

The primary con (*example*)   of   sourcing information 1.        the internet is reliability. With so many sites to choose 2.       , it is often impossible 3.        know which ones contain accurate information because they have not been verified 4.        a credible organization. Even popular sites, such as Wikipedia, often have contributions 5.        sources that post unverified content. Therefore, we should be careful 6.        such knowledge and search only 7.        sites that are reputable.

**Practice Task:** Write the body paragraphs using your plan.

### Conclusion

**Exercise 6:** Re-write the conclusion using correct punctuation.

in conclusion the primary benefit of free knowledge on the internet is that it is so easy to access at any time on the other hand the main downside is site's reliability with unverified content being uploaded on a regular basis

**Practice Task:** Write the conclusion.

### Test Practice

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

### Model Answer 8

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

*Many elderly people are no longer being looked after by their families, rather they are living in nursing homes.*

*What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?*

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, are 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.

## Introduction: Paraphrase the Task

**Exercise 2:** Choose the best paraphrase for the task.

*The arts, including theatre, music and art, are 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?*

- A. In contemporary society, theatre, music and the arts have a vital role.
- B. Many people are asking whether the arts have a vital role in society and should be included in the school curriculum.
- C. It is believed that the arts which includes theatrical performances, artwork and music has a crucial function in civilization.

## Introduction: Thesis Statement

### Test Tips – Thesis Statement

- ⇒ For the multiple questions task, state that you will answer both questions.
- ⇒ When doing so, paraphrase the questions.

### Example:

*This essay will address the questions of the type of role the arts play in contemporary society and if they ought to be a compulsory component of the school curriculum.*

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

**Note:** A band 8 sample answer for the **Unit 5 Practice Task** is in the answer key.

*The internet is a valuable source of information and has given people the opportunity to gain knowledge.*

*Is all information on the internet reliable?*

*What can be done to control information online?*

## Plan the Body Paragraphs

### Test Tips – Planning the Body Paragraphs

- ⇒ First of all, answer the questions.
- ⇒ The questions can be closed (requiring a yes/no answer), and you need to decide the reasons for your answers.
- ⇒ The reasons will be the supporting details.
- ⇒ When you plan, always use prompts, not full sentences.
- ⇒ After you have made a list, choose one, maximum two ideas.
- ⇒ Choose according to which supporting details you can expand on the most using your knowledge, experience and examples.

### Example:

Paragraph 2:

Question 1: Yes, arts have vital role  
 Inspiration and entertainment for people  
 Positive impact on economy

Paragraph 3:

Question 2: Yes, arts should be on curriculum  
 Engaging subject - variety in curriculum  
 Caters for non-academic, creative pupils

**Practice Task:** Plan the body paragraphs for the practice task.

### Test Tips – Body Paragraphs

- ⇒ Start the body paragraph with a **topic sentence** that summarizes the content of the paragraph.
- ⇒ Avoid general thoughts and keep the topic sentence relevant to the paragraph.
- ⇒ For supporting details, the task instructions always say “Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.”
- ⇒ Introduce your knowledge of the topic with a phrase such as... “Research by the University of Ireland has shown...”
- ⇒ Your experience of the topic can be your own personal experience or someone you might know.
- ⇒ Examples should be introduced with a phrase such as, “For instance” or “For example”
- ⇒ Limit the examples of your knowledge and experience to **one** per paragraph.

**Exercise 3:** Choose the best topic sentence for the paragraph.

\_\_\_\_\_. Research by the Council of London estimated that theatre productions, mostly located in the West End of the city, generated over 500 million pounds in revenue. Additionally, the theatre industry provides thousands of employment opportunities for workers. What is more, a country that does not cater for the entertainment of its citizens is neglecting a basic human need. People are inspired by the arts and when it is not provided, the citizens' mental wellbeing suffers. For instance, I recently worked in a country that did not fund the arts or encourage private investment. As a result, the citizens were denied sources of entertainment, which we take for granted, and constantly complained that they were deprived.

- A. The arts play a vital role in society in that they provide essential entertainment.
- B. The arts play a vital role in society in that they provide essential entertainment and make a significant contribution to a country's economy.
- C. The arts play a vital role in society in that they make a significant contribution to a country's economy.

**Exercise 4:** Complete the sentences with the correct cohesive device.

1. The arts should be a compulsory school subject and \_\_\_\_\_, need to be included in the curriculum.
  - A. even though
  - B. on the other hand
  - C. therefore
2. \_\_\_\_\_ traditional subjects such as history are favored by certain schools, subjects such as music have been very successful.
  - A. In addition
  - B. Even though
  - C. For example
3. The demand from parents and pupils, \_\_\_\_\_, for art to be included in the curriculum has been huge.
  - A. next
  - B. after that
  - C. for instance
4. Several education boards, \_\_\_\_\_, have adapted their curricula to include an arts subject.
  - A. as a result
  - B. first of all
  - C. although
5. \_\_\_\_\_, the inclusion of an arts subject caters for more creative students.
  - A. After that
  - B. Moreover
  - C. Although
6. \_\_\_\_\_, students and parents who are offered more choice tend to choose that particular school.
  - A. Although
  - B. In spite of
  - C. Additionally
7. \_\_\_\_\_, schools that do not offer variety in their curriculum have declined in popularity.
  - A. In comparison
  - B. Next
  - C. Even though

**Practice Task:** Write the body paragraphs using your plan.

## Conclusion

**Exercise 5:** Re-write the conclusion using correct punctuation.

to conclude the arts play a very important role in that they enrich people's lives and make a positive contribution to a countrys economy what is more including them in the school curriculum offers non academically inclined students the choice to study something different

**Practice task:** Write the conclusion.

### Test Practice

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

### Model Answer 9

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic.

*Today, parents often tend to organize extra classes for their children on weekends or even after school.*

*Do you believe this is useful at all?*

*Or do you think school education is enough?*

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

## Unit 6: Mixed Questions

### Test Tips – Task Requirements

- ⇒ Mixed questions are very common tasks that combine the instructions from the main question types.
- ⇒ The most common type of mixed question is a combination of causes and positive or negative development

#### Example:

*Nowadays, more people are choosing to socialize online rather than face-to-face.*

*Why is this happening?*

*Is this a positive or negative development?*

- ⇒ Or sometimes agree or disagree and solutions

*Increasing the price of petrol is the best way to solve the growing traffic and pollution problems.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

*What other measures do you think might be effective?*

- ⇒ When one of the questions offers a choice, such as positive or negative development, choose one or the other, and give supporting details.
- ⇒ If you chose both, you will need to give supporting details for them, which will increase the amount you need to write to address the task.

### Analyze the Task

*Nowadays, more people are choosing to socialize online rather than face-to-face.*

*Why is this happening?*

*Is this a positive or negative development?*

**Exercise 1:** Choose the correct task requirement.

- A. I should discuss the causes of this trend and offer solutions.
- B. I need to give reasons for this practice and decide if it's a positive or negative development.
- C. I should discuss the reasons for this practice and explain why it's both a positive and negative development.



### Essay Structure: Causes and Positive or Negative Development

#### Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paraphrase the statement. Include your thesis statement.

#### Paragraph 2: Causes

1, maximum 2 ideas with supporting details.

#### Paragraph 3: Positive or negative development

Choose either positive or negative. 1, maximum 2 ideas with supporting details.

#### Paragraph 4: Conclusion

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

### Essay Structure: Agree or Disagree and Solutions

#### Paragraph 1: Introduction

Paraphrase the statement. Include your thesis statement.

#### Paragraph 2: Agree or Disagree

Choose either agree or disagree. 1, maximum 2 ideas with supporting details.

#### Paragraph 3: Solutions

1, maximum 2 ideas(solutions) with supporting details.

#### Paragraph 4: Conclusion

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

### Introduction: Paraphrase the Task

*Nowadays, more people are choosing to socialize online rather than face-to-face.*

*Why is this happening?*

*Is this a positive or negative development?*

**Exercise 2:** Change the sentence into a complex one.

Today, a lot of people are selecting to meet on social media rather than in person.

*An increasing number of people...*

## Introduction: Thesis Statement

### Test Tips – Thesis Statement

- ⇒ Mixed questions always require you to answer two questions.
- ⇒ In the thesis statement, state what you intend to do in your answer.
- ⇒ One of the questions requires you to give your opinion.
- ⇒ State your position (opinion) in the thesis statement.

### Example:

*This essay will discuss the reason for this trend along with the writer’s explanation as to why this is a positive phenomenon.*

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

**Note:** A band 8 sample answer for the **Unit 6 Practice Task** is in the answer key.

*Nowadays, people travel to other countries for holidays.*

*Why do they want to do this?*

*Is it a positive or negative trend for the countries they travel to?*

## Plan the Body Paragraphs

### Test Tips – Body Paragraphs

- ⇒ When the task is to discuss the causes and decide whether it is a positive or negative development, divide these into separate paragraphs.
- ⇒ One, maximum two causes or reasons are enough, backed up with supporting details.
- ⇒ For positive or negative trend, you have already decided this in your thesis statement. One, maximum two reasons are enough, backed up with supporting details.
- ⇒ Don’t try to describe both the positives and negatives as you will need to give reasons, with supporting details, for both.
- ⇒ Start the body paragraph with a **topic sentence** that summarizes the content of the paragraph.
- ⇒ Avoid general thoughts and keep the topic sentence relevant to the paragraph.
- ⇒ For supporting details, the task instructions always say “Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.”

**Example:**

Paragraph 2:

*Causes (reasons)**Busy lifestyles**Long working hours*

Paragraph 3:

*Positive or negative: Positive**Convenience**Easy to keep in touch***Practice Task:** Plan the body paragraphs for the practice task.**Exercise 3:** Choose the best topic sentence for the paragraph.

\_\_\_\_\_ . Research has shown that employees are working a lot more hours these days; however, keeping in touch with their loved ones has never been easier because of the advances in the development of technology. A case in point is my flat mate's experience. Because of her comparatively high workload, scheduling time for in-person socializing is very challenging. Rather than lose touch, however, she finds it convenient to use technology to maintain relationships.

- A. The main explanation for this trend, in my estimation, is the changes in our lifestyle brought about by the increased demands of the workplace.
- B. The main explanation for this trend is the increased demands of the workplace and, in addition, everyone owns a mobile phone.

**Exercise 4:** Delete the irrelevant information in the paragraph.

In spite of the risks of becoming a victim of criminal practice, such as fraud, I believe that communicating online has been a positive enhancement to our daily lives primarily because of the convenience it affords to busy people. Online fraud is widespread today and there are countless, well documented, cases of this practice. For example, my elderly uncle fell victim to an online scam which resulted in him losing thousands of dollars. Before the development of the internet and social media, the length of time between contacting others could be considerable and, in some cases, could result in losing touch permanently. It is no longer necessary to invest time and effort in letter writing, for instance, that can be a burden for those who lead a hectic life.

**Practice Task:** Write the body paragraphs using your plan.

## Conclusion

### Test Tips – Conclusion

- ⇒ Restate the main cause (reason) and the main reason why it is positive or negative from your body paragraphs
- ⇒ Paraphrase these. Do not copy and paste
- ⇒ Do not include any new information.

**Exercise 5:** Choose the best conclusion.

- A. To conclude, people have increasingly resorted to interacting through technology because of their busy lifestyle and owning a mobile phone. This is a positive trend because it benefits the economy.
- B. In conclusion, people have increasingly resorted to interacting through technology because of their busy lifestyle. As a result, this practice has revolutionized the way we socialize and, in my view, has had a positive impact on society.
- C. In conclusion, the negatives of this practice include anti-social behavior because people no longer interact face-to-face.

**Practice Task:** Write the conclusion.

### Test Practice

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

### 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.

## Cohesive Devices

Below are listed common cohesive devices. Using a range of them flexibly and accurately will increase your band score.

Function	Cohesive Devices
Sequence	to start with, first, to begin with, the first thing, first of all, firstly, second, third, secondly, thirdly, next, after that, moving on, subsequently, after this, as well as that, finally, lastly, in conclusion, to sum up, to summarize
Comparison	in comparison, compared with, similarly, compared to, in the same way, equally, likewise
Concession	although it is true that, even though, granted that, it may be the case that
Contrast	However, even though, in spite of, on the other hand, whereas, although, instead of, despite, on one hand, on the other hand, in contrast
Consequences and results	Consequently, thus, as a result, hence, therefore, because of this, so, then
Addition	furthermore, also, and, besides, moreover, also, as well as, additionally, another example of this is, another reason for this
Example	for example, such as, for instance, namely, specifically, an example of this is, in other words, a clear example of this
Highlighting	in particular, specifically, particularly, especially, obviously

## Useful Language

### Introducing Your Opinion

I personally think/believe that...  
In my opinion...  
My opinion/belief/feeling/point of view is that...  
I would take the view that...  
As far as I am concerned...

### Introducing Other's Opinions

Some/a lot of people argue that/suggest that/claim that/believe that...  
It is often suggested/argued/claimed that...  
It can be argued/claimed/suggested that...  
Experts would argue/say that...

### Introducing Arguments

It is generally true that...  
It is generally believed that...  
The main argument in favor of...  
The prevalent view has been...

### Giving Reasons & Examples

This is because...  
The principal reason why...  
For this reason...  
For instance/example...  
One of the main reasons is...

### Giving Experience

In my experience...  
It is my experience that...  
My own experience of...  
Others experience of this...

### Using Concession

While it is true that... I believe...  
Admittedly + (opposite opinion); nevertheless, I am convinced that (your opinion)  
I accept that + (opposite opinion); in spite of this, I believe that (your opinion)  
Although it may seem + (opposite opinion); however, I would argue that (your opinion)

### Drawing a Conclusion

To conclude,...  
In conclusion,...  
Overall,...  
In the end...

## Answer Key

### Unit 1:

#### Exercise 1 - C

#### Exercise 2 - A

Paraphrase B has an irrelevant discussion of the topic (academic hook) and has copied large parts of the task statement.

#### Exercise 3

**Formal:** In my opinion, from my point of view, in my view, I believe, I think

**Informal:** I reckon, If you ask me, I think, from my perspective, as far as I am concerned, I guess, I suppose, To be honest

#### Exercise 4

**Advantages:** pros, upsides, benefits

**Disadvantages:** drawbacks, cons, downsides

**Outweigh:** surpass, predominate, overshadow

**Positive:** favorable, constructive, optimistic

**Negative:** detrimental, destructive, regressive

**Development:** growth, shift, change

**Agree:** concur with, side with, subscribe to

**Disagree:** dissent from, differ from, contradict

#### Exercise 5

**A:** In recent times, traveling abroad has become more accessible, cheaper, and popular. This essay will expand on the writer's 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.

#### Exercise 6 - A

B only mentions the health benefits but the paragraphs also includes the environment benefits.

#### Exercise 7

1. A 2. B 3. C 4. A 5. B

#### Exercise 8

To conclude, I believe a balance of meat and vegetables in one's diet is the healthiest option that would have the advantage of safeguarding people's jobs. However, consumption of meat ought to be reduced for health and environmental reasons, and alternatives should be considered.

## Unit 1: Practice Task

*In many countries, it is mandatory for school children to wear school uniforms. Do the advantages of this policy outweigh the disadvantages?*

All over the world, it is compulsory for school pupils to wear uniforms. This essay will detail the reasons why the positives outweigh the negatives.

Even though it is believed by some that uniforms stifle individuality, most schools have adopted a school uniform policy that, they believe, fosters a sense of camaraderie and identity. When pupils wear their uniform, they feel a sense of belonging to an institution, which in turn instills feelings of pride. Wearing the school colors, especially for inter-school competitions, increases the pupils' feelings of competitiveness and sense of achievement. Many of my former school mates look back fondly on their school days and associate the school uniform as one of the factors for their enduring memories.

In addition, uniforms prevent school children, particularly teenagers, from indulging in fashion rivalry. Before my niece's school introduced a uniform policy, a lot of the pupils would spend a considerable amount of time and money on their appearance. In particular, their desire to own and show off the latest trends in trainers became so obsessive that several parents complained to the school that they should introduce a school uniform policy. What is more, poverty-shaming was a common form of bullying where less affluent children would be ridiculed for their old or non-fashionable attire.

In conclusion, despite the conventionality associated with uniforms, the pros of schools requiring children to wear them completely outweigh the cons. Not only do they encourage an esprit de corps amongst pupils but they also prevent fashion conflict and poverty-shaming.

## Unit 2: Exercise 1

1. False 2. False 3. False 4. True

## Unit 2: Exercise 2

Answer B

**A:** Contains an unnecessary "academic hook"

*The subject of government intervention in prohibiting certain types of leisure activities because of their hazardous nature is an issue of personal freedom and civil liberties.*

**C:** Copies words and parts of sentences from the statement. The thesis only states the writer's opinion will be given and not both views will be discussed.

## Unit 2: Exercise 3

In order: it, he, they, they/these

## Unit 2: Exercise 4

In order, suggested answers: the loss of trees, species, loss, beasts

## Unit 2: Exercise 5

1. B 2. A 3. A 4. C

## Unit 2: Exercise 6

**Answer A:**

The conclusion briefly restates the main ideas.

**B.** Introduces new information (fossil fuels) . This should be in the body paragraphs.

**C.** Does not summarize the main ideas from the body paragraphs and gives more supporting details for over-population.



## Unit 2: Practice Task

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

**Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

It is suggested that science be every student's fundamental subject at school; others, on the other hand, argue against such a suggestion. This essay will elaborate on these two opposing ideas and shall provide my own perspective.

On one hand, critics of forcing students to study this subject perhaps perceive this as neglecting learners' diverse interests. Not all individuals in a classroom are naturally inclined towards or interested in science. For instance, a student may love painting and drawing; however, his school requires all students to extensively study science subjects, including physics, chemistry, and biology. This can lead to this student's disengagement and frustration, which may demotivate him from pursuing his passion.

On the other hand, I share the belief of those who propose scientific literacy, since science will open a wide range of career opportunities for people. This field of study provides students with foundational knowledge that serves as a springboard for pursuing a career in industries that are world-essential, such as medicine and technology. For example, students who study biology and chemistry can be prepared for professions such as doctors and pharmacists. Similarly, those who excel in science subjects are well-positioned for careers in software development and information technology.

In conclusion, ignoring students' varied inclinations is apparently the reason why some people do not support the idea of having it included in our education system. However, I agree with those who see its importance. With its promise of a bright future, it is reasonable that it should not be excluded from schools' curricula.

**255 words**

## Unit 3: Exercise 1

Answer B

## Unit 3: Exercise 2

Suggested answers

**A:** *Research has indicated that the attention span of school children has declined recently in numerous nations.*

**B:** *It has been shown, through research, that the attention span of school children has declined recently in numerous nations.*

## Unit 3: Exercise 3

1. A 2. B 3. C 4. A 5. A

## Unit 3: Exercise 4

Education can be the key to stemming this unhealthy trend, which in turn will lighten the state's health care expenses. Throughout the education system, children need to be taught the importance of a healthy, balanced diet in a curriculum that also values and practices physical education. Moreover, citizens could be encouraged, through government health-awareness programs, to do more physical exercise. Having their awareness raised on the ill-effects of weight gain and the numerous benefits of maintaining fitness, people can be incentivized to make positive lifestyle adjustments.

## Unit 3: Exercise 5

Answer C

- A. Has new information with no supporting details and belongs in the body paragraphs.
- B. Only summarizes the causes and not both causes and solutions.

### Unit 3: Practice Task

In many countries, students' concentration in the classroom has decreased.

What are the reasons for this?

What are some possible solutions?

Research has indicated that the attention span of school children has declined recently in numerous nations. This essay will expand on the causes of this trend and propose some ways to address it.

The primary cause of low concentration levels amongst school children, according to research, is screen dependency. Children today receive instant gratification through a quick scroll on social media or viewing reels and videos from online sources. These videos are short, attention grabbing and provide an entertaining and incredibly addictive distraction. As a result, young minds can be conditioned into accepting that content longer than a few minutes is not engaging. Other factors can include mental health problems that some students experience. For instance, high levels of anxiety caused by parental pressure for academic achievement or social circumstances, can affect academic performance.

In contemporary society, educators are trained to recognize mental health issues amongst their pupils and how to support sufferers, for example, referring pupils to school counselors. Regarding screen dependency, many countries have banned the use of mobile devices on school premises; however, the effectiveness of this is still largely unknown. Rather than an outright ban, education authorities should reassess teaching practice and curriculum in response to the widespread use of digital devices. A blended learning approach that utilizes digital and online resources, while retaining traditional in-person teaching, should be used. This approach would be effective, largely because it considers students' preferences.

In conclusion, the causes for low attention span are students' dependency on online content and mental health issues. These can be solved by adapting the school curricula and supporting pupils who struggle with issues such as stress.

**272 words**

### Unit 4: Exercise 1

Answer C

### Unit 4: Exercise 2

**Advantage:** pro, positive, benefit, help

**Disadvantage:** con, drawback, negative, hindrance

### Unit 4: Exercise 3

Suggested answers

1. online
2. information
3. look
4. pages

### Unit 4: Exercise 4

1. It
2. they
3. it
4. him

### Unit 4: Exercise 5

1. on/from
2. from
3. to
4. by
5. from
6. of
7. on

### Unit 4: Exercise 6

In conclusion, the primary benefit of free knowledge on the internet is that it is so easy to access at any time. On the other hand, the main downside is site's reliability with unverified content being uploaded on a regular basis.

#### Unit 4: Practice Task

*Many university students nowadays live away from their home and their parents because of their university location, while others live with their families.*

*What are the advantages and disadvantages of each situation?*

Today, college students either reside in their family home or live at the place where they study. This essay will discuss the pros and cons of both practices.

For students who continue to live at home during their time at university, the major positive is a sense of familiarity and security. Those who remain at home have the comfort of a familiar daily routine where their parents provide for them, and they do not have to stress over domestic chores such as laundry and cooking. However, the main disadvantage is the financial burden they can place on their family. If the student does not study on a scholarship or has part-time employment, the financial costs to parents of supporting their adult child can be considerable.

The main advantage for students choosing to find accommodation at their college is that it fosters a sense of independence. Students often relish the challenge of having the responsibility of managing their own lives, whether it is something as simple as cooking their own meals to budgeting their finances. On the other hand, the primary disadvantages are the social challenges that come with relocating away from home. For some students, it is often quite difficult to form new friendships, especially in an academic environment, and failure to do so can result in negative feelings such as isolation and loneliness.

In conclusion, students who live at home continue to enjoy their home comforts but can create serious financial problems for their parents. In contrast, students who reside at their college can become more independent; however, they may become socially isolated.

**264 words**

#### Unit 5: Exercise 1

Answer C

#### Unit 5: Exercise 2

Answer C

A copies words and phrases from the task.

B copies words and phrases from the task and questions.

#### Unit 5: Exercise 3

Answer B

A. Only mentions the role of the arts in providing entertainment.

C. Only mentions the role of the arts in contributing to the economy.

#### Unit 5: Exercise 4

1. C 2. B 3. C 4. A 5. B 6. C 7. A

#### Unit 5: Exercise 5

To conclude, the arts play a very important role in that they enrich people's lives and make a positive contribution to a country's economy. What is more, including them in the school curriculum offers non-academically inclined students the choice to study something different.

## Unit 5: Practice Task

*The internet is a valuable source of information and has given people the opportunity to gain knowledge.*

*Is all information on the internet reliable?*

*What can be done to control information online?*

Since its inception, the internet has grown to become a source of important information for many. This essay will discuss whether online information is largely accurate and propose measures that can be taken to ensure untrustworthy content can be controlled.

These days, almost anyone can open a website and upload any content they choose without formal regulations. Therefore, the result has been the creation of sites that contain information that has not been verified and quite often promote personal, social and political agendas. For instance, the development of a vaccine for Covid-19 has witnessed a surge in sites that attempt to discredit the vaccines with no scientific data or research to justify their beliefs. Consequently, the attempts to control and cure this deadly virus have been hampered by the spread of disinformation.

Several countries have existing laws which prohibit sites that incite hatred or prejudice against sections of society, but these laws should be extended to prevent the spread of false information online. For example, governments should legally require that all sites have their facts independently verified by an impartial body and those who do not fulfil this requirement can have their site banned. Fines or imprisonment could be imposed on the perpetrators to deter others from committing the same offense. Alternatively, content warnings could be displayed on sites to inform the public that the information has not been verified and cannot be trusted.

In conclusion, because of the lack of control of what can be published online, many sites contain misinformation. It is governments' responsibility to ensure the public is protected from such malpractice and adopt appropriate measures to prevent it.

**274 words**

## Unit 6: Exercise 1

Answer B

## Unit 6: Exercise 2

Suggested answer

An increasing number of people are meeting and interacting with friends and family via social media sites rather than in person.

## Unit 6: Exercise 3

Answer A

Sentence B mentions two reasons but the paragraph only discusses the increased demands of the workplace.

## Unit 6: Exercise 4

### Irrelevant information

Online fraud is widespread today and there are countless, well documented, cases of this practice. For example, my elderly uncle fell victim to an online scam which resulted in him losing thousands of dollars.

## Unit 6: Exercise 5

Answer B

- A. includes new information about mobile phones and the economy.
- C. Includes reasons why it is a negative trend but the position in the thesis statement and reasons in the body paragraph are positive.

## Unit 6: Practice Task

*Nowadays, people travel to other countries for holidays.*

*Why do they want to do this?  
Is it a positive or negative trend for the countries they travel to?*

International travel for leisure has recently become popular among people. This tendency, which is generally beneficial to the countries of destination, is motivated by several factors.

Exploring experiences gained only outside their home countries is the main motivation behind this action. Firstly, overseas trips allow travelers to immerse themselves in new cultures and taste exotic cuisines. That is why many visitors are attracted to culturally rich countries like Japan, where they may participate in fascinating tea-making ceremonies, or Thailand, where they can indulge in spicy street food delights. Secondly, many countries offer natural wonders that cannot be found locally. For instance, to witness the Aurora Borealis, Asian tourists need to visit nations located near the Earth's polar regions. Indeed, package tours of Iceland are extremely popular in my country during the season when this phenomenon is common.

Despite possible negative impacts such as damage to the environment, visited nations benefit from this activity. With an influx of tourists, the country and its residents alike can generate more income, as tourist spending creates more jobs and helps local businesses to thrive, stimulating economic growth. In addition, accommodating people travelling internationally results in conservation efforts, thus preserving local cultural heritage. Recognizing the importance of their cultural and historical landmarks, governments usually allocate funds to maintenance, such as repair and restoration, ensuring that heritage sites remain structurally sound and visually appealing.

In conclusion, cultural exploration and discovering nature unique to other countries are the reasons why some people prefer this holiday arrangement. Economic development and preservation of cultural assets make this a favorable change.

**261 words**

**Model Answer 1**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic.

***Many people believe it is better to learn something in a group rather than individually.***

***Do you agree or disagree?***

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

When it comes to learning a subject or skill, there are those who contend that group study is preferable to studying alone. I equally agree and disagree with this belief, and this essay will detail the reasons why.

On one hand, there are social and academic benefits to learning in a group. Regarding the social side, it is an opportunity to meet new people with similar interests and develop new friendships. For instance, someone I know met his future wife during an evening class at a community college. He was studying creative writing in a group of 7 other students who regularly socialized after class and he developed a relationship with a fellow student, and they eventually got married. In addition, studying with others gives students the chance to discuss their subject with their peers and gain different perspectives which enhances the learning process.

On the other hand, learning something alone can be a positive experience especially when one considers the plethora of online material. A lot of us are utilizing online tutorials to learn practical skills that were traditionally taught only in centers of learning. When I recently developed a website, I learned how to do it on my own using the company's tutorials and additional YouTube videos, which were clear and concise. Additionally, studying on my own meant that I could do so at my own convenience and avoid the costs of registering for a public course at an institution.

In conclusion, learning in a group setting has considerable social benefits; however, studying solo is equally effective and practical as you can study when you have the time.

**270 words**

**Model Answer 2**

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

**Today, children spend a lot of their free time watching TV.**

**Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages of this practice?**

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

Write at least 250 words.

In contemporary society, youngsters spend a sizeable amount of their leisure time watching television. This essay will detail the reasons why the benefits and drawbacks are of equal importance.

For children, there are several advantages to watching television. To begin with, educational content of certain programs can broaden their knowledge. TV channels such as National Geographic provide a variety of educationally rich content that enables youngsters to learn about other cultures and the natural world. Moreover, from the perspective of entertainment, television can help children relax, especially during periods of pressure at school such as the exam season. These relaxation periods are essential for pupils to reinvigorate themselves, which in turn can energize them to approach their schoolwork with renewed motivation.

On the other hand, the downsides of excessive TV watching cannot be ignored. For instance, watching TV is a passive activity that can lead to a sedentary lifestyle that can have a negative impact on children's physical health. It has been proved that one of the factors contributing to the increasing number of obese children is a lack of physical exercise. Additionally, some TV shows may contain content that is inappropriate for minors, such as excessive violence or certain vices. Therefore, parental guidance through the monitoring of what children watch is important.

In conclusion, there are several positives such as the educational value and the relaxation time that watching TV can provide. However, the negatives should not be forgotten and include unsuitable programs for youngsters and an inactive lifestyle.

**250 words**

**Model Answer 3**

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

**The development of technology has resulted in more employees working from home.**

**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.

The advances in technology have provided a lot of workers with the option of doing their jobs remotely rather than in a traditional workplace. This essay will discuss the reasons why this trend has equal positive and negative effects.

The main benefit of remote working is the flexibility it affords the employee in terms of working hours. Traditionally, work hours are fixed, usually from 9 to 5, which means employees are severely restricted in the time they can devote to essential non-work activities. For instance, if an employee needs to have medical treatment such as dental work, they invariably can only schedule it during work time. Consequently, it is at the discretion of the employer whether they can leave the workplace and if their salary will be deducted during this time. Working from home, however, means that workers can schedule time for non-work activities as they do not have to adhere to rigid working hours.

The major drawbacks of working from home are domestic distractions and the absence of camaraderie. Employees who have young families, for example, often get distracted by the demands of taking care of their children, and even though they employ babysitters and have family members to assist them, they cannot stop themselves from getting involved. Additionally, research amongst office workers who work remotely has identified isolation from colleagues as their greatest challenge. These workers miss the human contact and the friendly office atmosphere where they can bond with their co-workers.

To conclude, the major upside of working from one's own home is the flexible hours, whereas the downsides include feelings of isolation and the challenge of keeping focused on work because of their domestic environment.

**279 words**



**Model Answer 4**

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

*Many people think that it is easier to lead a healthy lifestyle in the countryside. Others believe that there are health benefits to living in cities.*

*Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

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

Write at least 250 words.

When it comes to following a lifestyle that results in better health, there are those who contend that rural areas are more conducive, while others are of the opinion that an urban setting is healthier. This essay will discuss both viewpoints along with stating the writer's opinion.

The primary reason, according to some, why living in a rural area is healthier is because of the environment. Research has proven that the air quality of major cities has deteriorated to such levels that it poses a real health risk, especially to those who suffer from respiratory illnesses. In contrast, the clean air of the countryside provides the opportunity for people to pursue outdoor leisure activities which enhances mental wellness.

On the other hand, easy access to a variety of facilities is the number one reason why a section of the population regard living in a city as a healthier choice. Fitness fanatics have a choice of indoor and outdoor venues. These places also have a positive social side as they enable its patrons to meet and form friendships with like-minded people, thus bolstering a positive mindset.

Despite the environmental challenges, I agree with the belief that residing in an urban area results in a healthier way of life because rural locations often lack the basic social and healthcare amenities. For instance, my uncle lives in a village and must travel 30km to our city every week for medical treatment. This inconvenience has resulted in a deterioration in his physical health.

In conclusion, even though the environment of the countryside is cleaner, the fundamental facilities that exist in urban areas enables its residents to live a more positive lifestyle.

**277 words**

**Model Answer 5**

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

*Some countries allow teenagers to have a part-time job. Some people think this is a good idea, while others disagree.*

*Discuss both views and give your own opinion.*

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

Write at least 250 words.

In certain nations, teenagers are often employed on a part-time basis. This is considered beneficial by some, while others hold the opposite opinion. This essay will discuss both these beliefs and detail the writer's position.

Some people argue that teenagers benefit financially from being employed, even on a part-time basis. Since they are completely dependent on their parents for financial support, the wages they earn can somewhat alleviate the burden that their parents face. For instance, my 16-year-old cousin earns several hundred dollars per week working at a local supermarket, which she uses to contribute towards her school fees.

On the other hand, it is argued that part-time employment distracts teens away from their studies. Success at high school depends on devoting time to self-study and completing homework. If students' time after school is taken up with part-time labor, then there is very little time left for academic work. In addition to this being time consuming, teens can lose focus by prioritizing earning money rather than their studies.

My belief is that this practice has equal benefits and drawbacks. Teenagers can gain valuable, real-life experience about the workplace, specifically how companies operate and how to advance within an organization. However, one of the greatest negatives is the rate of pay that most teenagers get. They can be exploited by companies who use them as cheap labor, which results in them receiving less than the legal minimum wage.

In conclusion, teenagers can gain valuable experience by doing part-time work along with relieving the financial commitments of their parents. However, it can result in academic failure and exploitation by unscrupulous employers.

**269 words**

**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.

Nowadays, professionals from developing countries have a tendency to emigrate to richer countries to find employment. This essay will discuss both the causes of this phenomenon and the issues that affect the nations they are leaving.

The primary reasons skilled employees from emerging nations seek work in more developed countries are a higher standard of living along with professional development. For instance, the average monthly salary for a white-collar worker, such as a teacher, in a developing country pales in comparison to their counterparts in so-called first world nations even though they perform identical duties and responsibilities. Additionally, outdated facilities and equipment in poor states hamper the ability of professionals such as doctors to practice contemporary medicine and improve their skills.

The effect this trend has on developing countries is invariably negative, particularly with regards to the nation's social and economic development. According to Scientific American magazine, every year, more than 4,000 foreign graduates of international medical schools come to the United States for a residency program and very few return home to take up employment in their native countries. This brain drain denies countries the talents of their brightest and best and limits a country's ability to progress as they are continuously faced with the challenge of retaining the most able professionals.

In conclusion, a comfortable material lifestyle coupled with the opportunity to advance one's career are the main reasons why professionals migrate to richer countries. The countries they leave behind struggle to find suitably qualified replacements, and thus suffer from social and economic stagnation.

**256 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.

Outdoor recreations as well as enjoyment of nature have become less appealing among youngsters. This stems from several underlying factors; nevertheless, there are ways to stimulate the interest of youth in them.

Development in technology is the main culprit behind this reluctance to participate in pursuits outside their homes. Through electronic gadgets such as smartphones and computers, users can now enjoy virtual tours, for instance, 360-degree videos online, to explore natural environments. Additionally, many more engaging online games, whose competitive nature keeps players glued to their screens for extended periods, are readily accessible, reducing their interest in more active pursuits. Shifts in social dynamics also reduce their involvement in open-air activities. Instead of meeting with friends at a park, social media apps, such as Instagram and Facebook, can be used to chat, resulting in almost no physical person-to-person interaction.

However, such sedentary lifestyles among the young can be minimized through governments' intervention. Firstly, local councils should provide secure outdoor spaces that young people can enjoy and explore, such as parks featuring playground equipment, sports fields, and open green areas where young people can engage in various activities, socialize with friends, and enjoy nature. In addition, states can make use of schools to promote active lifestyles. Through incorporating outdoor education programs such as field trips or environmental studies, educators can inspire a lifelong love for nature.

In conclusion, the lack of interest in outdoor leisure and the environment is attributed to technological advancement. Nonetheless, this can be counteracted through government's efforts eliciting enthusiasm among the young generation for these pursuits.

**259 words**

**Model Answer 8**

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

*Many elderly people are no longer being looked after by their families, rather they are living in nursing homes.*

*What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?*

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

Write at least 250 words.

An increasing number of senior citizens in today's society are not being taken care of by their immediate family; instead, they are residing in care establishments. This essay will analyze the positive and negative aspects of this trend.

On a positive note, elderly people's physical and mental well-being are carefully monitored and evaluated by trained professionals in residential homes. Scientific research clearly identifies that most people over the age of 60 suffer from potentially serious health issues such as cardiovascular diseases. Care facilities, however, have suitably qualified medical personnel and equipment to meet these challenges. Additionally, from a psychological perspective, residents' mental health is stimulated through living in a community where there is potential for positive camaraderie with like-minded individuals.

On the other hand, there are several drawbacks to elderly people living in nursing homes that affect both themselves and their family members. For instance, being apart from their immediate family on a daily basis can result in unpleasant emotions such as feelings of isolation and being undervalued as a family member. The expense of care homes, in addition, can impose a serious financial burden on the family. In my country, for example, a one-month's stay usually costs 3000 dollars with other charges excluded. Consequently, the majority of people on low incomes usually have no choice but to take care of elderly family members by themselves.

In conclusion, homes for the aged provide geriatric patients with professional medical services that potentially prolong their lives. The challenges, however, include feelings of abandonment amongst residents along with the unmanageable financial costs to their families.

**262 words**

**Model Answer 9**

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

*Today, parents often tend to organize extra classes for their children on weekends or even after school.*

*Do you believe this is useful at all?  
Or do you think school education is enough?*

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

Write at least 250 words.

Nowadays, it is common practice for parents to schedule additional tuition for their offspring during their free time. This essay will discuss how effective yet detrimental this trend can be along with analyzing if conventional lessons at schools are sufficient to educate children.

Additional lessons can be useful when they are targeted at the subjects that children need to improve. For instance, if a student is struggling with English and they need to raise their grades to apply for overseas study, then extra lessons would be appropriate. However, students can feel that the academic workload is too much, and they have very little time for a social life. Extra lessons, coupled with regular schoolwork, can have a negative psychological effect on students and increase stress and anxiety levels due to the feeling that they are constantly forced to improve their grades.

Ideally, the education that students receive at school should be sufficient to enable them to achieve their academic goals, but the quality of national education is often insufficient. Consequently, students are placed in a position where private classes are the only solution if they want to make progress academically. For example, in my country, where I have been learning English for many years, there is a large and profitable private academy sector. These academies provide quality tuition in English, usually with native speaker teachers, and focus on international English examination preparation which students cannot get at national schools.

To conclude, largely, because of poor quality national school education, supplementary lessons for school pupils have become increasingly popular and effective in enabling students to succeed academically even though they can have harmful mental consequences.

**274 words**

**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 among 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 people's 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. Furthermore, there is little credible evidence that the aging process can be delayed but, despite this, businesses are offering expensive treatments. This does not only lead to wasting money but also promotes unrealistic standards of beauty.

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

**251 words**

# IELTS

## Writing Task 2

### Target 7.0

IELTS Writing Task 2 Target 7.0 is a step-by-step guide to writing a band 7.0 essay. It takes you through the task requirements for each essay type, gives practice of the essential IELTS writing skills and provides band 8.0 model answers.

#### Who is the book for?

This book is suitable for IELTS students and candidates who have just started on their IELTS study program along with more experienced students who need to achieve a band 7.0 .

#### Unit Contents

- Test Tips: Explanation of the requirements for each task type.
- Essential practice of writing skills for all types of essays.
- Language practice exercises to reinforce grammar and vocabulary.
- How to write an effective introduction, body paragraphs and conclusion.
- Test practice questions from IELTS past papers.
- Band 8.0 model answers for each essay type.

#### How to use the book?

The book can be used as a self-study guide and is also suitable for IELTS teachers to use in their lessons, either as a complete course book or supplementary material. You can work through each unit or focus on essay types that you might be having difficulty with.

**Achieve your goal**

