

Master IELTS Essays

Part 1: Course Materials & Supplements

*For Academic and
General Training
Candidates*

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Introduction

Understanding the Rubric

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe that television programmes are of no real value for children.

How far do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.

The Task

Task 2 involves writing an essay on the given topic. You have to

- answer the question(s) clearly and completely;
- give reasons for your answer;
- include relevant example
 - from your knowledge
 - from your experience
- spend about 40 minutes on the task
- write at least 250 words → 260-265 words

Note: Finish task 2 during the second part of your writing test after you have finished writing task 1. Do not swap!

The Answer Sheet

The last two pages of the IELTS writing answer sheet are dedicated to task two and together have over 40 lines. Although you may ask for extra sheets to write your answer in, this is not likely to become necessary since the space you are already provided with is way more than sufficient. You must not write in the blank space at the bottom of the first page or in the scoring section at the bottom of page two.

Focus on Academic Register

- Use longer sentences (about 20-30 words)
- Use subordinate clauses
- Use formal linkers (subordinators and transitions)
- Use academic words (see “The Academic Words List” at www.tahasoni.com/resources)
- Avoid contractions
- Avoid “get” phrases where possible
- Avoid personal tone except when giving personal opinions or talking of personal experiences
- Avoid phrasal verbs where possible
- Avoid over-generalisation:
 - Non-absolute statements
 - Introducing probability/possibility

Task Types

Opinion-led

Some people believe that television programmes are of no real value for children. How far do you agree or disagree?

Argument Discussion

- a. Some people think that a sense of competition in children should be encouraged. Others believe that children who are taught to co-operate rather than compete become more useful adults. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

- b. In some countries, it is usual for young people who graduate from high school to spend a year working or travelling before going to university. What are the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decide to do this?

- c. While some people prefer to live in apartments, others do not think an apartment is a suitable form of accommodation. Do you think the advantages of living in an apartment outweigh the disadvantages?

Issue Discussion

- a. Housing and accommodation has become a major problem in many countries around the world. What are some of the main factors that have contributed to this problem? What can be done to help reduce the number of homeless people?

- b. While mobile phones have many advantages, a number of problems have also resulted from them or the ways in which they are used. What are some of these problems? What solutions can you suggest for solving these problems?

- c. In many countries today insufficient respect is shown to older people. What do you think may be the reasons for this? What problems might this cause in society?

Mixed Type

Universities should provide students with the skills they will require in order to succeed at their future jobs. How far do you agree or disagree with the above opinion? What are some of the job skills that employers look for in new employees?

IELTS Task 2 Writing Band Descriptors (Public Version)

Band	Task Response	Coherence and Cohesion	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fully addresses all parts of the task presents a fully developed position in answer to the question with relevant, fully extended and well supported ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention skilfully manages paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sufficiently addresses all parts of the task presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> sequences information and ideas logically manages all aspects of cohesion well uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a wide range of structures the majority of sentences are error-free makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses all parts of the task presents a clear position throughout the response presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to over-generalise and/or supporting ideas may lack focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> logically organises information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-/over-use presents a clear central topic within each paragraph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a variety of complex structures produces frequent error-free sentences has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others presents a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive presents relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately uses paragraphing, but not always logically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication

5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> addresses the task only partially; the format may be inappropriate in places expresses a position but the development is not always clear and there may be no conclusions drawn presents some main ideas but these are limited and not sufficiently developed; there may be irrelevant detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression makes inadequate, inaccurate or over-use of cohesive devices may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution may not write in paragraphs, or paragraphing may be inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task may make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only a limited range of structures attempts complex sentences but these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences may make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> responds to the task only in a minimal way or the answer is tangential; the format may be inappropriate presents a position but this is unclear presents some main ideas but these are difficult to identify and may be repetitive, irrelevant or not well supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive may not write in paragraphs or their use may be confusing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task has limited control of word formation and/or spelling; errors may cause strain for the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not adequately address any part of the task does not express a clear position presents few ideas, which are largely undeveloped or irrelevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not organise ideas logically may use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/or spelling errors may severely distort the message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> attempts sentence forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> barely responds to the task does not express a position may attempt to present one or two ideas but there is no development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> has very little control of organisational features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use sentence forms except in memorised phrases
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> answer is completely unrelated to the task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fails to communicate any message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> can only use a few isolated words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> cannot use sentence forms at all
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> does not attend does not attempt the task in any way writes a totally memorised response 			

Section 1

Sample Task 2
Topics & Model
Answers

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people think newspaper is the most effective way to obtain the latest information because it has more influence than other forms of media.

Do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In some countries, it is illegal for companies to reject job applicants for their age.

Is this a positive or negative development?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Some people argue that it is not wise for an industry to replace its experienced but old workers with new and young yet inexperienced individuals.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Model Answer (Strong View):

INTRODUCTION:

I think industries should definitely replace elderly personnel with younger workers, and it seems that workers who are old and have worked extensively ought to be retired so that younger employees can take their place.

(35 words)

OR

In the past people often worked in their businesses until they died or were no longer able to continue, whereas today most industries have set a definite retirement age for their employees. I disagree that replacing elderly staff with young recruits would be unwise.

(44 words)

Body:

First and foremost, a large majority of workers lose their strength as they become older. This is mainly because the human body has limits, and working for a long time, say, 30 or 35 years, can affect it negatively. For example, young industrial workers tend to work for five to six hours before they take breaks while older ones usually need to rest every one or two hours. This means that productivity levels would certainly decline. (76 words)

Furthermore, new employment opportunities for young people are very limited. Most companies do not offer more than a few new jobs every year and try not to increase their staff members dramatically to keep expenses low. Consequently, they should definitely lay off some of the older personnel to make room for younger ones, especially those around 20 to 30 years old who are about to form families and support them. (70 words)

Finally, the experience and skills of old workers is usually out of date. They might have a lot of experience with old technology and machines, but their employers constantly need to upgrade their equipment and methods. Therefore, it is less likely that old worker's abilities are necessary in the long run, and younger workers who know how to operate modern machines such as computers and lasers can replace them. (69 words)

Conclusion

In conclusion, I think companies need to force their elderly workforce to retire and employ younger workers to replace them to improve productivity, have up-to-date workers and provide jobs for young people. (32 words)

Countries are becoming more and more similar because people are able to buy the same products anywhere in the world.

Do you think this is positive or negative development?

Model Answer (Strong View):

I think it is beneficial that goods like food, cars, furniture and clothes that are produced in a certain part of the world are now available almost everywhere, which means the similarities between various countries are growing. (37 words)

A reason is that people in different regions now have access to products they could not use before. There are numerous goods that are produced only in certain parts of the world, which means that people living in other places could not normally take advantage of them in the past. For example, bananas and pineapples are grown in tropical countries and so, did not use to be available to consumers in colder countries like Russia and Canada.

Nevertheless, most people in such countries are now able to buy and eat these beneficial fruits. (93 words)

Furthermore, people today can migrate to different countries with less fear of becoming homesick since the products they are used to are now available in shops almost wherever they go. For instance, Iranian immigrants could not cook their national dish, Ghormesabzi, in other parts of the globe because the specific vegetables required were not farmed and grown in most other countries. However, as they can access all these ingredients in shops and supermarkets around the world today, they can work and live more productively because they do not miss a significant part of their cultural heritage anymore. (97 words)

In conclusion, I believe the growing similarity between countries around the world, which have resulted from the availability of goods produced elsewhere, is a desirable development. People can now take advantage of beneficial goods from other countries, and immigrants can be less stressful and more productive. (46 words)

Total: 273 words

Every year several languages die out. Some people think that this is not important because life will be easier if there are fewer languages in the world.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Model Answer (Strong View):

I do not think the fact that fewer and fewer languages remain in use every year is an important matter as it leads people to live more easily and comfortably. (30 words)

One reason is that communication in most cases becomes easier. It will be really convenient if one can talk with others from various parts of the world without the need for a live translator or special software for assistance. This means that different nations around the globe are likely to be able to cooperate more closely if fewer languages are in use. For instance, a conference at the United Nations will be more convenient and productive for politicians if they all can communicate using a limited set of languages, or perhaps even one, instead of having to wait for translations. Consequently, better results are likely to be achieved more quickly, and many issues could be resolved as a result of better mutual understanding. (123 words)

Furthermore, there will be less need to spend time learning many languages for different purposes. At the moment, one needs to learn various languages to study in a different country, travel abroad or communicate with foreign friends. However, if only a few languages were in use around the globe, travelers, immigrants and students at foreign universities could all focus their efforts on their goals without having to worry about their language proficiency. (72 words)

In conclusion, I believe that the fall in the number of languages in use allows people to communicate more easily, as well as focusing their energy on more important aims and purposes. (32 words)

Total: 257 words

Some people think governments should spend less money on arts and invest more in education.

How far do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Model Answer (Strong View):

I agree that public budgets for arts should be decreased, and more money ought to be spent on education instead. This is true about the money allocated to music, paintings and other forms of art, and governments should invest in the development and improvement of schools, teachers and educational resources. (50 words)

Education normally plays a more important role in the development of a country than arts. While art has great cultural significance, it seems that learning important sciences and skills effectively contributes more greatly to a nation's progress. This is because the development of industries, healthcare and defense relies mostly on a country's progress in different fields of science and technology, which in turn requires skillful teachers, advanced computers and better-equipped laboratories. (71 words)

Apart from this, art is already immensely supported by the private sector in most parts of the world. Many art galleries invest in new or professional artists, and a large number of wealthy art lovers tend to spend lavishly to buy different forms of art like paintings and sculptures on a regular basis. Musicians also earn a lot from the sales of their CDs, as well as the online sales of their music and concert tickets. Therefore, most artists are not likely to require government financial support. (87 words)

In conclusion, I think governments ought to decrease their financial support for arts and increase education budgets to improve their countries' development. This will probably not affect arts and artists much since they will still have their supporters in the private sector. (42 words)

Total: 250 words

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people think secondary school students should study international news as one of their subjects. Other people say this is a waste of valuable school time.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

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

Write at least 250 words.

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Developing countries require international organization's help. Some people prefer financial aid while others think practical aid and advice are better.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

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

Write at least 250 words.

TASK 2

- 3 -

The history of human civilisation is mainly dominated by male characters. Most countries have been shaped by male kings and commanders, and science was long considered to be a quest for men. However, following attempts by British and American women ~~at~~ at attaining equal rights in the previous century, debates were initiated over whether or not men and women can be given the same credit ~~for~~ in all fields and activities. Some believe the two sexes are naturally different, while others insist they can reach the same skills, ^{either} levels, given the right training.

The proponents of the "equal abilities" argument have several reasons that need to be taken into consideration. First and foremost, they argue that today, women are competing with men in almost every field, especially at sports such as football and boxing. Moreover, it is becoming more and more evident that women are doing better at areas previously designated to men. For instance, male chefs have dominated European restaurants for centuries, but now female chefs have emerged that are winning cooking contests and working in ~~prestigious~~ top hotels and restaurants all over the world. It is also argued that universities

EXAMINER'S USE ONLY

yet are being forced to open male-only courses such as mining engineering to female candidates who end up working as well as men - or in cases even better.

However, the ^{opponents} ~~opponents~~ of this idea have reasons that cannot be ignored. Most importantly, it is clear that the physical features and ^{the} physiology of men and women are very different, which practically leads to a contrast between the capabilities of the two. This, they argue, has ^{recently} led to women even resolving to consume hormones to improve their power and stamina in order to compete with their male ~~counterparts~~ ^{counterparts}. Also, most people can notice ^a ~~the~~ difference in men's and women's attitudes when working together. This in practice makes them take different approaches to solving problems which ~~are~~ ^{have} their roots in their emotional levels. For example, I have noticed that software ^{companies} ~~teams~~ usually employ female designers due to women's ability at working with details, but refrain from giving project management roles to female developers due to their inability to realise the bigger picture.

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EXAMINER'S USE ONLY

EXAMINER 2
TASK 2

TR		CC		LR		GRA	
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UNDERLENGTH		NO OF WORDS		PENALTY	
OFF-TOPIC		MEMORISED		ILLEGIBLE	

EXAMINER 1
TASK 2

TR		CC		LR		GRA	
----	--	----	--	----	--	-----	--

UNDERLENGTH		NO OF WORDS		PENALTY	
OFF-TOPIC		MEMORISED		ILLEGIBLE	

5

In conclusion, having studied both these arguments, I have personally come to believe that neither opinion is perfect and represents the reality of the sexes. Thus I think while the two genders have different natural abilities, ~~some~~ traits and skill sets which make them unique at doing certain tasks most perfectly, either can reach the ~~other~~ ^{other one's} skill level through training ~~and~~ ~~provided~~ ^{provided} they ~~possess~~ have the will power to do so. Nevertheless, in my opinion, the perfect situation can only be ~~reached~~ reached when teams of male and female colleagues work together to share their attitudes, skills and approaches ~~and~~ ^{while completing} ~~what~~ what each of them lacks or is short of in every field.

Some people think secondary school students should study international news as one of their subjects. Other people say this is a waste of valuable school time.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Model Answer (Strong View):

Today, learning about the news from different parts of the world is essential to many people, and it has been suggested that international news should become a high school subject. (30 words)

Some educationalists argue that reviewing global news is vital for high school students as it would definitely improve their general knowledge in areas like geography. This is because the news come from around the world and often present significant details about different regions and their features, which means students would possibly gain a better understanding of the world. (58 words)

It also seems that studying the news can develop the students' ability to analyse sophisticated situations because when they follow a story, say, about a political rift between two countries, they could observe how it develops or escalates, how the parties involved act and what its consequences are. (48 words)

However, another group believe that the violence portrayed in many of today's news stories could affect students' conduct. For instance, almost every newspaper and news website these days is filled with images and stories of the ISIS executions in Iraq and Syria, which are likely to make youngsters feel insecure or make unreasonable judgements about any Arab friends they might have. Furthermore, reading and analysing the news would probably be a time consuming activity, as a result of which insufficient time may remain for more important subjects and activities like sciences, math or physical education. (95 words)

Personally, I believe it is wise for secondary school students to study global news at school. This could be an important factor in developing their ability to understand and analyse the world they live in, including its more unpleasant elements and features. (42 words)

Total: 273 words

Some people think secondary school students should study international news as one of their subjects. Other people say this is a waste of valuable school time.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Model Answer (Middle View):

Today, learning about the news from different parts of the world is essential to many people, and it has been suggested that international news should become a high school subject. (30 words)

Some educationalists argue that reviewing global news is vital for high school students as it would definitely improve their general knowledge in areas like geography. This is because the news come from around the world and often present significant details about different regions and their features, which means students would possibly gain a better understanding of the world. It also seems that studying the news can develop the students' ability to analyse sophisticated situations because when they follow a story, say, about a political rift between two countries, they could observe how it develops or escalates, how the parties involved act and what its consequences are. (106 words)

However, another group believe that the violence portrayed in many of today's news stories could affect students' conduct. For instance, almost every newspaper and news website these days is filled with images and stories of the ISIS executions in Iraq and Syria, which are likely to make youngsters feel insecure or make unreasonable judgements about any Arab friends they might have. Furthermore, reading and analysing the news would probably be a time consuming activity, as a result of which insufficient time may remain for more important subjects and activities like sciences, math or physical education. (95 words)

Personally, I believe teaching global news at high schools could help students become better thinkers and analysts, so it is beneficial unless insufficient time remains for more important subjects. However, it is important that only proper news are chosen by experts so that pupils are not exposed to violent content. (50 words)

Total: 281 words

Some people support modern developments in agriculture such as factory farming and creation of new types of fruits and vegetables. However, other people oppose this view.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Model Answer (Strong View):

Recently, there have been extensive developments and improvements in various aspects of agriculture, including genetically modifying plants to create new types, as well as factory farming. (26 words)

Some experts believe these modern developments are beneficial because they can help provide more food for the growing populations, especially in the developing world. Many new types of plants that are developed through genetic engineering, like some species wheat or certain fruit trees, can produce heavier fruits or more seeds. (50 words)

Furthermore, some new methods like factory farming would certainly make many demanding agricultural tasks like milking cows and feeding various farm animals easier since they rely on automatic machines for performing such tasks. (33 words)

On the other hand, some people argue that some of these modern farming techniques such as modifying the genetic structure of plants are probably unsafe as it would be almost impossible for scientists to fully assess the consequences. For instance, a new plant that is supposed to be more productive might become poisonous for humans or animals. Also, many animal rights activists think factory farming and similar modern agricultural methods are cruel to animals because they are usually kept in closed buildings, fed by machines and sometimes even killed in painful ways using automatic slaughtering systems. (96 words)

Personally, I think modern farming techniques and agricultural methods are fully justified and beneficial as they are necessary to meet the urgent need for more food worldwide. They are also highly vital to the efficiency and practicality of performing farming tasks as they make difficult chores easier to carry out. (50 words)

Total: 252 words

Some people think that strict punishments for driving offences are the key to reducing traffic accidents. Others, however, believe that other measures would be more effective in improving road safety.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Model Answer (Strong View):

Road accidents take the lives of many drivers and pedestrians every year, and different solutions have been proposed to decrease their numbers, one of which is severe penalties for offending traffic regulations. (32 words)

Advocates of this solution argue that careless drivers who ignore traffic laws play a major role in many road accidents. For example, some use their mobile phones while driving and do not focus on the road, which means that they would definitely not be able to control their cars in time to avoid accidents. If such drivers are imprisoned or heavily fined, it is highly likely that they will be motivated to observe driving regulations more closely. They also believe that penalising driving offences is the quickest solution since it can be applied immediately and drivers will see the consequences of their faults right away. (105 words)

However, some experts believe that there are various other means of decreasing the number of traffic accidents. First of all, driving license candidates could be required to sit courses aiming at educating them on the virtues of heeding the law while on the road. As a result, they are more likely to realise why driving carefully could benefit both themselves and the people around them. Moreover, new cars could be built in such a way that they restrict the drivers' ability to commit traffic offences like illegal speeding or turns. For instance, the car's computer could decrease its maximum speed in residential areas or near intersections. (106 words)

Personally, I think any idea that could increase road safety is worth trying, so while driving offences should be heavily punished, solutions like safety classes for new drivers and technologies that prevents offences are also necessary. (36 words)

Total: 279 words

Some parents buy their children a large number of toys to play with.

What are the advantages and disadvantages for the child of having a large number of toys?

Model Answer (Strong View):

Nowadays, a lot of toys are provided for some children by their parents. These toys range from simple ones like dolls to complicated electronic gadgets like video games. (28 words)

One of the important advantages for children who have lots of toys is that there are different options for them to play with. Therefore, they can choose one of their toys according to their mood and taste, and are less likely to get bored. Apart from this, they would certainly be able to learn a wider variety of skills like problem solving or organization. The reason is that different toys can teach them different things, which means that the more toys they have, the more they are likely to learn. (90 words)

On the other hand, having a lot of different toys could possibly lead to children becoming overweight since many modern toys like video games and Legos, which are very common these days, are designed for indoors. Therefore, they would definitely result in less physical activity and children who play with them might gain extra weight. (56 words)

Furthermore, when kids have too many toys, it is likely that they will take less care of them. In other words, they will probably not learn to value them if there is always a replacement ready to play with. Consequently, they would certainly not learn to appreciate their belongings. (49 words)

Personally, I believe that children should only have a few toys of great quality that they really love. This could allow them to learn to appreciate what they have and avoid physical problems like obesity. (35 words)

Total: 258 words

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Housing and accommodation has become a major problem in many countries around the world.

What are some of the main factors that have contributed to this problem? What can be done to help reduce the number of homeless people?

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

Write at least 250 words.

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

While mobile phones have many advantages, a number of problems have also resulted from them or the ways in which they are used.

What are some of these problems? What solutions can you suggest for solving these problems?

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

Write at least 250 words.

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In many countries today insufficient respect is shown to older people.

What do you think may be the reasons for this?

What problems might this cause in society?

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

Write at least 250 words.

In some countries the average weight of people is increasing and their levels of health and fitness are decreasing.

What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?

Model Answer:

INTRODUCTION:

Nowadays, the levels of healthiness and fitness are declining in some societies due to the increase in the average weight of people. Many individuals suffer from obesity, as well as chronic diseases like high blood pressure, high blood fat and diabetes. (26 words)

OR

Traditionally, most citizens in different parts of the world were in shape and quite slim whereas today it is quite common for people to be overweight or obese. Consequently, diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure are widespread and many individuals are unfit. (43 words)

Body:

A reason is that almost everyone either drives or takes public transport to work or school. As a result, there has been a serious decline in most people's levels of physical activity which has led them to burn fewer calories and gain weight. Another reason could be the overconsumption of fast food which is very common these days. For instance, a cheeseburger usually contains a lot of calories and greasy ingredients such as cheese and oil. This means that eating a lot of cheeseburgers would definitely have negative effects on blood fat and increase people's weight. (96 words)

A possible solution to improve people's health and fitness is to increase their daily physical activity, for example through walking to work if they live close to their workplaces, jogging in the morning or evening and having regular exercise at the gym once or twice a week. In addition, publicity campaigns could be launched against obesity so that people are informed of the dangers of a high-calorie diet. For example, posters could be designed that illustrate how back pain results from obesity. This would definitely encourage many to control their calorie intake. (92 words)

Conclusion

In conclusion, the decline in health and fitness and increase in the weight of many people in various countries owes mainly to a lack of physical activity and the high consumption of fast food. However, these problems can be dealt with if people increase their daily physical activity and are informed of the dangers of eating too much. (58 words)

Nowadays, we are producing more and more rubbish.

Why do you think this is happening?

What can governments do to help reduce the amount of rubbish produced?

Model Answer:

Today, many cities around the world face an increasing amount of garbage produced by citizens. Heavy rubbish bags are placed outside houses almost every evening, and collecting so much garbage is quite difficult for authorities. (35 words)

One reason why the amount of rubbish produced is rising is the consumerist lifestyle of many people today which has led them to buy and consume more products such as food, clothes and home appliances. As a result, they often have to throw away their old belongings to make room for the new ones. Furthermore, most products today have packages and boxes that need to be thrown away. For instance, most dishes are wrapped in nylon covers, bubble wraps and cardboard boxes, which together can fill a large rubbish bag. (90 words)

To decrease the amount of garbage, governments can legislate laws to limit the garbage produced by households to a certain level, say, a kilogram every day. As a result, people would definitely try to buy only the things they need to avoid throwing away too much. Another possible solution would be to encourage producers to improve their packaging techniques and use less packaging material like paper and plastic. For instance, if governments ask dish producers to use printed and colourful bubble wraps, they can act as protective covers as well as eye-catching packages, which means that buyers will only have to throw away one wrapper. (105 words)

In conclusion, the reasons behind the rise in waste production include consumerism and product packages, and possible solutions are laws to restrict household garbage as well as encouraging industries to use improved packaging. (33 words)

Total: 263 words

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Universities should provide students with the skills they will require in order to succeed at their future jobs.

How far do you agree or disagree with the above opinion?

What are some of the job skills that employers look for in new employees?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Model last body paragraph:

There are various abilities that new employees today are required to have. Firstly, they need to have good communicative skills like letter writing so that they can communicate their ideas while understanding what their colleagues or clients think. Secondly, employees should be able to manage their time efficiently because they have to finish various tasks before their respective deadlines. Finally, many companies seek workers who can use computers effectively to handle office and business tasks. For instance, almost all modern construction companies require new engineers to know how to design buildings or manage projects using software like AutoCAD or Microsoft Project. (101 words)

In some parts of the world it is becoming popular to research the history of one's own family.

Why might people want to do this?

Is it a positive or negative development?

Model Answer:

Genealogy is not a new field and people, especially the noble class, have always been keen on knowing more about the history of their families and ancestors. However, it has recently enjoyed more popularity with many ordinary people, especially in the western world, trying to fill in the gaps in their family trees; a trend I personally disapprove of. (59 words)

One reason why many people are curious about their family history these days is that it is often fun to trace back one's bloodline and find out if one is related to any famous people. I remember a recent story about how a common supermarket clerk in Nevada was discovered to be a descendant of a British king. Many such descendants live completely ordinary lives, to which a discovery like that can bring many thrills. Additionally, it would definitely help people to realise how their families have changed through the years and therefore, learn a thing or two about the causes of failure and prosperity in different generations. (108 words)

However, many individuals who find themselves related to the nobility tend to consider tiny shares of noble blood as birthright to more respect. They, for instance, often demand seats in public transport when there are more deserving people like pregnant women or the elderly aboard. Apart from that, some of them might overgeneralise the role of factors which have contributed to a former generation's condition, be it inherited wealth or even bad luck, to their own and disregard the value of their own ideas, efforts and current status. (88 words)

In conclusion, I am not sure if the growing trend towards researching one's ancestors and family line is actually helping people and the society in general, and believe it must be discouraged. (32 words)

Total: 287 words

Section 2

Course Handouts

A Quick Guide to Punctuation in IELTS

Basically, the two punctuation marks you will need to use in IELTS reports, letters and essays are the full stop and comma. Exclamation (!) and question marks (?) might also be used in General Training letters, while parentheses could be used in Academic reports as well as in letters.

You are advised to avoid using the colon (:), semi-colon (;) and dashes (–) if you do not know where they need to be used, since they are unnecessary.

Full Stop (.)

Full stops are generally used to mark the end of a sentence:

There has been a dramatic increase in the population of urban regions.

Comma (,)

Commas are used in longer sentences to separate information into readable units. They also often separate clauses in a sentence and sometimes come before a coordinator (e.g. “and”, “but”, etc.)

- A single comma ensures correct reading of a sentence which starts with a long introductory element:

Following efforts by pioneering scientists in the field of ecology, it has now been generally accepted that the world is gradually becoming warmer.

- A single comma is used after many starting linkers like “however”, “moreover”, “basically” and such:

In contrast, water levels in Africa and Australia declined to reach an all-time low.

- Pairs of commas help in the middle of a sentence to set off any string of words which is either a parenthesis, or in contrast, to whatever went before:

A student, whether at school or university, needs to receive guidance and instructions on how to use resources effectively and efficiently.

- Sets of comma act as a means of separating items in a list:

Workplaces like business offices, banks and schools would certainly require a more formal dress code.

Note: do not add a comma after “that” at the beginning of a clause:

It has been known for some time that many flaws in children’s behavior have roots in their genes.

Synonyms for Advantages & Disadvantages

advantages and disadvantages

benefits and drawbacks

upsides and downsides

pros and cons

strengths and weaknesses/shortcomings

Synonyms for Good and Bad

positive and negative

welcome and unwelcome

favourable and unfavourable

desirable and undesirable

beneficial and detrimental

Synonyms for Causes

the **factors/issues** responsible for ...

the reasons **behind/for** ...

the **factors/issues** which have contributed to ...

the causes of ...

the issues which have **resulted in/led to** ...

Synonyms for Effects

consequences/effects/impacts

the issues **it has resulted in /which have resulted from** ...

the problems which **follow /have followed** ...

the **problems/issues** that ... could/may/might/is likely to result in/lead to

the **problems/issues** which could/may/might/are likely to result from/follow/ensue ...

... 's possible/potential/probable/prospective consequences/effects/impacts

Synonyms for Solutions

Solutions for ...

means/ways to solve ...

means/ways to **resolve/deal with/tackle/improve** ...

Discussing Causes



Approach A:

Presentation: Cause 1 → Issue

Extension: Cause 1 ← Cause 2 ← Cause 3

Approach B:

Presentation: Cause 3 → Issue

Extension: Cause 3 → Cause 2 → Cause 1

Note: → = consequence linker ← = cause linker

e.g. Book 8, page 102

Technological progress → machines and tools have replaced people → less physical activity → burning fewer calories → obesity

One reason for this unfortunate development is the technological progress which has taken place over the past decades, as a result of which machines and tools have replaced people in most cases, like in transportation. Therefore, most individuals have a lot less activity today than they used to and burn far fewer calories every day, which results in their obesity.

OR

One reason for this unfortunate development is that most individuals burn far fewer calories every day because they have a lot less activity now than they used to. The reason for this is that machines and tools have replaced people in most cases, like in transportation, thanks to the technological progress which has taken place over the past decades.

Discussing Effects

Approach A (Short):



Issue → Effect 2 *because* Effect 1

Approach B (long):



Issue → Effect 3 *because* issue → effect 1 → effect 2 [→ effect 3]

Note: → = consequence linker

Example:

Overpopulation → more demand for food → food shortages → widespread hunger

Overpopulation can lead to widespread hunger in many parts of the world, particularly in countries like India and China which have very large populations. **This is because** when there are more people in an area, the demand for food is highly likely to rise **as a result of which** there may not be enough food available for everyone.

Discussing Solutions

Development

Include:

- Mechanism
- Advantages over other solutions
- Any possible disadvantages

How to introduce advantage and disadvantage for a solution:

Approach A:

Although Even though	----- disadvantage (sentence) -----	,	----- advantage (sentence) -----.
-------------------------	-------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------

----- advantage (sentence) -----	Although even though	----- disadvantage (sentence) -----.
----------------------------------	-------------------------	--------------------------------------

Approach B:

Despite In spite of	----- disadvantage (n./n.p.) -----	,	----- advantage (sentence) -----.
------------------------	------------------------------------	---	-----------------------------------

----- advantage (sentence) -----	Despite in spite of	----- disadvantage (n./n.p.) -----.
----------------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------

Some possible advantages and disadvantages

Advantage	Disadvantage
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective • Efficient • Cost-effective, economical, reasonable <p>Does not rely on/require many financial resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time-efficient • Popular • Does not rely on/require many resources • Easy to implement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Might not be very reasonable • Could be time-consuming/ Might not be very time-efficient • Might not be very popular/Might not be favoured by the public • May rely on/require significant resources • Could be difficult to implement/ Might not be very easy to implement

Connectors: Usage and Meaning

To Add another Idea

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
and		Furthermore Moreover Besides also in addition

To Restate, Explain or Emphasize an Idea

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
		that is in other words in fact actually namely

To Give an Example

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
		for example for instance to illustrate

To Show a Choice

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
or nor		

To Show a Difference

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
but	While whereas though	in contrast on the contrary on the other hand instead however still otherwise

To Show the Opposite of What You Might Expect

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
yet	although though even though	nevertheless admittedly even so nonetheless

To Show a Similarity

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
	just as as	similarly likewise in the same way

To Show a Cause or Reason

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
for	because since as now that as long as	

To Show a Result or Effect

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
so	so + adjective + that such + ...noun + that	as a result consequently as a consequence therefore thus hence accordingly

To Show a Time Relationship

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
	before after when whenever while as soon as until as since the moment that once	previously subsequently finally afterward meanwhile first, second, etc. after that next since then then, at first,

To Show a Condition

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
or	if even if unless when whenever	

The Academic Word List

Sublist 1

analyze • approach • area • assess • assume • authority • available • benefit • concept • consist • constitute • context • contract • create • data • define • derive • distribute • economy • environment • establish • estimate • evident • export • factor • finance • formula • function • identify • income • indicate • individual • interpret • involve • issue • labor • legal • legislate • major • method • occur • percent • period • policy • principle • proceed • process • require • research • respond • role • section • sector • significant • similar • source • specific • structure • theory • vary

Sublist 2

achieve • acquire • administrate • affect • appropriate • aspect • assist • category • chapter • commission • community • complex • compute • conclude • conduct • consequent • construct • consume • credit • culture • design • distinct • element • equate • evaluate • feature • final • focus • impact • injure • institute • invest • item • journal • maintain • normal • obtain • participate • perceive • positive • potential • previous • primary • purchase • range • region • regulate • relevant • reside • resource • restrict • secure • seek • select • site • strategy • survey • text • tradition • transfer

Sublist 3

alternative • circumstance • comment • compensate • component • consent • considerable • constant • constrain • contribute • convene • coordinate • core • corporate • correspond • criteria • deduce • demonstrate • document • dominate • emphasis • ensure • exclude • framework • fund • illustrate • immigrate • imply • initial • instance • interact • justify • layer • link • locate • maximize • minor • negate • outcome • partner • philosophy • physical • proportion • publish • react • register • rely • remove • scheme
• sequence • sex • shift • specify • sufficient • task • technique • technology • valid • volume

Sublist 4

access • adequate • annual • apparent • approximate • attitude • attribute • civil • code • commit • communicate • concentrate • confer • contrast • cycle • debate • despite • dimension • domestic • emerge • error • ethnic • goal • grant • hence • hypothesis • implement • implicate • impose • integrate • internal • investigate • job • label • mechanism • obvious • occupy • option • output • overall • parallel • parameter • phase • predict • principal • prior • professional • project • promote • regime • resolve • retain • series • statistic • status • stress • subsequent • sum • summary • undertake

Sublist 5

academy • adjust • alter • amend • aware • capacity • challenge • clause • compound • conflict • consult • contact • decline • discrete • draft • enable • energy • enforce • entity • equivalent • evolve • expand • expose • external • facilitate • fundamental • generate • generation • image • liberal • license • logic • margin • medical • mental • modify • monitor • network • notion • objective • orient • perspective • precise • prime • psychology • pursue • ratio • reject • revenue • stable • style • substitute • sustain • symbol • target • transit • trend • version • welfare • whereas

Sublist 6

abstract • accurate • acknowledge • aggregate • allocate • assign • attach • author • bond • brief • capable • cite • cooperate • discriminate • display • diverse • domain • edit • enhance • estate • exceed • expert • explicit • federal • fee • flexible • furthermore • gender • ignorant • incentive • incidence • incorporate • index • inhibit • initiate • input • instruct • intelligence • interval • lecture • migrate • minimum • ministry • motive • neutral • nevertheless • overseas • precede • presume • rational • recover • reveal • scope • subsidy • tape • trace • transform • transport • underlie • utilize

Sublist 7

adapt • adult • advocate • aid • channel • chemical • classic • comprehensive • comprise • confirm • contrary • convert • couple • decade • definite • deny • differentiate • dispose • dynamic • eliminate • empirical • equip • extract • file • finite • foundation • globe • grade • guarantee • hierarchy • identical • ideology • infer • innovate • insert • intervene • isolate • media • mode • paradigm • phenomenon • priority • prohibit • publication • quote • release • reverse • simulate • sole • somewhat • submit • successor • survive • thesis • topic • transmit • ultimate • unique • visible • voluntary

Sublist 8

abandon • accompany • accumulate • ambiguous • append • appreciate • arbitrary • automate • bias • chart • clarify • commodity • complement • conform • contemporary • contradict • crucial • currency • denote • detect • deviate • displace • drama • eventual • exhibit • exploit • fluctuate • guideline • highlight • implicit • induce • inevitable • infrastructure • inspect • intense • manipulate • minimize • nuclear • offset • paragraph • plus • practitioner • predominant • prospect • radical • random • reinforce • restore • revise • schedule • tense • terminate • theme • thereby • uniform • vehicle • via • virtual • visual • widespread

Sublist 9

accommodate • analogy • anticipate • assure • attain • behalf • bulk • cease • coherent • coincide • commence • compatible • concurrent • confine • controversy • converse • device • devote • diminish • distort • duration • erode • ethic • format • founded • inherent • insight • integral • intermediate • manual

- mature • mediate • medium • military • minimal • mutual • norm • overlap • passive • portion • preliminary • protocol • qualitative • refine • relax • restrain • revolution • rigid • route • scenario • sphere
- subordinate • supplement • suspend • team • temporary • trigger • unify • violate • vision

Sublist 10

adjacent • albeit • assemble • collapse • colleague • compile • conceive • convince • depress • encounter • enormous • forthcoming • incline • integrity • intrinsic • invoke • levy • likewise • nonetheless • notwithstanding • odd • ongoing • panel • persist • pose • reluctance • so-called • straightforward • undergo • whereby

References:

Coxhead, A. (2000). A new academic word list. *TESOL Quarterly*, 34(2): 213–238.
<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/resources/academicwordlist/information.aspx>
 Kinsella (2003). The academic word list: A list of 570 high-incidence and high-u

Section 3

Other Handouts

7 It is important in an essay to use a range of expressions to describe yours and other's opinions. Add the opinion phrases 1–6 to the appropriate category in the language box.

- 1 It is widely believed that ...
- 2 I partially support ...
- 3 It is certainly true that ...
- 4 My personal view is that ...
- 5 I totally disagree with ...
- 6 Many consider that ...

Useful language: Expressing opinions

Describing your own opinion	Describing other people's opinions
<p>Agreeing with an idea (+ reasons) I am certain that ... For me it is obvious that ... I am convinced that ... It has long been my belief that ...</p>	<p>It is often said that ... It is often claimed that ... It seems apparent that ... Scientists are convinced that ... Many researchers have found that ... Some people believe that ... X argues / asserts / believes / claims / concludes / confirms / insists / maintains / states / points out / that + sb + v</p>
<p>Disagreeing with an idea (+ reasons) There is no justification for ... I am completely against ... I believe there is no evidence to support ... I do not agree with the idea that ...</p>	
<p>Giving an opinion In my view ... I would agree that ... I feel strongly that ... It seems to me that ... I would argue that ...</p>	
<p>No strong opinion There could be a case for saying that ... It would appear that ...</p>	

Writing: Further practice

8 Use the language and ideas presented in this unit to write an opinion essay to the following question.

There are serious concerns about the sale and production of genetically modified food. Yet this is necessary if we are to meet the demands of an increasing world population.

Give your opinions on this.

Unit 7 Editing your writing

1 It is a good idea to edit your writing to check that it is clear and accurate.

Read the following table and decide what kind of writer you are.

Poor writer	Average writer	Good writer
Band Scores : 2–4	Band Scores: 5–6	Band Scores: 7–9
1 Does not check if what they have written is accurate.	1 Sometimes checks that what they have written is accurate.	1 Makes sure that what they have written is accurate and that the facts are correct.
2 Does not control the length. Writes too little.	2 Sometimes controls the length.	2 Writes the correct amount and does not write more words than the question requires.
3 Has no clear sense of purpose in writing. Does not really know why they are writing and does not clearly understand the topic.	3 Knows why they are writing, but does not clearly understand the topic.	3 Defines the purpose clearly in their introduction. Knows exactly what they are writing about and has a good understanding of the topic and the question.
4 Works in any order and does not write a plan.	4 Does not always write with a plan.	4 Prepares and plans writing well.
5 Is unable to change the style of writing to suit different topics and questions.	5 Can only slightly change the writing style.	5 Has the flexibility to change the style of writing to suit different topics and questions.
6 The writing has too many grammar, spelling and punctuation mistakes which badly affect communication.	6 The writing has many grammar, spelling and punctuation mistakes.	6 Writes correctly and pays attention to grammar, spelling and punctuation. Checks work for mistakes before handing it in.
7 Has a limited vocabulary.	7 Uses too much repetitive and memorized vocabulary.	7 Has a wide vocabulary and is always developing their vocabulary by learning new words and expressions and then using this vocabulary in their writing.
8 Writes untidily. The handwriting is difficult to read.	8 Writes neatly, but not everything is clear.	8 Writes neatly.

Study skills

Editing 1: Editing your writing

1 In Writing Task 2, you have about 40 minutes to write 250 words. Leave at least 2 minutes at the end to check your work.

- 1 Match the grammar mistake to the example.
- 2 Correct each mistake.

Grammar mistake	Example
1 Subject-verb agreement	A Playing computer games a common pastime for young people is fast becoming a major cause of poor social skills.
2 Punctuation	B Tourism is a much needed source of income in developing country.
3 Plurals	C It is undeniable that the young children are easily attracted by advertising campaigns.
4 Articles	D This suggests to have a fast and efficient train system will encourage the general public to using private transport less.
5 Repetition	E Older people are more reluctant to travel long-distances because older people are less prepared to take risks.
6 Use of 'that' clause	F Relaxing visa regulations would be fairer for overseas students, particularly as their tuition fees is normally much higher than those for home students.
7 Word order	G On the another hand, other groups argue that it is the responsible of governments to maintain roads.
8 Word form	H These two charts are clear examples that different climate conditions in European countries.
9 Verb pattern	I In other words, their daily lives elements of traditional culture also include such as language, food and fashion.

Editing Your Writing: Answers

- 1 F Relaxing visa regulations would be fairer for overseas students, particularly as their tuition fees *are* normally much higher than those for home students.
 - 2 A Playing computer games, a common pastime for young people, is fast becoming a major cause of poor social skills.
 - 3 B Tourism is a much-needed source of income in developing *countries*.
 - 4 C It is undeniable that *young children* are easily attracted by advertising campaigns.
 - 5 E Older people are more reluctant to travel long-distances because *they* are less prepared to take risks.
-
- 6 H (accept any reasonable answer) These two charts are clear examples that different climate conditions in European countries vary considerably.
 - 7 I In other words, their daily lives also include elements of traditional culture such as language, food and fashion.
 - 8 G On the *other* hand, other groups argue that it is the *responsibility* of governments to maintain roads.
 - 9 D This suggests *having* a fast and efficient train system will encourage the general public to *use* private transport less.

congestion.

4 Look at the Useful language box, then rewrite the sentences underneath replacing the words in italics with language from the box.

TIP

In academic writing, opinions or predictions are not usually expressed as absolute statements. Words like *all*, *every* and *always* are often avoided.

Useful language: Avoiding absolute statements			
Expressing probability			
This solution	would	certainly probably	have a positive effect.
Such a policy	may could might	possibly	make the situation worse.
It seems	highly	possible (un)likely	that the problem will get worse.
Avoiding 'all' or 'every'		Avoiding 'always'	
certain the majority of a minority of a large number of	+ noun	sometimes often occasionally at certain times	
many a few	+ countable noun		
much a little	+ uncountable noun		

Exam information

Problem and solution questions need:

- 1 Words and phrases to offer solutions and hypothesize.
- 2 Words and phrases to show you are suggesting ideas rather than expressing absolute certainty (see Useful language: Avoiding absolute statements).

- 0 *It is not true* that poor road conditions are the only explanation for road accidents.
It seems unlikely that poor road conditions are the only explanation for road accidents.
- 1 *All* road accidents cause fatal injuries.
- 2 *Everyone* believes that drivers *always* drive too fast.
- 3 Higher fines for speeding *will* reduce the number of accidents.
- 4 Having speed cameras on *all* streets *is* the best solution to the problem of speeding.
- 5 *It is a fact* that *every* accident involves drivers who have consumed alcohol.

Suggested Answers:

1. a large number of
2. many people believe, often
3. would probably
4. certain, is highly likely to be
5. certain, the majority of accidents involve

Vocabulary

Synonyms for people

Exam information

To achieve a higher band score you need to avoid repetition and show precision of meaning.

For example:

Some people feel that globalization gives multinational companies too much power. However, consumers can influence manufacturers by changing their purchasing habits.

1 Place the words into an appropriate part of the table.

the general public the unemployed employees
 national/religious leaders students consumers politicians
 the middle-aged managers parents voters celebrities
 manufacturers representatives home owners teenagers
 entrepreneurs workers individuals employers human beings

Useful language: Synonyms for people

People – in general	People and work	People and power	People – specific groups
everyone	the unemployed	politicians	the old / young

2 Use words from the table to replace the underlined language.

- 0 People with children are a common target for marketing campaigns.
 Parents are a common target for marketing campaigns.
- 1 Many people think governments only listen to the views of people during election campaigns.
- 2 People with original business ideas should be given investment by governments as they are a potential source of jobs.
- 3 Product design is influenced by the views of people who buy things.
- 4 It is up to people on their own to decide if they believe a company's business is unethical.
- 5 People out of work need to be given training to help them find productive work.
- 6 Changes in interest rates are of concern to people.
- 7 If people who make goods are unable to make a profit, they will cease trading.
- 8 Controlling inflation and balancing imports and exports is a key priority for people in government.
- 9 People in work will look for alternative employment if their salary is too low.
- 10 Some people think that high income groups such as famous people should pay higher taxes.

Synonyms for People – Answer Key

Exercise 1:

People (in general)	People and work	People and power	People (specific groups)
everyone the general public individuals human beings entrepreneurs workers employers	the unemployed employees managers manufacturers representatives	politicians national/religious leaders consumers voters celebrities home owners teenagers	the old/young senior citizens students the middle-aged parents

Exercise 2:

1. voters
2. entrepreneurs
3. consumers
4. individuals
5. the unemployed
6. everyone (or similar)
7. manufacturers
8. politicians/national leaders
9. workers
10. celebrities

Linking expressions

See Grammar reference, page 176.

1 Match the sentence beginning (1–6) with an ending (a–f) to make true sentences about the reading passage.

- 1 The word 'organic' has been used to describe everything from vegetables to toothpaste. **In addition**, ...
 - 2 Casa Mila has two courtyards **in order to** ...
 - 3 Both Gaudí and Utzon left major projects unfinished. **However**, ...
 - 4 Utzon left the Sydney Opera House project before it was finished, **so** ...
 - 5 The interior of the Sydney Opera House is disappointing **because** ...
 - 6 Many of Gaudí's buildings resemble plants or animals. **For example**, ...
- a it was not designed by Utzon.
 - b allow light into each flat in the building.
 - c they did so for very different reasons: Gaudí was killed, while Utzon was dismissed.
 - d Casa Mila seems to stand on elephant legs.
 - e he did not complete its design.
 - f it describes a distinctive form of architecture.

2 Which of the expressions **in bold** in exercise 1 indicate:

- 1 a *reason* for an action, event or situation?
- 2 the *result* of an action, event or situation?
- 3 a *purpose*?
- 4 a *contrast* between two ideas?
- 5 support through an *example*?
- 6 an extra or *additional* argument or piece of information?

3 Match these linking expressions to the categories in exercise 2.

although as well as because of despite for instance
 furthermore so that nevertheless in spite of
 so as (not) to such as thus therefore whereas

4 Look at the expressions in exercises 2 and 3. Which of them usually connect:

- 1 two ideas in the same sentence?
- 2 ideas in different sentences or paragraphs?

5 Study the linking expressions in the sentences in exercise 1 and the expressions in exercise 3. Which expressions are usually followed by:

- 1 a clause?
- 2 a noun or -ing form?
- 3 a verb?

6 Rewrite the sentences so they that contain the word(s) in **CAPITAL** letters and the meaning stays the same.

- 1 Architects should express themselves freely. However, their work must also be practical. **ALTHOUGH**
Although
- 2 While living in a city can be stressful, there are still many advantages to doing so. **DESPITE**
- 3 Because people are concerned about the environment, organic architecture will probably remain popular. **BECAUSE OF**
- 4 The city invested in a new sports complex so that more people would be encouraged to exercise and get fit. **SO AS TO**

7 Complete the statement or argument appropriately.

- 1 I enjoyed / didn't enjoy growing up in ...
 - a because ...
 - b although ...
 - c so ...
- 2 Cities offer more amenities than towns.
 - a For example, ...
 - b However, ...
 - c Therefore, ...

Linking Expressions – Answer Key

Exercise 1:

1. f
2. b
3. c
4. e
5. a
6. d

Exercise 2:

1. because
2. so
3. in order to
4. however
5. for example
6. in addition

Exercise 3:

1. Reason: because of
2. Result: thus, therefore
3. Purpose: so that, so as (not) to
4. Contrast: although, nevertheless, in spite of, despite, whereas
5. Example: for instance
6. Addition: as well as, furthermore

Exercise 4:

1. although, as well as, because, because of, despite, for example, for instance, in order to, so that, since, so, so as (not) to, whereas
2. for example, furthermore, however, in addition, thus, therefore, nevertheless

Exercise 5:

1. Clause: although, because, for example, for instance, furthermore, however, in addition, in order that/so that, since, so, thus, therefore, nevertheless, whereas
2. Noun: as well as, because of, despite, for example
3. Verb: so that, in order to/so as to

Exercise 6:

1. Although architects should express themselves freely, their work must also be practical.
2. Despite the stress of living in a city, there are still many advantages to doing so.
3. Because of concerns about the environment, organic architecture will probably remain popular.
4. The city invested in a new sports complex so as to encourage more people to exercise and get fit.



IELTS Writing Answer Sheet – TASK 2

Candidate Name

Centre Number

--	--	--	--	--	--

Candidate Number

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Module (shade one box):

Academic

General Training

Test date

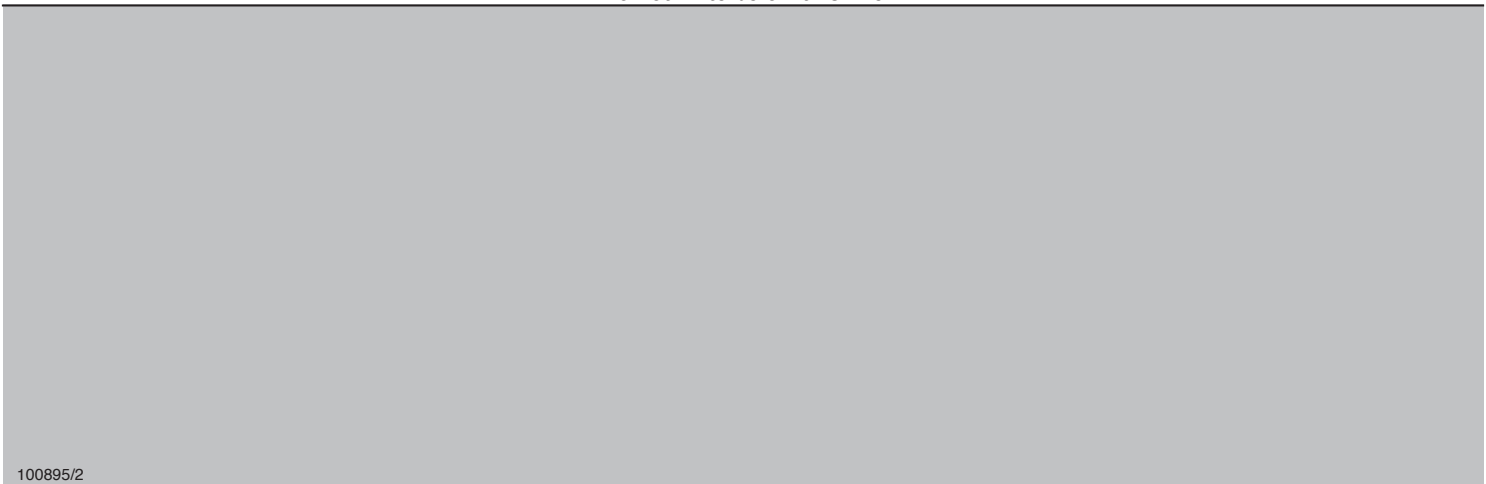
D	D

M	M

Y	Y	Y	Y

TASK 2

Do not write below this line



Do not write below this line

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Candidate Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--

TR		CC		LR		GRA	
-----------	--	-----------	--	-----------	--	------------	--

Examiner 2 Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--

Underlength	No. of words	Penalty	Off-topic	Memorised	Illegible

Candidate Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--

TR		CC		LR		GRA	
-----------	--	-----------	--	-----------	--	------------	--

Examiner 1 Number:

--	--	--	--	--	--

Underlength	No. of words	Penalty	Off-topic	Memorised	Illegible