

IELTS Writing Task 2

These IELTS sample essays have been categorized in a way that makes it easy for you to see how certain essay question types require you to provide certain responses to ensure the question is fully answered.

Specifically, these are:

- *Agree / Disagree*
- *Negative/Positive Development*
- *Discuss Both Views*
- *Causes and Effects*
- *Causes and Solutions*
- *Problems and Solutions*
- *Advantages and Disadvantages*
- *Do advantages outweigh disadvantages*
- *Two Part Question Types*
- *What is your opinion*

Agree / Disagree Type Questions

In these types of question you need to give your strong opinion stating I strongly agree/disagree or and you can state the extent to which you agree or disagree with that opinion stating I agree to some extent or to some point.

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

According to a recent study, the more time people use the Internet, the less time they spend with real human beings. Some people say that instead of seeing the Internet as a way of opening up new communication possibilities world-wide, we

should be concerned about the effect this is having on social interaction. How far do you agree with this opinion?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge. Write at least 250 words.

Internet Essay - Model Answer

It is evident that, at present, people are spending a considerable amount of time on the Internet, and thus spending less time with real people. I strongly agree that although this use of the Internet has greatly increased the level of communication available, it has also had detrimental effects on the amount and type of social interaction that takes place.

The benefits of the Internet in terms of increased communication are clear, with people connected across the globe. In the past, communication was only possible by phone or mail, which entailed time and expense. It also usually meant just keeping in contact with those people already known to you. With the internet, this has changed dramatically. Email and social networking sites such as Facebook and MSN have created online communities that are global in scale, and they have fostered communication between people and countries that we would not have thought possible in the not too distant past.

That said, there is no doubt in my mind that this has had negative impacts on social interaction. People, especially the younger generation, spend hours of their time online, chatting and on forums. Although this can be beneficial, it is certainly not the same as real interaction with human beings and does not involve the

same skills. It is important that children have and maintain real friendships in order to develop their own interpersonal skills. Not only this, it can also have negative effects on local communities if people are spending most of their time communicating online and not mixing in their neighborhoods, and possibly lead to feelings of

isolation for those individuals who do not have a 'real' person to turn to in times of need.

To conclude, I believe that the internet has undoubtedly been beneficial, but there are good reasons to be concerned about social interaction in our societies. It is therefore important that we maintain a balance between our online life and our contact with real human beings.

50-50 agrees/ disagrees

Write about the following topic.

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? Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. Write at least 250 words

Model Answer

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. I equally agree and disagree with this proposal and this essay will outline the reasons why.

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

Meat consumption, however, 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, for example, when it comes to the healthy development of children. As a result, these deficiencies need to be addressed by a high intake of supplements. One more consideration is that meat production is a billion-dollar industry on which millions of people rely upon for employment and switching to a vegetarian culture would result in the loss of their livelihood.

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 peoples' jobs. However, consumption of meat ought to be reduced for health and environmental reasons and alternatives should be considered.

Positive/Negative Development Essay

Scientists say that in the future humanity will speak the same language. Do you think this is a positive or negative social development?

This type of question is asking for *your* opinion (Do you think...) write about the point of views of you, instead of other people.

You can answer this type of question in 3 ways: (1) You believe that it is a positive development. (2) You believe that it is a negative development. (3) You reckon that it is both positive and negative.

You should make your opinion clear in the introduction, support it with good ideas in the main body, and repeat/summarize it in the conclusion.

Sample

The increasing use of some languages has led to a prospect that the world may speak one language in the future. While this has several advantages, I believe that it is an overall negative trend.

On the one hand, it is true that having a universal language may remove communication barriers among people in the world. When the world speaks the same language, this would result in fewer misunderstandings caused by people using different languages to convey their thoughts. The benefits of a universal dialect may reverberate across the

globe, as people could work for overseas companies, travel to exotic places or live in a foreign country without encountering any significant difficulties in communication. In this way, a predominant language may bridge the gap between diverse groups of people and form a global village where individuals can live in harmony with each other.

On the other hand, I contend that the above positive impacts are negated by potential problems. Primarily, if one language were spoken by all people, this would cause the loss of cultural diversity that makes human society interesting. When a language is marginalized, a whole way of life may disappear with it, which includes history, customs and social etiquette. For example, the widespread use of English has put some minor and indigenous languages in Africa on the verge of extinction. Without proactive actions to preserve

those languages, society might witness the disappearance of the whole culture that has evolved over the course of human history.

In conclusion, although a universal language may have several benefits, I firmly hold the view that the drawbacks are more significant.

50-50 Positive/Negative Development Essay

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.

Sample Essay

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.

Discuss Both Views and give Your Opinion

In this essay question type you are asked to discuss two points of views, and you have to discuss both of these and then give your own view:

Some people believe the aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs. Others believe there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

These days, more and more people are making the choice to go to university. While some people are of the opinion that the only purpose of a university education is to improve job prospects, others think that society and the individual benefit in much broader ways. Both the views shall be discussed in the essay.

On the one hand, it is certainly true that one of the main aims of university is to secure a better job. The majority of people want to improve their future career prospects and attending university is one of the best ways to do this as it increases a person's marketable skills and attractiveness to potential employers. In addition, further education is very expensive for many people, so most would not consider it if it would not provide them with a more secure future and a higher standard of living. Thus job prospects are very important.

On the other hand, there are other benefits for individuals and society. Firstly, the independence of living away from home is a benefit because it helps the students develop better social skills and improve as a person. A case in point is that many students will have to leave their families, live in halls of residence and meet new friends. As a result, their maturity and confidence will grow enabling them to live more fulfilling lives. Secondly, society will gain from the contribution that the graduates can make to the economy. We are living in a very competitive world, so countries need educated people in order to compete and prosper.

To conclude, I believe that although a main aim of university education is to get the best job, there are clearly further benefits. If we continue to promote and encourage university attendance, it will lead to a better future for individuals and society.

Problems & Solutions Type Questions/ Advantages and Disadvantages/ Causes and Effects

In these types of questions, instead of discussing the causes of a problem, you need to discuss the problems related to a particular issue in society, and then suggest what can be done to solve these problems:

Body 1: Problems

Body 2: Solutions

Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems.

Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals can tackle these problems.

Many countries of the world are currently experiencing problems caused by rapidly growing population in urban areas. The effects of overpopulation are accelerating alarmingly and thus, it has become crucial to identify these problems and determine ways to tackle them.

Overpopulation can lead to overcrowding and poor-quality housing in many large cities. Poorly heated or damp housing could cause significant health problems, resulting in illness, such as bronchitis or pneumonia. Another serious consequence of overcrowding is a rising crime rate as poor living conditions may lead young people in particular to take desperate measures and turn to crime or drugs.

In terms of solutions, I believe the government should be largely responsible. Firstly, it is vital that the state provides essential housing and healthcare for all its citizens. Secondly, setting up community projects to help foster more community spirit and help keep young people off the street is a good idea. For example, youth clubs or evening classes for teenagers would keep them occupied. Finally, more effective policing of inner city areas would also be beneficial. Naturally, individuals should also try to address these problems. One way is to put pressure on the government to ensure they tackle the problems by, for instance, forming action groups to lobby the government and request intervention and adequate funding. They could also form Neighborhood Watch areas to try and help reduce the high levels of crime.

To summarize, the problems caused by overpopulation in urban areas are very serious. Yet if governments and individuals share a collective responsibility, then it may well become possible to offer some solutions such as housing and healthcare.

Do advantages outweigh disadvantages?

These days, many people have their own computer and telephone, so it is quite easy for them to do their job at home. Does working at home have more advantages or more disadvantages?

Try then to think of one reason for one side of the argument and two for the other side that you support.
Have more control of time (advantage) Loneliness (disadvantage) Less influence in the company (disadvantage)

So, in this case, the writer thinks of course that there are more disadvantages and this should be clearly stated when you give your opinion in intro as well as conclusion.

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

These days, many people have their own computer and telephone, so it is quite easy for them to do their job at home. Does an advantage of working at home outweigh disadvantages?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge. Write at least 250 words.

In the present age it is common for people to work from home because of advances in technology. I believe this has more negative impacts than positive such as less control of the work and connectivity issues.

One advantage of working from home is the freedom that it provides. Home workers can organize their work around their home life as they can stop or start work as they please and thus if, for example, they have children, they can easily arrange to take them and pick them up from school. They can also undertake any

other tasks that they need to do during the day, such as doing the laundry or shopping, and then finish work later. Overall then, employees have more control over their lives.

Despite these positive factors, however, there are a number of disadvantages. The first of these is the fact that those who work at home nearly all the time will not be mixing with colleagues. When people are at work, they are always surrounded by others, but at home, an employee is likely to be alone most of the time. This may lead to feelings of loneliness due to a lack of interaction. Another drawback is the fact that one may have less influence in the company. It is often the case that important decisions arise on the spur of the moment as unexpected issues arise. If an employee is not there, others may have to step in. If this occurs on a regular basis, the employee's contribution to the company may decline, meaning a higher probability of getting overlooked for things such as promotion.

In conclusion, although there are positives and negatives related to working from home, there are more negative impacts. Employees should therefore consider carefully whether working from home is the best choice.

Two Part question Essay

It is basically an **opinion essay, in turn asking you to answer both questions**, as you have to give your opinion on protecting old buildings and how History is important.

However, it does not ask you whether you agree or disagree. There are two parts to this essay question so you must answer both.

Essay on Old Buildings

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

Many old buildings protected by law are part of a nation's history. Some people think they should be knocked down and replaced by new ones.

How important is it to maintain old buildings? Should history stand in the way of progress?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience or knowledge. Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer

Most nations around the world have at least some, or possibly many, old buildings such as temples, churches and houses in their cities, villages and surrounding areas which have historical significance. In my opinion, it is very important to maintain these, but this does not mean progress should stop.

Preserving certain old buildings is important for several reasons. Firstly, these structures provide an insight into the history of our countries, showing us how people many centuries ago lived their lives. Without them, we could only learn by books, and it would undoubtedly be sad if this were the only way to see them. Many of these buildings are also very beautiful. Take for example the many religious buildings such as churches

and temples that we see around the world. Not only this, but on a more practical level, many of these buildings provide important income to a country as many tourists visit them in great numbers.

However, this certainly does not mean that modernization should be discouraged. I believe that old buildings can be protected in tandem with progress. For example, in many circumstances we see old historic buildings being renovated whilst maintaining their original character, and being used for modern purposes. Also, in no way does history hinder progress, and in fact it is the opposite. By studying and learning about our history, we understand more about the world we live in, and this helps us to build a better future.

To conclude, I believe that it is very important to protect and preserve old buildings as we can learn about our history as can others from other countries. Such knowledge can also help us to understand how to modernize our countries in the best way.

Writing Task 2 Linker Exercise 1 Drag the linkers in the correct space.

_____ children are already overloaded with too much work. _____ children spend a lot of time at school, on top of that they have a lot of homework. _____ schools are becoming more and more demanding and children have less and less time to play and be children. _____ there are children that I know who wake up before 6 to go to school and come back after 5 in the evening. _____ their parents send them to other classes, such as dance, music, or even extra Math or English classes. Only to come home around 8, after which they still need to finish their homework, eat, and go to bed. _____ adding another few extra hours of voluntary work will not be helping them, it will only make them feel worse

- Firstly
- Currently
- Then
- For example
- Additionally
- Therefore

Exercise 2

_____, volunteering should be done of one's own free will and making it mandatory defeats its purpose. _____, this is especially true when dealing with teenagers, which are notorious for hating anything that has to be done. _____, when telling a teen that he or she will have to go clean up the neighbourhood because it will make the place better as well as make him or her feel better, the resentment will only grow. _____, it is paramount that volunteering should not be forced upon them, but rather give them some sort of choice. Providing options has more chance of fostering some responsibility, rather than being counterproductive.

- Therefore
- For instance
- Second
- Moreover
- In conclusion
- However
- Additionally

_____, obliging children to volunteer outside school as part of their curriculum is an unhealthy idea. _____, I personally believe that volunteering could be part of a schooling program if it were offered on a free basis. _____, it should replace certain classes, instead of added to the already overtaxed time of the children.

Exercise 3

[redacted], it would supply them with invaluable life skills which are easily transferable to the workforce. They will be put in diverse situations where they will be exposed to other competences which are not taught in regular classes.

[redacted], students will learn how to communicate with others, work in a team, determine how to manage their time, as well as master countless organizational skills. [redacted], the different projects the students worked on could be easily added to their CV, which will be immensely beneficial when they start to look for their first job.

[redacted], having teens do voluntary work should be an essential part of any educational system.

For example

First

Consequently

Additionally