



# HOW TO WRITE AN IELTS

TASK 2 ESSAY  
(ACADEMIC MODULE)

HOW  
THE EXAMINER  
MARKS YOU  
*+10*  
MODELS

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# 1. WRITING CRITERIA EXPLAINED – HOW THE EXAMINER MARKS YOUR WRITING

This video explains how to understand and address the marking criteria in the IELTS Writing Task 2 test. In other words, it will help you make the examiner happy when he or she reads your essay.

I really hope you can understand the test better and how to get your highest score. Contact me if you want more help. I'm here to help 😊

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## 2. TASK 2 – AN ESSAY ABOUT HOW WOMEN CAN GET THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS MEN

322 words

### THE TASK

In many parts of the world, women still do not have the same opportunities as men, in both their professional and personal lives. How can this situation be improved?

What suggestions can you make to change the way things are?

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

### ADVICE

1. Your topic sentences must match your thesis statement.

Example thesis statement	Example topic sentences
<i>This social problem can be remedied by changing the law, using the media to show positive images of successful women, and by businesses having a quota for women in leadership positions.</i>	<i>a) Countries can look at introducing laws that prohibit any forms of discrimination in the workplace. b) Another way to improve the plight of women is ... c) Finally, it is important that ...</i>

2. High level noun phrases

#### **EXAMPLES**

- a. the same level of knowledge
- b. a better balance between males and females in the workplace

3. Adverbial phrases

#### **EXAMPLES**

- a. in favour of men
- b. currently, easily
- c. In the meantime,

4. And you must know how to suggest or recommend or give solutions – do you know how to use the following words / expressions

- provide a solution
- give a recommendation
- solve a problem
- resolve a dilemma

- face a challenge
- recommend
- should
- need to
- must
- remedy
- It would be a good idea to

**And now watch the video – good luck! Ruth 😊**



### 3. TASK 2 – AN ESSAY ABOUT GOVERNMENT SPENDING ON HEALTH

339 words

#### THE TASK

The government should invest more in preventative strategies to improve public health. To what extent 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.

#### ADVICE

1. Make your thesis statement VERY clear and direct. You will get a higher score for Task Achievement and Coherence if your essay is clear and everything matches this statement.

##### EXAMPLE

*I agree with this view because prevention measures save money in the long term and reduce the incidence of disease.*

2. The topic sentences are COHERENT with the Thesis statement.

##### EXAMPLES

- a. *Firstly, treatment for patients can be very expensive, so preventing a disease saves money for both the patient and the health system.*
- b. *The second reason why prevention is more deserving of government spending than treatment is that it saves people from suffering from preventable diseases and medical conditions.*

3. High level vocabulary for health and medicine and people related to this area.

Medical / health	Collocations	Phrasal verbs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- the incidence of disease</li><li>- MRI machines</li><li>- facilities for surgery</li><li>- specialist doctors</li><li>- emergency operations</li><li>- chronically ill patients</li><li>- Type 2 diabetes</li><li>- loss of circulation, eyesight</li><li>- limb amputation</li><li>- sugar intake</li><li>- symptoms</li><li>- preventable diseases</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- our quality of life</li><li>- the long term</li><li>- level of care</li><li>- a healthy lifestyle</li><li>- a well-balanced diet</li><li>- medical costs</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- have an impact on</li><li>- spend (money) on</li><li>- invest in</li><li>- save money on</li><li>- worry about</li><li>- suffer from</li><li>- go through</li><li>- take care of</li></ul>

And now watch the video – good luck! Ruth 😊



## 4. TASK 2: AN ESSAY ABOUT JUNK FOOD ADVERTISING

315 words

### THE TASK

Junk food such as chips and hamburgers are increasingly popular now. However, many experts feel that junk food advertising should be banned.

Do you agree or disagree with this idea?

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

### ADVICE

1. You need to practise planning as well as writing – good thinking produces good writing.
2. In an opinion or argument driven essay, you need to show that you understand the other side first (CONCESSION) and then argue against that side (REBUTTAL) – this is common in a higher level essay.

Paragraph	Topic sentence
Body 1 THE OTHER SIDE (CONCESSION FIRST)	<i><u>Nutritional and health experts</u> are rightly alarmed by the rise in obesity and other lifestyle conditions that lead to cardiovascular disease and diabetes. <u>They believe that ...</u></i>
Body 2 THE STUDENT'S SIDE (REBUTTAL)	<i>By banning the advertising of junk food, <u>there is no guarantee that</u> the consumption of junk food will decrease.</i>

3. And know how to write an argument by addressing the 'other side' first.

#### EXAMPLES

- While this concern with the increased consumption of unhealthy food is correct, the idea that banning the advertising will fix the problem is misdirected.*
  - ....it has been suggested that prohibition of fast food advertising will aid the fight against lifestyle disease and obesity. However, this does not solve the problem of continued consumption.*
4. Also, vary your vocabulary and word forms for the same idea e.g. ban – restrict, be banned, be restricted, outlaw, make something illegal

**Now watch the video. I wish you all the best. Ruth 😊**



## 5. TASK 2 – AN ESSAY ABOUT SELLING MUSIC ONLINE

411 words

### THE TASK

The amount of music available online has increased significantly and this is having an impact on CD and concert sales.

Do you think the benefits of having more music online are greater than the disadvantages?

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

### ADVICE

1. Plan – without a plan, you write with less coherence 😞



2. Make sure your conclusion matches your thesis statement.

#### **INTRODUCTION/THESIS STATEMENT**

*This poses some benefits for the musicians and their fans alike, but it brings many more disadvantages for the artists themselves. In my view, this trend toward downloading and buying music online was inevitable, and now authorities and the music industry have to figure out how to prevent issues of music piracy.*

#### **CONCLUSION**

*This essay has listed some of the advantages and disadvantages of having music available online, both for the musicians and their fans. It seems that the benefits exceed any drawbacks for the consumers, although in the end, they may miss out too because their favourite artist could struggle to get 'airplay' on the internet. After analysing this situation, I believe that the music industry should work harder to solve the theft and piracy issues that prevent musicians from making a living from their art.*

3. Can you use a variety of vocabulary for the internet, music and musicians?

Music and musicians	Listeners	The Internet
musicians artists an African children's choir concert songs	music lovers listeners fans people who buy music ___ buy music without leaving the comfort of their home	the world wide web the internet music online iTunes Google Play



4. How well do you link/join all your ideas together? Can you use –

- conjunctions e.g. but, and
- pronouns e.g. their, it, This issue
- sentence adverbs e.g. However, In addition

**So, while you watch the video, see how all these techniques come together to help you get a high-scoring essay. Ruth 😊**



## 6. TASK 2 – AN ESSAY ABOUT DOING BUSINESS WITH FOREIGNERS

325 words

### THE TASK

It is important for business people to understand the cultures they come into contact with, however briefly. What are the main advantages of doing so? What do you think is the main disadvantage of not doing so?

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

### ADVICE

1. Take a minute or two to analyse the essay question. That way, you can 'respond' properly and get a high score for Task Achievement.

In this case:

- Only write about business people, not other types of travel
  - List advantages first
  - List THE MAIN disadvantage second
  - You do not need to give your opinion in this essay, however, it is advisable to end with some recommendation or 'position'
2. Then make a very quick plan – most times you cannot write this out fully, but you still need a plan!

Advantages of <u>understanding</u> a foreign culture in business	The main disadvantage of <u>NOT</u> understanding a foreign culture in business
Have a better experience	Potential LOSS of \$ WHY? Foreign customers don't trust you
Maybe win more contracts, get more sales	
Not get lost	
Not upset or offend anyone -- keep current clients	
?	

Notice that this introduction does NOT have an opinion in the THESIS STATEMENT – this is OK for this essay because the instruction asks you to list the advantages and disadvantages. It does NOT ask you for your opinion.

**Now watch the video and pay particular attention to the section "Why was this essay so good?" Ruth 😊**



## 7. TASK 2 – A HIGH LEVEL MODEL ABOUT CHANGING JOBS OR CAREERS

298 words

### THE TASK

An increasing number of people change their jobs or their careers throughout their working life for many different reasons.

Is this a positive or negative trend?

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

### ADVICE

1. How to write the introduction –

- Keep it simple
- Answer the question
- Write 3 sentences – the video will show you 😊

2. You can get a higher score if you write with a concession. A concession is showing your understanding of why other people think differently to you.

#### EXAMPLE

*Even though changing career too many times is considered ill-advised, I believe it has brought positive changes to society in general.*

3. And notice how the body of the essay matches the introduction (thesis statement).

4. High-level vocabulary – do you know these? Can you use them in your writing correctly?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • be considered ill-advised               | • more satisfied workers                      |
| • has brought positive changes            | • her students' understanding                 |
| • a higher salary                         | • feel valued as STH                          |
| • an engineer friend of mine              | • a multitude of reasons for -ing STH         |
| • more demanding conditions of employment | • a diverse range of professional experiences |
| • a totally different experience          | • more productive work environments           |
| • be largely a positive step              |   |
| • a greater variety of skills             |   |

**I hope you learn a lot from this video. Ruth 😊**



## 8. TASK 2 – A LOWER LEVEL MODEL ABOUT CHANGING JOBS OR CAREERS MANUFACTURING

298 words

### THE TASK

An increasing number of people change their jobs or their careers throughout their working life for many different reasons.

Is this a positive or negative trend?

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

### ADVICE

1. Vocabulary – if you thought the list in the previous video was too hard, maybe this list is a better target for you to learn and use 😊

- changing your job
- changing your career
- stay for a long time
- in the same position
- accounting
- downsides
- miss out on
- a very good financial advisor
- clients
- promotion
- a salary increase
- a financial planner
- have variety in your working life
- be an advantage
- some possible negative consequences
- benefit from STH
- a diverse range of professional experiences
- productive work environment

2. And just like the previous video, pay attention to the way the model is coherent – how do all the ideas connect? How does the thesis statement guide the essay and hold it together?

3. Depending on your needs, this essay is a good model for those aiming at 6 or 6.5 in IELTS writing. You should be able to use these linking techniques at this level!

- Both
- , but
- One on hand,
- On the other hand,
- First,... Second,
- Lastly
- For example,
- It is possible that
- One example is
- because
- also
- Therefore,
- Even though
- Not only
- ... but also

Now watch the video. Good luck. Ruth 😊



## 9. TASK 2 – AN ESSAY ABOUT LEARNING A LANGUAGE

298 words

### THE TASK

Despite the costs, it is more effective to learn a language in the country where it is the mother tongue.

To what extent 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.

### ADVICE

1. Look at how the thesis statement and the topic sentences all match – making this essay COHERENT!

#### EXAMPLES

Thesis statement - *I completely agree that it is better to learn a foreign language in a country where it is used all the time because the student can improve their speaking, and they are constantly surrounded by that language so they learn more naturally.*

Topic sentence 1 - *The first reason to learn a language in the foreign country is to improve speaking.*

Topic sentence 2 - *Aside from speaking improvement, language learners also benefit from being constantly surrounded by their new language.*

2. Use a variety of linking techniques to improve your GRAMMAR and COHERENCE score.

- even though
- I completely agree that
- so
- The first reason to ... is
- While \_\_\_\_\_, MAIN CLAUSE
- As a result,
- They also + VERB
- such as ... or ...
- Aside from + NOUN PHRASE
- Therefore
- For example,
- In conclusion
- not only ... but also ...

**Now watch the video. Try to write it out as you watch. Ruth 😊**



## 10. TASK 2 – AN ESSAY ABOUT HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT

285 words

### THE TASK

Some people think that human history has been a journey from ignorance to knowledge. Others argue that this underestimates the achievements of ancient cultures, and overvalues our achievements.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

### ADVICE

1. You must discuss both sides and in the conclusion give your opinion, by siding with one.
2. Use a variety of noun phrases appropriate for the topic.

#### Noun phrases

hand-held digital devices  
ancient inventions of simple tools  
ancient and modern feats  
limitations / restrictions  
waterways  
engineering  
global exploration  
superstition  
life expectancy  
telecommunications  
our modern form of democracy  
philosophers  
their lack of computerised and technological knowledge

3. Use a variety of verbs appropriate for the topic.

#### Verbs

has been radically transformed  
be challenged by  
(it) is often thought that  
be able to  
shortening  
put forward (a claim)  
(it) must be acknowledged that  
may not have developed

4. And if you really want to do well, you must learn how to make your meaning more accurate by using describing words – adjectives and adverbs!

Describing words
radically amazing remarkable technological intellectual extensive prevailing (un)impressive incredible backward advanced

**In the video you will also see how the student pulls all the ideas together with good planning and excellent linking words and techniques. Good luck. Ruth 😊**



## 11. TASK 2 - AN ESSAY ABOUT ANIMAL RIGHTS (A discussion essay)

255 words

### THE TASK

Animals are regularly used in science, medicine and even fashion. Many people argue that this is unnecessary and unfair and that animals should not be used for human purposes.

Discuss.

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

### ADVICE

1. This is a discussion essay, so you MUST clearly show BOTH sides.

<b><u>Animals should be used for human purposes.</u></b> <b>WHY?</b>	<b><u>Animals should NOT be used for human purposes.</u></b> <b>WHY?</b>
1. Human survival – food 2. Animals don't have feelings? 3. Medical research	4. It is inhumane 5. Animals have rights too, and feelings 6. Humans upset the natural order of the world – livestock farming etc.

2. Remember – a good introduction need only have 3 sentences

- background information
- introduce the topic and paraphrase the essay question
- state your thesis (thesis statement) – in an argument essay (to what extent do you agree or disagree OR what do you think) this will have a clear opinion, but in a discussion essay you can just provide a guide to the essay

### **EXAMPLE**

*Throughout history, humans have used animals for food work, research and even just for pleasure. While some people believe this exploitation to be unjust, others say it is a necessary part of human survival. Both of these viewpoints will be explored in his essay.*

3. Because it is a discussion essay, you need good expression to introduce the ideas and opinions of other people as well.

### **EXAMPLES**

- While some people believe \_\_\_\_\_, others say \_\_\_\_\_
- These activists argue that
- It is also argued that
- Many scientists and meat eaters claim that



- Animal lovers stress
- Despite these kind views, I tend to agree with scientists who highlight

**Now watch the final video in this set.  
Don't hesitate to contact me for more help.  
I'm here to help. Ruth 😊**

