

# RECENT IELTS TOPICS

## *Writing & Speaking*



# RECENT IELTS SPEAKING PART 1 QUESTIONS

## SHOES

- What kind of shoes do you usually wear?
- Do you prefer stylish or comfortable shoes?
- How often do you buy new shoes?
- Have you ever bought shoes online?
- Why do you think some people buy very expensive shoes?

## ADVERTISEMENTS

- How do you feel about advertisements?
- Do you watch advertisements until the end?
- Do advertisements influence your choice of product?
- Have you ever bought something because of its advertisement?
- Do you remember any adverts you saw when you were younger?
- Do you think it's a good thing that celebrities promote products?

## SCIENCE

- Did you study science at school?
- What was your favourite science subject?
- What did you like about your favourite subject?
- What was your least favourite science subject at school? Why?

## WALLETS

- Do you have a wallet?
- What do you carry in your wallet?
- When did you buy your first wallet?
- Have you ever lost your wallet?

Watch the sample answers to the questions above on [YouTube](#).

## FLOWERS

- Do you like receiving flowers as a gift?
- What kinds of flowers do you like?
- On what occasions do people give flowers in your country?
- Have you given flowers to someone recently?

### SMILES

- Do people in your country often smile?
- In what situations do people usually smile?
- Who smiles more, men or women?

### TRAVELLING BY CAR

- Do you like travelling by car?
- Where do you prefer to sit, in the front or in the back of the car?
- What is the furthest you have travelled by car?

### BARBECUE

- Do you often have barbecues?
- What kinds of foods do you like to barbecue?
- What is the best place for a barbecue?

Watch the sample answers to the questions above on [YouTube](#).

### NUMBERS AND MATHS

- Do you have a favourite number?
- Are there any numbers that are considered unlucky in your country?

### MATHS

- Do you like maths?
- Do you use maths in your everyday life?

### BOREDOM

- An event that you found boring
- A time when you felt bored
- Do you often feel bored?
- What makes you feel bored?
- Is it okay to feel bored at work/school?

### LAUGHTER

- What makes you laugh?
- Is it important to laugh?

### COLOURS

- Do you think the colours that a person wears tell something about his or her character?
- Do men and women like to wear similar colours?

- Are colours important in marketing and advertising?

### MULTITASKING

- Do you like to multitask?
- What is better, to multitask or to concentrate on a single task?
- Do you find it hard to focus?
- What distracts you when you try to focus?

Watch the sample answers to the questions above on [YouTube](#).

### HAIR

- Do you often go to a hairdresser or barber?

### PENS OR PENCILS

- Do you prefer writing with a pencil or pen?
- How often do you buy pens/pencils?
- What would you do if someone gave you a pen as a gift?

### VOICE

- Do you like your voice?
- Has your voice changed over time?

### WATER SPORTS

- Do you like water sports?
- What water sport would you like to try?
- Why?

### CAKE

- Do you like eating cakes?
- What are your favourite cakes?
- Do you know how to bake a cake yourself?

### RUNNING

- Do you like running?
- When was the last time you ran?
- Have you taken part in any running competitions?

### HOLIDAYS

- Do you like to go on one long holiday or several short ones?
- When you go on holiday, do you prefer to visit cities or to go to the beach?
- Describe the best holiday trip you've had.

Watch the sample answers to the questions above on [YouTube](#).

### BORROWING AND LENDING

- Have you ever borrowed books?
- Is it good to borrow money from friends?
- Do you like to lend things to others?

### PICNICS

- Have you been on a picnic recently?
- Do you often go on picnics? Why?
- What kind of places do people choose as their picnic spots?

### RECYCLING

- Do people recycle things in your town?
- What kind of things do they recycle?

### CLOTHES

- What kinds of clothes do you like to wear?
- Do you follow fashion?
- Do you think your preferences have changed over time?
- Do you think older people dress differently from younger people?

### JEANS

- How often do you wear jeans?
- Did you wear jeans in school?
- Why are jeans so popular?

Watch the sample answers to the questions above on [YouTube](#).

### FURNITURE

- Do you have a lot of furniture at home?
- What is your favourite piece of furniture?
- Could you describe it?
- Have you ever received furniture as a gift?
- What furniture would you like to buy?

### TREES

- Do you love trees?
- Do you have trees around your house?
- What trees are common in your country?
- Have you ever planted a tree?
- Have you climbed trees before?

### FARMING

- Have you ever visited a farm?
- What did you learn about the farm during your visit?



- What changes are required in farming?
- Why is farming important?
- Would you like to live on a farm?

#### ADVICE

- Do you often ask for advice?
- Do you like giving advice to other people?
- Would you pay for advice?

Watch the sample answers to the questions above on [YouTube](#).

#### REMEMBERING PEOPLE'S NAMES

- Do you find it difficult to remember other people's names? Why?
- How do you feel when someone forgets your name?

#### WEEKENDS

- How do you usually spend your weekends?
- Do you often go to the movies?
- Are there enough things to do on weekends in your hometown?

#### NEW YEAR

- How do you usually celebrate New Year?
- What was the happiest New Year's celebration you had?
- What do you usually cook on New Year's Eve?

#### CHANGES

- Have you changed since your childhood?
- Do you think changes are needed in life?
- What changes do you expect in the near future?
- Do you often try new things?

#### READING

- Do you prefer to read alone?
- What is your favourite place to read?
- Are there any other places apart from homes where people can read?

#### YOUR DAY

- What day of the week is your favourite?
- What does your morning routine look like?
- Are you an early bird?
- Do you remember any occasion when you woke up very early?

# RECENT IELTS SPEAKING PART 2 QUESTIONS

## DESCRIBING AN EXPERIENCE OR OCCASION

- Describe an important decision you have made recently. You should say what this decision was, where and when you made it and what the outcome was.
- Describe a time when you gave advice to somebody. You should say who this person was, what the advice was, what reaction the person had and how you felt about giving the advice.
- Describe a time when you motivated someone to do something. You should say who this person was, where it was, how you motivated him/her and how the person felt afterwards.
- Describe a promise that you made to a person.
- Describe an occasion when you had to work in a team.
- Describe a time when you got lost.
- Describe a conversation that you will never forget.
- Describe a time you had to listen to somebody even though you did not want to.
- Describe a time when you received good news.
- Describe an expensive activity that you like to do occasionally.

## DESCRIBING AN OBJECT

- Describe an old thing that your family possessed.
- Describe the photo of yourself that you like the most.
- Describe your favourite TV programme.
- Describe a movie that made you laugh.

## DESCRIBING A PERSON

- Describe a person you know who shows his/her emotions openly. You should say who this person is, how you met him/her, and how you feel about this person.
- Describe a person who you think is open.
- Describe a friend who you think is a good leader.
- Describe a person who is physically active.

# RECENT IELTS WRITING TASK 2 QUESTIONS

*The requirements and types of task for IELTS Writing Task 2 are exactly the same for Academic and General Training students. Most topics can also be used for both types of exam. However, some of the more scientific topics are only used for Academic students and some of the more general everyday topics only for General Training exams. These topics are marked accordingly.*

## OPINION ESSAY (AGREE – DISAGREE)

### *Academic and General Training IELTS*

- With growing populations in cities, more and more people live in homes with little or no outdoor space. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?
- Nowadays anyone can post news on the internet. As a result, we cannot trust information we read there. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- Nowadays older people often live in retirement homes with people of their own age instead of living with their children. Is it a positive or negative development?
- Young people are highly influenced by famous people and they look up to them as role models. Is that a positive or negative development?
- Some people spend large amount of money to buy tickets for sports or cultural events. Is this a positive or negative development?
- Some people think it does not matter if a professional sportsman or sportswoman misbehaves on or off the field, as long as they play well. What is your opinion about this?
- Some people think that students should play more team sports, such as football and volleyball, rather than individual sports, such as running and swimming. Do you agree?
- Some people believe that studying for a university degree is better for an individual's career than gaining work experience immediately after high school. To what extent do you agree with this statement?



*Academic IELTS*

- Some people believe that the extinction of animal species is a natural process and humans should not intervene. Do you agree or disagree?
- Some people believe that air travel should be restricted because it causes air pollution. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- Nuclear energy is better than other sources of energy for meeting the ever-increasing global energy need. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- In the future, self-driving cars will replace human drivers. Is that a positive or negative development?

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## TWO VIEWS AND YOUR OPINION

*Academic and General Training IELTS*

- Some people say that students who achieve the highest scores in their exams should be rewarded. Others say that those who show progress should be rewarded instead. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Some people think that in the modern world we are more dependent on each other. Others argue that people have become more independent. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Some people believe that children should be allowed to choose what subjects they study at school. Others argue that everyone should study the same subjects. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.
- Some people think that children should only read academic books. Others believe that reading books for entertainment is equally important. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Some people think city planners should create more green spaces and plant trees. Others believe that they should focus on building new homes. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Some people think that technology is increasing the gap between the rich and the poor. Others argue that the opposite is true. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

- Some people think that children should learn world history. Others believe that it is more important to learn the history of their own country. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Some people think that it is better to move to other countries for greater work and life opportunities. Others argue that it is best to stay in their home country. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

## ADVANTAGES – DISADVANTAGES

### *Academic and General Training IELTS*

- In some cultures, children are encouraged to compete against each other. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this approach?
- Nowadays, more people move away from their friends and families for work. Does this development have more advantages or disadvantages?
- Some cities ban private cars from entering the centre and force people to use bicycles and buses. Do the advantages of this policy outweigh the disadvantages?
- Nowadays, robots do more and more jobs instead of humans. Does this development have more advantages or disadvantages?
- In many countries, people live longer and longer. Does this development have more advantages or disadvantages?
- In some countries, governments encourage businesses to move outside of the cities to solve the problems of housing and transport in the cities. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this policy?

## PROBLEM – SOLUTIONS

### *Academic and General Training IELTS*

- The health benefits of physical exercise are well known. Despite this, many people do not exercise regularly. What are the reasons for this? What could be done to encourage them to exercise regularly?
- In many countries, people do not recycle waste materials, such as bottles and newspapers. What are the reasons for this? What could be done to solve this problem?

- Some health problems are directly linked to people's life choices. Why do people make these choices? What can be done to encourage them to make healthier choices instead?
- In many countries crime rates among teenagers are higher than among other age groups. What are the causes of this problem and what can be done to solve it?

## TWO DIRECT QUESTIONS

### *Academic and General Training IELTS*

- Nowadays, more and more children play computer games. Why do you think this is the case? Is it a positive or negative development?
- Some parents prefer to stay in care homes after their retirement instead of staying with their children. Why is this happening? What are the advantages and disadvantages of this development?
- Cultures around the world are becoming more and more similar. What are the reasons for this? Is it a positive or negative trend?
- Nowadays, shopping is the most common activity for some young people. Why is this so? Is it a positive or negative development?
- Nowadays, more and more people choose to do their shopping online instead of going to physical stores. Why is this so? What are the disadvantages of this trend?



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