

Master IELTS Essays

Writing Task Two

**Course Material and
Supplements**

*For Academic & General
Training Candidates*

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- Version 3.3 (22.30-25.9.13)
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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) asked clearly and completely;
- give reasons for your answer;
- include relevant examples
 - from your knowledge
 - from your experience
- spend about 40 minutes on the task
- write at least 250 words → 265-270 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 40 lines. Although you may ask for extra sheets to write your answer in, it is not likely to become necessary since the space you are already provided with is way more than sufficient.

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

A. Opinion-led:

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

B. Argument-led:

*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.*

C. Advantage/Disadvantage (Discussion Type):

*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?*

D. Advantage/Disadvantage (Opinion Type):

*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?*

E1. Problem/Issue (Causes + Solutions):

*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?*

E2. Problem/Issue (Consequences + Solutions):

*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?*

E3. Problem/Issue (Causes + Consequences):

*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?*

E4. Mixed:

*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?*

Assessment Criteria

Every report is read four times by an examiner and each time, it will be marked on one of the following criteria:

- Task Response (TR)
- Coherence and Cohesion (CC)
- Lexical Resource (LR)
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GRA)

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Task Response (TR)

In both Academic and General Training Writing tests, Task 2 requires the candidates to formulate and develop a position in relation to a given prompt in the form of a question or statement. Ideas should be supported by evidence, and examples may be drawn from the candidates' own experience. Responses must be at least 250 words in length.

The examiner has the following questions in mind when assessing this aspect of your report:

1. Have you sufficiently addressed all parts of the task?
2. Have you presented a clear response to the questions asked?
3. Have you presented well-developed ideas by presenting, extending and supporting them?
4. Have you avoided over-generalisation and absolute statements?
5. Have you avoided repetitive conclusions or vague/under-developed ideas?

Coherence and Cohesion (CC)

This criterion is concerned with the overall clarity and fluency of the message: how the response organises and links information, ideas and language. Coherence refers to the linking of ideas through logical sequencing. Cohesion refers to the varied and appropriate use of cohesive devices (for example, logical connectors, pronouns and conjunctions) to assist in making the conceptual and referential relationships between and within sentences clear.

The examiner has the following questions in mind when assessing this aspect of your report:

1. Have you organised your information logically?
2. Is there an overall flow or progression in your report?
3. Have you organised the text in paragraphs logically and sufficiently?
4. Have you used linkers correctly, properly and sufficiently?
5. Have pronouns been used correctly and do they have clear references?
6. Have you avoided linker over-use/under-use?

Lexical Resource (LR)

This criterion refers to the range of vocabulary the candidate has used and the accuracy and appropriacy of that use in terms of the specific task.

The examiner takes the following points into account when assessing this aspect of your report:

1. Words
 - a. Range and flexibility
 - b. Level
 - c. Precision
 - d. Style
 - e. Collocation
2. Vocabulary mistakes
 - a. Spelling
 - b. Word choice
 - c. Word formation

Note: when evaluating mistakes, the effect each has on the reader and the intelligibility of your report is taken into account.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GRA)

This criterion refers to the range and accurate use of the candidate's grammatical resource as manifested in the candidate's writing at the sentence level.

The examiner has the following questions in mind when assessing this aspect of your report:

1. Have you used a variety of sentence structures?
2. How often have you used compound structures?
3. Mistakes
 - a. Grammar
 - b. Punctuation

Note: when evaluating mistakes, the effect each has on the reader and the intelligibility of your report is taken into account.

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 			



Sample IELTS Writing Task 2 Topics

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?

Answer by E. Tahasoni:

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 personally disagree that replacing elderly staff with young recruits would be unwise. (45 words)

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 youths, especially those around 20 to 30 years old who are about to form families and support them. (69 words)

Finally, although some people might argue that the experience and skills of old workers would be lost when they retire, they should remember that this experience is mostly with old or outdated equipment and technologies. As a result, it is less likely that their employers will need their abilities in the long run and younger workers can be trained to work with modern machines such as computers and lasers. (69 words)

In conclusion, I believe companies need to force their elderly workforce to retire and employ younger workers to replace them. (20 words)

Total: 279 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~~ ^{for} 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

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.

→ P.5

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	
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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, ~~and~~ traits and skill sets which make them unique at doing certain tasks most perfectly, either can reach the ^{other one's} ~~other~~ skill level through training ~~and~~ ^{provided} ~~if~~ ~~they~~ ~~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 ^{while completing} ~~and~~ ~~complete~~ 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.

Answer by E. Tahasoni:

The world today has become quite dynamic and news stories develop almost every minute. Some people think reviewing the news need to become a high school subject while another group disagrees. (31 words)

Reviewing global news could have a number of benefits for students. Firstly, this would definitely improve their general knowledge in areas like geography, since the news come from around the world and often include lots of details about different locations, their customs and manners. Therefore, they would possibly gain a better understanding of the world and its features. Secondly, 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 consequences are. (102 words)

Nevertheless, there are some arguments against teaching international news at high schools. Most importantly, 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 Syrian civil war, 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 which could lead to less time remaining for more important subjects and activities like sciences, math or physical education. (99 words)

In conclusion, I personally believe it is wise for secondary school students to study global news at school, but it would be wise if stories are chosen and adapted for the class by a group of educational experts and psychologists to avoid the negative effects discussed above. (47 words)

Total: 279 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.

Answer by E. Tahasoni:

Recently, there have been extensive developments and improvements in various aspects of agriculture, including genetically modifying plants to create new types or factory farming. While a group of people think these developments are reasonable, others reject them. (37 words)

One advantage of modern farming improvements is that they can provide more food for the growing populations, especially in the developing world, since many new types of plants can produce heavier fruits or more seeds. For instance, I recently read that Iranian scientists had created a new kind of wheat plant that yielded over two times as much wheat as ordinary types. Furthermore, 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 doing such farm duties. (95 words)

Nevertheless, some people argue that changing the genetic structure of plants is highly likely to be dangerous, as it would be almost impossible for scientists to fully predict the results of such a change. 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. (92 words)

Personally, I think modern farming and agricultural methods are inevitable and necessary to meet the urgent need for more food worldwide. Therefore, governments should invest in agricultural research and development to increase farm yields and develop farming sufficiently to match the needs of today's world. (45 words)

Total: 269 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.

Answer by E. Tahasoni:

Road accidents claim the lives of large numbers of drivers and pedestrians every year and have turned into a matter of distress in many countries, including my own. It has been argued that drivers who ignore the law should be fined severely to reduce the number of accidents, whereas some believe in other solutions. (54 words)

One could hardly cast doubt on the effectiveness of penalties and fines in the reduction of accidents. One reason is that many crashes are due to drivers driving carelessly and ignoring laws like speed limits, threatening the lives of other, law-abiding citizens. If such drivers are incarcerated or heavily fined, it is highly likely that they and others will observe driving regulations more closely and fewer accidents would occur. Furthermore, the government could use the fines it collects from noncompliant drivers to provide better transport facilities such as standard roads or offer rewards to those who drive properly. (98 words)

However, 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. (102 words)

In conclusion, I personally think that both fines and other actions like educational schemes and smart automobiles can have strong impacts on reducing driving accidents and need to be implemented. (30 words)

Total: 284 words

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

After graduating from high school, some young people decide to start working right away instead of going to university.

What are the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decide to do this?

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, governments are encouraging industries and businesses to move to regional areas outside big cities.

Do the advantages of this trend outweigh the disadvantages?

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:

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.

Nowadays, we are producing more and more rubbish.

Why do you think this is happening?

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

Answer by E. Tahasoni:

Today, many cities around the world face an increasing amount of garbage produced by citizens. This essay aims to investigate the causes of this and also put forward a number of solutions. (18 words)

There are many reasons why so much rubbish is produced. One important factor is the consumerist lifestyle of many people today which has led to them buying and consuming more products such as food, clothes and home appliances. As a result, more packaging is thrown away everyday which creates a lot of rubbish. Furthermore, many families do not separate reusable garbage like cans or glass jars from the rest since they are too tired or busy. The main reason for this is that a majority of parents have to work long hours out of home to make enough money for their families. (102 words)

Governments can do various things to decrease the amount of garbage. Firstly, they 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 which they need to avoid throwing away too much. This is likely to be very effective although it might not be so popular, especially in large cities. Also, governments could invest in building recycling plants so that more garbage is reused to produce new products. For example, they could use plastic bottles to make new plastic balls or computer parts. (104 words)

In conclusion, the reasons behind the rise in waste production include consumerism and people not recycling, and possible solutions are laws to restrict household garbage as well as building recycling centres. (31 words)

Total: 269 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.

Source: Official IELTS Practice Materials 2, page 29

Brainstorming:**Causes:**

- Fast technological progress → youngsters know more about everyday stuff than the elderly → they don't think they should learn from older people → less respect
- The problems that old people have experience in solving are different from today's issues → old people no longer act as respectable problem solvers → less respect

Effects:

- Less respect → Young people may think old people are jobless parasites → young people think pensions are not justified
- Less respect → Experience shared by the elderly will not be appreciated → many problems will no longer be easily solved through that experience

Answer by E. Tahasoni:

In many modern communities, young people no longer appreciate old age as a symbol of reverence. This essay will try to identify the factors contributing to this and also explain some of the issues it is likely to create in modern communities. (42 words)

One could think of various reasons why the youth of today do not respect the elderly much. First and foremost, the rapid pace of technological progress in today's world has led to youngsters knowing more about commonly used technologies such as email or internet television. Consequently, they seldom feel the need to learn from the elderly whose knowledge and experience might seem rather outdated so their respect for them would decline. Moreover, many youngsters do not view old people as respectable and experienced problem solvers because the problems they face now tend to be quite different from those experienced by the older generation. (103 words)

The social problems this new attitude is likely to create cannot be ignored. Most importantly, youths might start to question the justifiability of high pensions for old people because they would think there is no reason for supporting those who stay at home watching the news rather than work like younger people have to. In addition, the younger generation is likely to find issues like effective and successful child rearing very difficult to handle since many may start to neglect the advice and experience shared by the elderly. (88 words)

To conclude, I think disrespect towards the elderly has been caused by advances in technology as well as changes in social problems, and in turn could lead to reductions in pensions and challenges for the youth. (36 words)

Total: 269 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.

Example paragraph 3 (“items” 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)



Course Hand-Outs

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.

Giving an opinion

Use the following ideas to formulate sentences which represent your personal view on a given subject. Please note that this is only a small portion of the possible structures, as you may find a great deal more in vocabulary/grammar books written for the IELTS as well as in sample essays and other authentic IELTS resources.

👉 Agreeing/disagreeing with a view

With/without a background statement:

- I [tend to/personally/strongly/firmly] **agree/disagree** with the **view/opinion/point of view/idea/viewpoint** that...
- I [tend to/personally/strongly/firmly] **agree/disagree** that...
- I [tend to/personally/strongly/firmly] **support/oppose** the **view/opinion/point of view/idea/viewpoint** that...

Preferably without a background statement:

Agreeing:

- I, like many others, think...
- My view, like many other people, is that...

Disagreeing:

- **Whereas/While/Although/Even though** some might believe that..., I personally think ...
- **Whereas/While/Although/Even though** some might believe that..., I personally **think otherwise/disagree**.
- Despite many people's view that..., I tend to think...

👉 Giving an original view

- I [tend to/personally/strongly/firmly] **think/believe/feel** that...
- I am [personally/strongly/firmly/fully] convinced that...
- I am [personally/strongly/firmly] of the opinion that...
- I [personally/strongly/firmly] hold the opinion that...
- To me, ...
- As far as I am concerned, ...
- From my [personal] point of view, ...

Synonyms for Advantages & Disadvantages

advantages and disadvantages

benefits and drawbacks

upsides and downsides

pros and cons

strengths and weaknesses/shortcomings

positive and negative

welcome and unwelcome

favourable and unfavourable

desirable and undesirable

beneficial and detrimental

Consequences

results

impacts

effects

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

Example:

Hole in the ozone layer → more heat → less water → fewer natural resources

... Moreover, scientists have discovered that there is a hole in the ozone layer, **as a result of which** there is increasing heat in the world. **This means that** we are losing huge quantities of water, especially in oceans and lakes.

OR

... Moreover, we are losing huge quantities of water, especially in oceans and lakes, **because** there is increasing heat in the world. **The reason for this is that** scientists have discovered that there is a hole in the ozone layer.

🔪 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 ← = cause 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:

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 Does not rely on/require many financial resources • 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



Hand-outs from 'IELTS Graduation' (Macmillan)

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
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 ...	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
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 ...	
Giving an opinion In my view ... I would agree that ... I feel strongly that ... It seems to me that ... I would argue that ...	
No strong opinion There could be a case for saying that ... It would appear that ...	

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.

Useful language: Introductory phrases

Introducing the topic Some people think that + noun + verb Research has shown that + noun + verb It is often reported that + noun + verb Recent advances in A have led to B. ... is an ever-increasing problem. The issue of ... is one which needs to be looked at carefully. It has become apparent in recent years, that ... is an issue that many people feel strongly about. Recently, ...	Explaining the focus of your essay In this essay the arguments / issues surrounding ... will be examined. The arguments both for and against ... will be evaluated in this essay. This essay will discuss the topic of ... in more detail. This essay will consider the problem of ... and outline possible solutions.
--	---

Useful language: Conclusions

Introducing the conclusion	Re-stating your opinion	Stating the final decision / conclusion or recommendation
To sum up, In conclusion, To conclude,	See Useful language: Describing opinions in Unit 4, page 70	Therefore, Hence, As a result,

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 – Answer Key

- 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.

TIP

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

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).

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

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	+ noun	sometimes	
the majority of		often	
a minority of		occasionally	
a large number of		at certain times	
many	+ countable noun		
a few			
much	+ uncountable noun		
a little			

- 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.



Ideas for IELTS Topics

Common IELTS Topics

1. Advertising
2. Animal Rights: testing on animals, vegetarianism, zoos
3. Cities: urbanisation, problems of city life
4. Crime: police, punishments/prisons, rehabilitation, capital punishment
5. Education: studying abroad, technology in education, education in developing countries, higher education, home-schooling, bad behaviour, corporal punishment, single sex education, streaming (grouping children according to ability)
6. Environment: global warming, impact of humans on the environment, solutions to environment problems, waste/rubbish, litter, recycling, nuclear power
7. Family: family size, working parents, negative effects on children, divorce, care for old people
8. Gender: gender and education, gender and work, women's and men's role in the family
9. Genetic Engineering: positives, negatives, genetically modified foods
10. Global Issues: problems in developing countries, how to help developing countries, immigration, multi-cultural societies, globalisation
11. Government and Society: what governments can do, public services, censorship, video cameras in public places
12. Guns and Weapons: gun ownership and possession, police and guns, nuclear weapons, armed forces
13. Health: diet, exercise, state health systems, private healthcare, alternative medicine, stress
14. Housing and Architecture: state housing, old buildings, modern/green buildings
15. International Language: English as an international language
16. Money: money and society, consumerism
17. Personal Development: happiness, success, nature or nurture
18. Sport and Leisure: professional/competitive sport, sport salaries, sport and politics
19. Tourism: positives, negative effects on environment, future of tourism
20. Traditions and Modern Life: losing traditional skills, traditional customs
21. Transport: traffic problems and solutions, public transport, road safety
22. Television, Internet and Mobile Phones: positives and negatives, Internet compared to newspapers and books
23. Water: importance of clean water, water supply, water should be free, bottled water
24. Work: same job for life, self-employment, unemployment, work/life balance, technology and work, child labour

Source: <http://ielts-simon.com/ielts-help-and-english-pr/2011/02/ielts-advice-you-need-ideas-and-opinions.html>

1. Advertising

Positives of Advertising

Advertising is a key part of modern business
Companies need to tell customers about their products
Advertisements inform us about the choices we have
Advertising is a creative industry that employs many people
Without advertising we would have less choice
Without advertising there would be higher unemployment
Advertising is a form of modern art
People enjoy adverts

Negatives of Advertising

Advertising manipulates people
It aims to persuade people that buying a product will make them happier
Advertisers focus on selling a brand image
They use glamorous, successful people
We now live in a consumer culture
We are persuaded to follow the latest trend
We are encouraged to associate certain brands with a higher status
Advertisers often aim their marketing at children
Children can easily be influenced by advertisements.
Children put pressure on parents to buy them things

Opinions about Advertising

Advertising should be regulated
Advertising aimed at children should be controlled or even banned
Unhealthy foods should not be marketed in a way that attracts children
Products that can be risk to healthy should display warnings
In some countries it is illegal to advertise cigarettes on television
Warnings must be displayed on cigarette packets
However, advertising is necessary in free market economies
It creates demand for products
Governments should only censor false information or products that are harmful

2. Animal rights

Arguments for Animal Testing

Animals are used in important scientific research
It is necessary to do medical tests on new drugs
Animal testing helps to advance medical and scientific knowledge
Many important medical discoveries involved experimentation on animals
Researchers aim to minimize the suffering that animals experience
Testing for the cosmetics industry is now banned in many countries

Arguments against Animal Testing

The benefits of research using animals do not justify the suffering caused
There are alternative methods of research
The lives of animals should be respected
Humans have no moral right to do experiments on animals

Arguments for Vegetarianism

Vegetarians do not eat foods that are produced by killing animals
Many people choose a vegetarian diet for moral or health reasons
A healthy diet is possible without eating meat
It is unnecessary to kill animal for food
A vegetarian diet may reduce the risk of disease like cancer
Many people question the treatment of animals in factory farms

Arguments against Vegetarianism

Vegetarians do not eat a balanced diet
In many cultures, meat is the main ingredient in traditional meals
Meat-eaters argue that animals are below humans in the food chain
It is completely natural for us to kill them for food
Our aim should be improve farming methods
Farms should produce organic food
Positives of Zoos
Zoos paly an important role in wildlife conservation
They can help to protect endangered species
Zoos allow scientists to study animals and their behavior
Zoos are educational, interesting and fun
Children, in particular, enjoy learning about animals
Zoos provide job opportunities.

Negatives of Zoos

Zoo animals are kept in artificial environments
They are kept in cages or have limited space
Zoo animals rely on humans
They lose the freedom to hunt for food
They best way to save endangered species is by protecting natural habitats.
Some people believe that zoos are unethical
Zoos exhibits animals with the aim of making money
We have no right to use animals for entertainment and profit.

3. Cities**Reasons for Urbanization**

People move to cities in search of job opportunities
Cities offer greater employment possibilities and a higher standard of living
People migrate to cities from the countryside
Traditional activities like farming need fewer workers nowadays

Negatives of City Life

Life in cities has its drawbacks
The cost of living is higher than in rural areas
Some people do not manage to find work
Housing is usually much more expensive
Homelessness and poverty are common in cities
There is a gap between rich and poor
Life in cities can be extremely stressful
There are problems like traffic congestion and crime
Cities lack a sense of community
People do not even know their neighbor
Cities are sometimes described as “concrete jungles”.

Pedestrian Areas

Pedestrian zones in city centre can improve the local environment
Banning cars encourages people to walk or cycle
Many European cities have built bicycle lanes
Dependence on cars is linked to health problems like obesity
People who walk or cycle regularly are generally healthier
Pedestrian areas are safer and more attractive for both residents and tourists

4. Crime

Police and Crime Prevention

The job of the police is to catch criminals
They must also prevent crime and make communities safer
There should be an increase in the number of police officers on the streets
Police officers should be seen as part of the community
They should be involved with education and prevention
The police should be in close contact with schools
They should focus on young people who have dropped out of school.
These teenagers may become involved with gangs

Punishments/Prisons

Fines are used as punishment for minor crimes
If the crime is more serious, prison is the most common punishment
Some criminals pose a threat to society
They are put in prison to ensure the safety of other citizens

Negatives of Prisons

Criminals are put together
They make friends with other offenders
Many prisoners re-offend when they are released
A criminal record makes finding a job more difficult

Rehabilitation

Another aim of prisons is rehabilitation
Prisoners receive education or vocational training
Prisoners should learn personal skills and specific job skills
Punishment could make prisoners' behavior worse
Rehabilitation aims to make them better citizens
Rehabilitated prisoners are less likely to re-offend

Capital punishment

Supporters say that capital punishment deters crime
Fear of the death penalty stops people from committing offences
The death penalty shows that crime is not tolerated
It is a form of revenge
The cost of imprisonment is avoided
The offender cannot pose a threat to others

Against Capital Punishment

Innocent people could be wrongly convicted and executed
Crime rates are not necessarily reduced
Many criminals do not think they will be caught
Capital punishment is not a good deterrent
Executing prisoners creates a violent culture and encourages revenge
We have no right to take another human life

Community service

Community service is a way to reform offenders
It could be a solution to prison overcrowding
It avoids the cost of imprisonment
It makes offenders useful in their local communities
They are required to clean streets or talk to school groups
Offenders repay their community
They avoid the negative influence that prison can have

Against community service

Community service is not a sufficient punishment
Criminals should be locked up, away from their victims

Crime in the Media

Crime is one of the main subjects of most news programs.
The mass media focus on violent and sensational crimes
This leads to fear of crime among the public
Sensational stories attract more viewers or readers
The media report crime stories in order to increase their audience

5. Education

Benefits of education

Education gives people knowledge and skills
People with qualification are more likely to find work
They can earn a higher salary
They can contribute positively to society
Schools aim to teach young people moral values such as tolerance and sharing
Schools prepare children to be members of a society

Benefits of Studying Abroad

Foreign institutions may offer better courses
Many students want to attend a prestigious university
The best universities employ teachers who are experts in their fields
Qualifications gained abroad can open the door to better job opportunities
Living abroad can broaden students' horizons
Overseas students are exposed to different cultures and customs.
They become more independent
They are responsible for cooking, cleaning and paying bills
They will learn a foreign language

Drawback of studying abroad

Living and studying abroad can be difficult
Students have problems with paperwork such as visa applications
The language barrier can be a problem
Students have to find accommodation and pay bills
Studying in a foreign language is challenging
Living alone in an unfamiliar culture can cause homesickness

Technology in Education: Advantages

Technology is a powerful tool to engage students
Technology can make lessons much more interesting
Students can do research using online resources
Students can study at their own place
Adults can take distance learning courses
Students can study whenever and wherever they want
Students also learn skills which are useful for their future jobs
For example, they learn to write reports using a word processor

Technology in Education: Disadvantages

People rely too much on computers
Young learners do not become proficient in some basic skills
They use word processors and spelling may suffer
People should be able to write a letter by hand
Technology is no substitute for a real teacher
Learners need a structured course
An experienced teacher knows what materials to choose
Computers are expensive to maintain and can be unreliable

Technology in Education: Opinion

Institutions should supplement traditional teaching with the use of technology
Technology is part of everyday life
It can enhance a teacher's lessons
Students can use online resources to help with homework
Students must still learn to write by hand
They should still use traditional sources of information such as books

Education in Developing countries: Problems

Children often have to work from an early age
There are no schools in many areas
Families do not have access to books or computers
Literacy rates are often low
People in developing countries need knowledge and skills
Education is the key to improving the economy of these countries

Education in developing countries: solutions

Developed countries could help developing nations by providing money
They could invest in schools and technology
They could supply the funds to build schools and pay for teachers
Children need to have access to free schooling
Computer equipment could be donated
The Internet can expose students to a world of knowledge and information
Governments should make education compulsory for all children
They should encourage parents to send their children to school
Governments of developed and developing countries must work together

Higher education: Advantages (also see "benefits of education")

There are many benefits to going to university
A degree can open the door to better employment prospects
Economies are becoming increasingly knowledge-based
Most jobs require specific knowledge and skills
Skilled workers are needed for sectors such as information technology and engineering
Repetitive manual jobs are now done by machine
Many factories have moved to developing countries

Higher education: Disadvantages

A healthy economy needs a wide range of workers
Some manual workers will always be needed
A university degree is not necessary for many service professions
Practical training is more important in some industries
In the UK, for example, there is currently a shortage of plumbers
Their services are therefore becoming more and more expensive

Advantage of Home-schooling

Some parents decide to educate their children at home
Some families live in isolated areas with poor transport
Other parents are not satisfied with local schools
Parents can respond to what their children need and how they learn best
One-to-one lessons allow much faster progress
The child can work at his or her own pace
Discipline problems are avoided by home-schooling

Disadvantages of home-schooling

Most parents do not have the time to educate their children at home
One parent would need to give up work
School subjects are normally taught by up to ten different teachers
Most parents do not have the necessary knowledge or resources
Private tutors are expensive
Children will miss out on the social experience that school offers
At school, children learn how to get on with each other
Home-schooled children may lack social skills
Schools offer a better overall educational experience

Bad behavior in schools: causes

Bad behavior is due to a lack of structure and discipline
There are too many children in some classes
Large classes are difficult to manage
May disruptive students come from an unstable family background
Other parents are too lenient and spoil their children
Some children are used to getting whatever they want
Schools can do very little if they are not supported by parents

Bad behavior in schools: solutions

Schools need a clear code of conduct
Schools need a clear set of rules about behavior
They need to create a positive working atmosphere
Teachers must have the power to punish disruptive students
Schools should remove difficult children from lessons
Schools need to work closely with parents
Discipline could be lacking at home
Parents must support the school rules
They should take responsibility for their children's behavior

Corporal Punishment: Opinion

Corporal Punishment is not a good idea
Physical punishment is a way of controlling children using fear
This does not promote trust between adults and children
Children who are punished physically may become shy or resentful
Corporal punishment creates an atmosphere of fear and anger

Single Sex Education: Advantages

Some people believe that male and female students should go to separate schools
This is often for religious or cultural reasons
Discipline problems might be avoided by separating boys and girls
Boys and girls may learn in different ways and have different needs

Student at single-sex schools often get better exam grades.

Single-sex Education: Disadvantages

Separating boys and girls is unnecessary
It is unhealthy in terms of children's social development
Many coeducational schools are extremely successful
A mixed-sex environment is more representative of real life
Coeducational schools provide children with better social skills for adult life

Advantages of Streaming (grouping children according to ability)

Some schools separate students according to their academic ability
Teachers can work at the right speed for their students
Teachers can plan more suitable lessons
High-level groups may progress faster
Lower level groups can benefit from a slower pace
Some teachers and parents support streaming for these reasons

Disadvantages of Streaming

Grouping by ability may have a negative impact on students
Children do not want to be seen as less intelligent than others
Streaming could damage students' self esteem
They may lose motivation
Students from wealthier families tend to be better prepared
Children from poorer families may receive less support from parents
Mixed ability classes encourage everyone to achieve their potential.

6. Environment**Global warming**

Gases such as carbon dioxide trap heat from the sun
This causes global temperatures to rise
This process is known as the greenhouse effect
Human activity is a major factor in the rise of the greenhouse gases
Factories and vehicles produce emissions and exhaust fumes
Many developing countries are becoming industrialized
The number of cars on our streets is growing
Cheap air travel is allowing more people to fly

Effects of Global Warming

Global warming will have a significant impact on our planet
Rising temperature will cause melting of the polar ice caps

Sea levels will rise
We can expect more extreme weather conditions
Flooding and droughts may become more common

Impacts of humans on the environment

The increasing world population is putting pressure on natural resources
Fossil fuels like oil and gas are running out
We are destroying wildlife habitats
We have cut down enormous areas of rainforest
This has led to the extinction of many species of animals and plants

Solutions to environment problems

Governments could introduce laws to limit emissions from factories
They should invest in renewable energy from solar, wind or water power
They could impose “green taxes” on drivers and airlines companies
Government campaigns should promote recycling
Natural areas and wild animals should be protected
Individuals should also try to be greener
We should take fewer flights abroad for holidays
We should take public transport rather than driving
We should choose products with less packaging
We should recycle as much as possible

Waste/rubbish

The amount of waste we produce has increased
This problem is a result of our consumer culture
Products are not made to last
If something breaks, we throw it away and buy a new one
Advertisers encourage us to buy the newest fashions
Packaging is an important part of selling
Most foods are sold in non-biodegradable plastic packaging
The amount of household waste is growing
This waste ends up in landfill sites

Litter

People do not think about the consequences of dropping rubbish
They assume that somebody is paid to clean the streets
Plastic packaging does not break down easily
Most of the litter seen on streets is fast food packaging

Recycling and other solutions

Companies should make goods that last longer
They should not use so much packaging
Governments should be stricter about waste produced by companies
They should put legal limits on packaging
Consumers should avoid buying over-packaged products

We should recycle and reuse useful materials.

There are collection banks for glass, paper and plastic bottles

Households can use several rubbish bins to separate waste

Recycling saves energy and raw materials.

Nuclear Power: Positives

There are several benefits to build more nuclear power stations

Fossil fuel like oil and gas are running out

Nuclear power is a sustainable energy source

It can be used to produce electricity without wasting natural resources

It could be replace the use of natural resources like coal, oil or gas

Nuclear power stations are cleaner than fossil fuel power stations

They could help to reduce carbon emissions that cause global warming

The risks of accidents are being reduced

Nuclear Power: negatives

Opponents of nuclear power worry about the safety of power stations

The building of new nuclear power stations is unpopular

Nobody wants to live near one

Nuclear waste disposal is a significant problem

There is currently no way to decontaminate radioactive material

People worry that terrorists could steal radioactive materials

It is safer to produce energy from solar, wind or water power.

7. Family

Family size

Families in many countries are not as large as they used to be

We tend to live in small nuclear families rather than large extended families

Parents tend to have fewer children

Young children are no longer expected to work

Nowadays both parents often work

It costs so much to bring children up

It is more difficult to raise a large family

Working parents (also see “gender” topic)

Children and their parents seem to be less close nowadays

Parents spend less time with their children

Women traditionally stayed at home to cook, clean and look after children

Nowadays both parents often work full time

Children may be left alone, or with nannies or babysitters

Busy parents have less contact with their children

Many families no longer eat meals together

Children spend more time with friends or surfing the Internet

Negative effects on Children

The lack of closeness in families can have a negative effect on children

Many parents have no idea how their children spend their time

Friends, television and the Internet become the main influence on children’s behavior

Teenagers are influenced by peer pressure
Some of them join gangs
Juvenile delinquency is on the increase
Parents should be more involved with their children's upbringing
Young people need positive role models

Divorce

In the past, divorce was unacceptable
It was considered to be embarrassing for a family
People stayed together for religious or family reasons
Divorce is more socially acceptable nowadays
It has become much more common
Divorce can be extremely stressful
Lone parents may face financial difficulties
Many single parents have to rely on benefits paid by the state
Divorce can have a negative effect on children
Children from single-parent families are more likely to get lower grades or drop out of school.
The rise in divorce rates may be connected to some social problems

Care for Old people

Caring for elderly people was traditionally the responsibility of families
Adults had to look after their elderly parents
A woman's job was to stay at home taking care of her family
Nowadays, fewer elderly people are looked after by their relatives
Residential homes provide care for large number of elderly people
Some families are unable to look after elderly relatives
Families tend to be smaller these days, and women often have full-time jobs
Cares homes provide a professional service for senior citizens
Nurses are better trained than family members

Care for Old people: Opinion

The best form of care for the elderly depends on the family situation
It depends on whether family members have the time resources
We all have a responsibility towards the older people in our society
Governments should invest money in facilities and training for care workers.

8. Gender**Gender and education**

Men and women should have access to the same educational opportunities
Males and females should be accepted onto courses according to their abilities
It is wrong to discriminate against students because of their gender
Gender should be irrelevant in education
Student's achievements should depend on hard work and individual merit
In the UK, there are similar numbers of male and female students in higher education

Gender and work

Men and women should have access to the same professional opportunities
Both man and women should be able to pursue a career
They should earn equal salaries
They should be employed according to their abilities, qualifications and experience

Traditionally women have been restricted to certain roles
They were often employed as secretaries or receptionists
Nowadays, a range of occupations is available to both sexes
Career success depends on individual merit

Women's and Men's roles in the Family

Some people argue that a mother should not work
She should stay at home and bring up her children
The father should be the breadwinner of the family
Others believe that both parents should share these responsibilities
Working women can take maternity leave during and after pregnancy
Many mothers continue to work after this period
Many fathers and mothers share their parenting and domestic responsibilities
They contribute equally to childcare, cooking and cleaning
Some women may have better career prospects than their husbands.
Paternity leave and "househusbands" are becoming more common
Traditional gender roles are gradually changing
Families can divide roles and responsibilities in the most convenient way.

9. Genetic Engineering

Positives of genetic engineering

Genetic engineering is the practice of manipulating the genes of an organism
It is used to produce crops that are more resistant to insects and diseases
Some genetically modified crops grow more quickly
Some drugs and vaccines are produced by genetic engineering
It may become possible to change human's genetic characteristics.
Scientists may use genetic engineering to cure diseases.
Inherited illnesses would no longer exist
Genes could be changed before a baby is born
It could also be possible to clone human organs
We could all have replacement body parts
Humans could live longer, healthier lives

Negatives of genetic engineering

There are ethical concerns about human genetic engineering
Parents might want to choose their children's characteristics
This would be unnatural
It would be unacceptable in most religions
Soldiers could be cloned from the genes of the strongest people
Clones might be used like robots to do certain jobs
Clones might even be developed just for organ replacements
Society and human evolution would change completely
Currently, human genetic engineering is prohibited

Genetically-Modified (GM) foods: Advantages

Farmers can produce crops that grow bigger and faster
Some GM crops are more resistant to disease or insects
This could be important for food production in developing countries

Faster growing cereals, fruit and vegetables will mean more profit
GM foods can be modified to look perfect
They may be more attractive to customers

Genetically-Modified (GM) Foods: Disadvantages

There may be risks involved in the genetic engineering of foods.
GM crops might change whole ecosystems
Food chains could be broken if crops are resistant to predators
Organic foods are produced without chemicals or genetic modification
Organic farming may be slower and more expensive
However, the environment is not damaged by fertilizers or pesticides.

10. Global issues**Problems in developing countries**

Developing countries face a range of problems
Standards of healthcare and education are low
Life expectancy is usually lower than in developed countries
There is a lack of infrastructure, employment and good quality housing
Many people are forced to live in poverty
Food, drinking water and basic medicines are in short supply

How to help developing countries

The best form of help for developing countries is development aid
Richer nations can help by investing in long-term projects
Governments and charities can help by building new houses and schools
Globalization may also help developing countries
Multi-national companies can create jobs in developing countries
On the other hand, many people emigrate to find work in richer countries
They often send money back home to their families
This money helps to improve the standard of living in developing countries

Immigration

Some people move to another country in search of a better life
Many immigrants come from less developed countries
Richer, industrialized countries may offer opportunities for employment
Free healthcare and schooling are available in some developed countries
Other people migrate to a foreign country to improve their academic qualifications

Positives of immigration and Multi-cultural societies

From an economic perspective, immigration can be extremely positive
Many immigrants have skills that are needed in the country they move to
Immigrants who find work contribute to the economy of their new country
Many immigrants send money home to help family members
Immigration also creates cultural diversity
People of many different nationalities learn to live together
This can help people to become more open-minded and tolerant

Negatives of Immigration

Some people believe that immigrants take jobs that should go to local people
Some immigrant workers work longer hours for less money
Companies might pay lower salaries to immigrant workers
Unemployment rates could rise if there are too many immigrants

Opinions about Immigration

Immigration can help the economy of a country
It can create multi-cultural societies
However, immigration needs to be controlled
In many countries, immigrants need visas or work permit
Governments should stop companies from exploiting immigrant workers
Foreign and local workers should have the right to equal pay and conditions

Positives of Globalization

Business of becoming increasingly international
Multi-national companies do business across the world
Companies like MacDonald's can be seen on high streets in most cities
Goods are produced in one country and sold in many others
A global economy means free trade between countries
This can strengthen political relationships
Globalization can also create opportunities for employment
It encourages investment in less developed countries
It could reduce poverty in the developing world

Negatives of Globalization

Globalization is not always beneficial to everyone
Companies can move to countries where labour is cheap
This creates redundancies, or job losses
Employees cannot be confident that they have stable jobs
Companies sometimes exploit their employees in developing countries
Global trade creates more waste and pollution

The future of Globalization

There should be global regulations for salaries and working conditions
Governments should impose laws to protect the environment

11. Government and Society**What governments can do**

Governments provide public services like healthcare and education
They support people who are living in poverty or unable to work
Governments raise money by taxing working people
They can spend money on resources and campaigns
They can introduce new laws
They can impose taxes
They can raise people's awareness of issues (e.g climate change/healthy eating)
They can influence people's habits and opinions
They can create jobs

They can regulate the activities of companies such as banks
They can provide resources for schools
They are also responsible for the security and well-being of their citizens
They control armed forces and police forces

Public services

Governments pay the salaries of public sector workers like police officers and teachers
The necessary money is raised by taxing people's income
Free education and healthcare may be provided by the state
Some governments control public transport systems and even TV channels
In other countries, these services are provided by private companies
Some people believe that competition between private companies is good
It helps to improve quality while bringing prices down
Other people think that essential services should be free
Governments should pay for them

Censorship: Opinion

Governments can censor what public sees or reads in the media
To a certain extent censorship is necessary
We should use censorship to protect children from violent images
Some computer games involve killing people or committing crimes
The Internet also needs to be controlled
Many websites show pornography and violence
There should be age limits for websites and computers games
Parents need to take responsibility for checking what their children watch
It is impossible for governments to control everything we see

Video cameras in public places

The use of CCTV is becoming widespread
Video cameras have been installed in many public places
They are supposed to protect us and deter criminals
Many people think that this surveillance violates our privacy
The authorities could build databases with our pictures and identities
We should not be treated like criminals

Smart cards: Positives

Governments will probably introduce a digital identification card system
Smart cards will have benefits and drawbacks
They could help to reduce crime
They could hold personal information, such as DNA
Digital bank cards could contain fingerprint information
It would be very difficult for criminals to use a stolen card
It would be easier for police to identify people and catch criminals

Smart cards: Negatives

Many people are worried about losing their privacy
Governments could store all our personal and medical information
This information could be used by insurance companies

Employers could check our health records

People with Disabilities

People with disabilities should be treated the same as everybody else

They should have the same rights as other people

They should have access to the same jobs as other citizens

Discriminations against disabled people is illegal in many countries

Ramps and lifts for wheelchairs should be installed in public buildings

Support teacher can be employed to help children with learning difficulties

12. Guns and Weapons

Why guns should be legal:

In some countries, people are allowed to own firearms

Individuals have the right to protect themselves

People can use guns in self defence

This deters criminals

Why gun ownership should be illegal:

There is a risk of accidents with guns

The number of violent crimes increases when guns are available

Criminals may be armed

The police then need to use guns

Suicide rates have been shown to rise when guns are available

Guns create violent societies with high murder rates

Why polices should use guns

Many criminals use weapons

The threat of a gun can deter criminals

Police officers can force a criminal to surrender

It is easier to arrest someone and avoid physical violence

The police may shoot violent criminals in self defence

They can protect the public

They can shoot an escaping criminal who poses a serious danger to the public

Why police should not carry guns

There is a risk of accidents and mistakes

The police might shoot an unarmed criminal or an innocent person

Accidents can happen in public places

There are several alternatives to guns (e.g tear gas, sprays and electric shock weapons)

Only special police units should use guns

Arm Trade: Positives

The export of arms, or weapons, is an extremely controversial issue

Governments of rich, industrialized countries sell arms to each other

This industry creates jobs and wealth

The trade of weapons may improve relationships between governments

Arms Trade: Negatives

Weapons may be used in conflicts and wars
The supply of arms could be responsible for deaths
Governments are promoting war in order to make a profit
Rich countries can influence the politics of other nations

Nuclear weapons

Nuclear weapons are capable of destroying whole cities
A nuclear war between two countries would destroy both countries
Nuclear weapons are used as a deterrent
They prevent wars from starting

Nuclear weapons: Opinion

Nuclear weapons should be prohibited
Governments should limit the production of nuclear weapons
There is a danger of nuclear weapons being obtained by terrorists
Nuclear weapons cannot be used against terrorist organizations

Armed Forces: Positives

Armed forces provide security and protection
They deter military attack by another country
They can also be used to maintain peace within countries
They can be used to give the police extra support
Soldiers are also used to help in emergency situations, such as after a natural disaster

Armed forces: negatives

Armies require a lot of funding from governments
Too much money is spent on weapons and military technology
This money could be spent on schools, hospitals and other public services

13. Health**Diet**

The human body requires a balanced diet
An unhealthy diet can cause various health problems
Obesity, diabetes and heart disease are on the increase
Many people nowadays rely on fast food or pre-prepared meals
These foods often contain too much fat, salt and sugar
They are cheap to buy and very easy to prepare
Many young people have grown up on a diet of convenience foods
Populations in developed countries are increasingly overweight

Exercise

Regular exercise is essential in maintaining a healthy body
Exercise burns calories and helps to build healthy bones and muscles
Doctors advise exercising at least three times a week for 20 minutes
Most people nowadays lead a sedentary lifestyle
We tend to walk less and do desk jobs
Most adults relax by watching television
Children play video games rather than doing outdoor sports
In the past, people were more active in their jobs and at home

Government's Role

Governments have a significant role to play in reducing obesity
More and more people, including young children are seriously overweight
They are at risk of heart disease and diabetes
This situation will increase the burden on hospitals and taxpayers
Hospitals rely on the government for money and resources
Governments should promote a healthy diet and regular exercise
There should be more time for sports on school timetables
Unhealthy junk food should be banned from school menus
People need information about what foods contain
Food packaging must show the food's nutritional content
The British Government recommends eating five portions of fruit and vegetables per day

State Health system: advantages

Good healthcare should be available to everyone for free
State healthcare is paid by the government using money from taxes
Everyone has access to the same quality of care and treatment
Private healthcare is unfair because only wealthy people can afford it
The National Health Service in the UK provides free healthcare for every resident

Private Healthcare: advantages

State hospitals are often very large and difficult to run
Private hospitals have shorter waiting lists for operations and appointments
Patients can benefit from faster treatment
Many people prefer to pay for more a personal service
Patients have their own room and more comfortable facilities

Alternative medicine: Positives

People are increasingly using alternative medicines to treat illnesses.
For example, acupuncture can be used to treat backache
Herbal medicines can be used to treat allergies or viruses
Many patients report positive experiences with these treatments
Some traditional cures have been used for hundreds of years

Alternative medicine: Negatives

Many alternative medicines have not been tested scientifically
They may have no beneficial effect at all
They may cause unknown side effects
People should trust the opinions of qualified doctors
An illness could get worse without treatment from a doctor

Stress

Modern lifestyles are increasingly stressful
People work long hours with strict deadlines
Our busy lifestyles mean we have less time to relax
Unemployment is a major cause of stress
Children may be affected by their parents' relationship problems
Tests and exams can also cause stress

How to reduce stress

Stress can be reduced by taking regular exercise and eating a healthy diet
It is also important to get sufficient sleep and make leisure time a priority
People should work less overtime and take regular holidays
Schools have started to employ psychologists
They can offer emotional support to students
They can help students to cope with exam stress

14. Housing and Architecture**State/council housing**

In some countries the government provides state or council housing
This helps people who cannot afford to buy their own house
It can be argued that state housing creates dependence on the government
People should rely on the government to look after them
People have no incentive to earn money and buy their own home
Council properties are often made with cheap, poor-quality materials.

Old Buildings

Historic buildings are part of a country's heritage
They should be protected
Old buildings are often considered to be works of art
They give character to cities and attract tourists
They show us how people lived in the past
We identify countries by architectural symbols like the pyramids in Egypt
Governments should spend money on looking after historic buildings
They need regular repairs and maintenance
New buildings should be designed to complement them

Modern/green buildings

Modern buildings should be designed to be environmentally friendly
They should use less energy and produce less waste
Modern insulation can make houses more energy-efficient
Solar and wind power can be used to generate electricity
Rainwater and waste water can be recycled and used to flush toilets.
Modern glass buildings take advantage of natural light

15. Language**English as an international language**

English is widely used around the world
It is becoming a global second language
It is the dominant language of technology, science and international business
International business meetings are regularly held in English
The most important textbooks and journals are published in English
The ability to speak English is a necessary skill in the modern world

Negative of English as an International Language

If one language is dominant, other languages may disappear
The dominant language brings its own culture

American culture has become popular around the world
Other cultures may be damaged
As an alternative to English, a new global language could be invented
It would have no nationality or culture attached to it
This could help to promote international peace and understanding
Esperanto is an example of a language that was invented with this aim

16. Money

Money and Society

Society has become increasingly materialistic
People aspire to earn more money
They want a bigger house or a better car
We connect wealth and material possessions with happiness and success
Brands like “Armani” or “Mercedes” are status symbols
Advertising creates new desires and needs
It persuades us to buy the latest styles

Positives of Consumerism

Consumerism creates employment
It helps to reduce poverty
It encourages innovation and creativity in business
We live in a global economy
We have a better quality of life

Negatives of Consumerism

Consumerist societies create more waste
They use more natural resources
They cause damage to the environment
Consumerism creates a “throw-away” culture
Advertisers tell us who we are and what we want
Wealth does not lead to happiness
Materialism causes greed and crime
We should return to traditional values like sharing

17. Personality

Happiness

Happiness means different things to different people
It can be described as a feeling of pleasure or enjoyment
People enjoy spending time with family and friends
Hobbies, sports and games can be a source of fun and enjoyment
Some people see money as a source of happiness
Other people define happiness as something deeper
In order to be truly happy it is necessary to live a good life
We need to feel that we are doing something useful with our lives
Some people get a sense of achievement from their work
Others find happiness in bringing up their children
Religion or a sense of purpose can also be a source of happiness

Success

People define success in different ways

Some people get a sense of achievement from raising a family

For others, success is defined by wealth or status

We often think of rich and famous people as being successful in life

Millionaires like Bill Gates are considered to be successful

They have risen to the top in their chosen professions

For some, being successful means achieving personal or professional goals

They see success as the result of hard work

Success in any field requires long-term planning and effort

Nature or Nurture

Some people believe that our personalities are determined mainly by genetics

We inherit our abilities and talents from our parents

Others think that our education and upbringing are more important

We develop according to the influences around us

Our personalities and achievements depend more on nurture than nature

Many people argue that we control our own destinies

We can shape our own personalities

By working hard we can achieve and goal that we put our minds to

Many successful people are “self-made”

We are not limited by our genetic characteristic or upbringing

18. Sport and Leisure**Arguments against Professional/competitive sport**

Sport has become a business

Professional sport encourages people to compete for money

Many sports stars are only concerned about money and fame

Some athletes take drugs in order to win at any cost

Competitors are often selfish and rude

They are not good role models for children

All sports should be amateur

Sports should be leisure activities rather than jobs

People should do sporting activities for enjoyment and health reasons

Taking part is more important than winning

Arguments for Professional sport

Professional sports are the same as any other business

Many people are employed in the sports industry

People should be able to use their talents to earn a salary

Sports stars entertain millions of people

Money is necessary to improve facilities and train athletes

The level of professional sport is much higher than that of amateur sport

Arguments for Competitive sport

Competition is a natural instinct in humans

In daily life we compete to get jobs or the highest grades

Sports are a safe form of competition

Competition is healthy because it pushes us to give our best
Competitors and fans can release energy and aggression
Supporters of teams feel a sense of belonging to a community

Opinion: professional sport salaries are too high

Sports professionals earn too much money
They do not provide a vital service
Football players, for example, earn enormous salaries by simply kicking a ball
We could all live happily without professional football
Life would be difficult without doctors, engineers and other vital professionals.
Society does not seem to value these professions as highly as professional sport
Sports salaries should be compatible with the wages most people earn

Opinion: professional sport salaries are fair

It is fair that the best professional earn a lot of money
Sport is a multi-million-pound industry
There is a large audience of sports fans
Sports on television attract many viewers
Sports stars have dedicated hours of practice to developing their fitness and skills
Only the most talented among them will reach the top
A sports career many only last 10 years
Sports fans are willing to pay to support their teams

Sports and Politics

Some people think that sport and politics should remain separate
Governments are involved in the hosting of sporting events such as the Olympics.
These events attract investment and create jobs.
The Olympic Games are an advertisement for the host nation
They attract huge numbers of visitors and sports fans
Wealthy countries tend to hold these events
Developing countries should be given the chance to become hosts

19. Television, Internet, Phones**Positives of television**

Watching television is a good way to relax
It is many people's favorite way to wind down after a hard day at work
Television programs can be entertaining and enjoyable
Viewers have access to a huge variety of entertainment channels
Television brings the best comedians, musicians and actors into our homes
Programmers can also be informative and educational
News coverage makes the public aware of events around the world
Documentaries can make learning more interesting

Negatives of Television

Television is having a negative impact on society
Some people link violence on television with crime rates in the real world
Children copy the behavior they see on the screen
Children are less healthy because they spend less time playing

Advertisers direct their marketing at children
Most programs do not require much thought
Watching TV is a waste of time

Opinions about Television

Television has many benefits
However, it can be addictive
Children should play outside rather than sit in front of a screen all day
Behaviour shown on TV can influence people
Parents should choose carefully what their children watch
Children should not be exposed to violence, swearing or sexual images
Advertising during children's programs should be strictly controlled
TV companies should make more positive, educational programs

Positives of the Internet

There are many advantages to using the Internet
It gives us instant access to information on almost any subject
Shops and other services are now available online
People can buy goods and services from the comfort of their homes
The Internet is starting to replace other forms of entertainment
It has revolutionized communication
We can keep in touch by email or instant messenger services
Video messaging is becoming common for business meetings

Negatives of the internet

Many websites contain offensive content
Some sites show violent or sexual images
Parents find it difficult to control what their children see online
They do not always know who their children are chatting to
With so many websites it is difficult to search for good information
Criminals increasingly use the Internet to steal people's money

Internet compared to newspaper and books

Newspapers and books are now published online as well as in print
We can read the news in any language from any country in the world
It costs nothing to publish or access information on the Internet
The Internet allows anybody to publish their own writing
Newspaper articles and books are written by professionals
Professionals produce better quality writing than amateur
People still buy newspapers and books because they are portable
People do not like reading from a screen

Positives of Mobile Phones

The mobile phone is the most popular gadget in today's world
Mobile phones have revolutionized the way we communicate
We can stay in touch with family, friends and colleagues wherever we are
Users can send text messages, surf the Internet, take photos and listen to music
Mobiles have also become fashion accessories

Negatives of Mobile Phones

Mobiles phones can be a problem in some public places
Ringing phones cause disturbance in cinemas and school lessons
Some people are not aware that others can hear their conversations
Mobile phones may also interfere with electronic equipment
Their waves could cause damage to our brains
Mobile phones can also be a dangerous distraction
Using a phone while driving reduces the driver's concentration
Mobile phones are a popular target for thieves

Opinion about Mobile Phones

The benefits of mobile phones outweigh the drawbacks
We need to use these phones with care

20. Tourism**Positives of Tourism**

Tourism is a popular leisure activity
People go on holiday to relax and have fun
Tourists can experience different cultures
They can sunbathe on beaches or go sight-seeing
Travelling abroad opens our minds
We can learn to speak other languages
The tourist trade is vital for some economies
It creates employment in services like accommodation, transport and entertainment
Some areas rely on tourism for their income
Tourists spend money
Tourism attracts investment from multi-national companies
It helps to improve the standard of living
Low-cost airlines are making it cheaper to travel abroad

Negative effects of tourism

Tourism can have a negative effect on the natural environment
The building of facilities and infrastructure can destroy the habitat of wild animals
Beautiful beaches are spoilt by the building of hotels
Tourism creates pollution and waste
It puts pressure on local resources
Local traditional and cultures may be endangered
A rise in the cost of living affects local people
The price of goods, services and housing may increase significantly

The future of tourism

Government should introduce laws to protect natural environments and local cultures
Tourism should have a low impact on wildlife
Renewable resources like solar or water power should be used
Waste should be recycled
Local businesses such as farms should be supported

21. Traditional vs Modern**Losing traditional skills**

Because of industrialization and global trade, many traditions have disappeared

Global advertising encourages everyone to buy the same products

Most products are now made in factories

Machinery has replaced skilled human labour

Factory work is boring and leaves people feeling unfulfilled

Goods are produced very quickly and in large numbers

Products are cheaper, which means that more people can buy them

Examples

Clothes are mass produced in standard sizes

People wear similar clothes, rather than traditional costumes

Jeans and T-shirt are now worn throughout the world

Historic buildings took skilled craftsmen years to build

Modern concrete, steel and glass buildings are built in only weeks or months

There are fewer people who can create hand-made goods

Traditional customs

Traditional customs are still important during weddings and religious festivals

People wear traditional costumes and eat special foods

It is important to maintain our different cultural identities

We should celebrate festivals, teach traditional skills and protect historic places

22. Transport**Traffic problems**

Traffic congestion is caused by commuters travelling to work

Most people live in the suburbs outside city centre

Commuters tend to travel at the same time of day

They tend to travel alone

Cars and road space are not used efficiently

This causes traffic jams during the rush hour

Traffic solutions

In order to reduce traffic we should change our working habits

The internet can now be used to connect people

More people could work from home

Meetings can be held as video conferences

Workers could be given flexible timetables

Another solution would be to tax drivers

Workers should share their cars and travel together

In London, for example, there is a congestion charge

This helps to raise money for better public transport

Public transport needs to be reliable and efficient

Positives of Public transport

We need to reduce our dependence on cars

Parking a car can be extremely difficult in big cities

Well-designed transport systems are comfortable and convenient

Modern public transport can be fast and cheap
Public transport can help to reduce pollution in cities
Investment in buses and trains will ease traffic congestion
Buses can be given special lands to avoid traffic

Negatives of public transport

Public transport is often slow and unreliable
Metro systems and trains are often dirty and crowded
People feel like “sardines in a can”
Cars are much more comfortable

Road safety

Driving while tired or drunk is extremely dangerous
Mobile phones can be a dangerous distraction for drivers
They draw the driver's attention away from the road
The use of phones while driving has been banned in many countries
Punishments are becoming stricter
Television campaigns are used to remind people to drive safely
Speed cameras have become more common
Speed bumps are another form of traffic calming
Many streets are designed with the aim of slowing traffic down

23. Water**Importance of clean water**

Water is as necessary natural resource
Humans need access to clean, safe drinking water in order to live
Poor water quality is a major cause of disease and death in some countries
Water usually needs to be treated before we can drink it
Developing countries often lack the means to treat and supply water to citizens
Developed countries tend to have much better sanitation
Citizens have access to clean tap water
Drinking water is not contaminated by sewage or waste water
The supply of clean water would improve public health in many developing countries

Water supply

Urban life would be impossible without water supply systems
These systems are massive engineering projects
Many professionals are involved in their planning, construction and maintenance
The supply and distribution of water are major concerns
Water is becoming scarce in some countries
Areas that suffer droughts often need to import water
As populations grow, there is more pressure on water supplies
This could lead to a water crisis

Water and politics

The supply of water is also an important political issue
Huge amount of water are needed for agriculture and industry
The irrigation of crops accounts for a large proportions of water use

A water crisis could lead to political conflicts or even wars

Argument: water should be free

Some people believe that water should be free for everyone

Governments should supply water to all homes at no cost

Private companies should not be allowed to profit from this natural resource

Money from taxes can be used to pay for water supply systems

Argument: water should not be free

If water is free, people take it for granted

They do not think about how much water they waste

They leave taps running while washing or brushing their teeth

If we have to pay for water, we will use it more responsibly

Water supply systems are extremely expensive

Investment is needed to maintain and improve them

Private companies may provide a better service than governments

If they provide an efficient service, they will make more money

They will repair leaks to avoid losing money

Bottled Water: Opinions

Some people carry bottles of water wherever they go

For example, they take bottles of water to work or to the gym

They believe that bottled water is healthier than tap water

They also argue that it tastes better

However, other people believe that we should consume less bottled water

Plastic water bottles add to litter and waste problems

Companies should not be able to make a profit from water

It is unethical to make money by selling packaged water

There is no difference in quality between bottled and tap water

24. Work

The benefits of staying in the same job for life

Employees have a stable career with one employer

They have a good pension and health insurance

Their salaries gradually increase

They may be promoted within the organization

They demonstrate loyalty

Experienced staff can be trusted with more responsibility

They become part of a team

There is a clearly defined path for development

The benefits of not staying in the same job

People often change jobs in order to further their career

Another company may offer a promotion or a higher salary

People who change jobs can gain experience

They can learn different skills

Changing jobs is interesting and challenging

People can retrain in a different occupation

In a fast-changing world workers need to be flexible
People need to develop a range of experience and skills

Self-employment

Nowadays, it is easy to set up a company
The Internet provides a global marketplace
Self-employment offers greater freedom than working for a company
However, there are risks to starting a new business
Self-employed people may face financial difficulties
Many businesses fail to make a profit
There is less stability in self-employment
There are no benefits like pensions, sick pay and holiday pay
Self-employment involved hard work, long hours and total responsibility

Unemployment

Unemployment is a big problem for individuals, communities and society
Some people are unable to find a job
They may not have the sufficient level of education or qualifications
They may find themselves homeless
Unemployment causes frustration and stress
Jobless people may become involved in crime as a means to get money
The unemployed need careers advice
Governments need to provide vocational courses and retraining

Unemployment benefits: positives

Some governments pay unemployment benefits in order to help jobless people
Unemployed people need financial support until they find a new job
By claiming benefits they can continue to pay for their homes
The benefits system helps to reduce poverty, homelessness and crime

Unemployment benefits: negatives

Some people claim benefits rather than working
They become dependent on the government
They are not motivated to find a job
The benefits system is a burden on taxpayers
All citizens should work to earn a living and support themselves
Receiving benefits affects people's self esteem

Work/Life Balance

It is important to achieve a balance between work time and leisure or family time
Too much work can result in stress and poor health
"workaholics" may neglect their families and friends
People need to take regular holidays
Companies should be expect employees to work overtime
Nowadays, many people work part-time or have flexible working hours
Technology allow people to work from home
Many companies provide childcare facilities
A good work/ life balance can raise job satisfaction

Happy, healthy workers are more productive

Technology and work

Internet, fax and mobile phone technologies have revolutionized working life

Workers can communicate via email, online networks and video conferencing

Technology can connect workers in different countries

It gives people more freedom

It can also save time and money

Some people believe that offices could disappear in the future

Virtual online offices may replace them

Child labour

In some countries, children are exploited

They do repetitive jobs for very low pay

Children are often used in agriculture and factory work

The employment of children is prohibited in other countries

Many people think that children should be free to enjoy their childhood

Governments should make education a priority

They should build new schools

They should supply the resources to educate children

Children need to be given the knowledge and skills for adult life



Topic Archive:

Real IELTS Essay Topics

05.01.08

Nowadays, people get information through news and papers, but meanwhile are uncertain about the truth of these news. Should we believe the journalists? What qualities should a good journalist or correspondent have?

05.01.15

Some teachers say students should be organised into groups to study. Others argue students should be made to study alone. Tell the benefits of each study method. Which one do you think is more effective?

05.01.22

Recent years, the number of crimes committed by young people in major cities throughout the world is increasing. Discuss this issue. Give reasons and suggest some solutions.

05.02.05

Food can be produced much more cheaply today because of improved fertilisers and better machinery. However, some of the methods used to do this may be dangerous to human health and may have negative effects on local communities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

05.02.19

Leisure is a growing industry, but people no longer entertain themselves as much as they used to because the use of modern technology has made them less creative. Do you agree or disagree?

05.02.26

People can perform everyday tasks, such as shopping and banking as well as business transactions, without meeting other people face-to-face. What are the effects of this on individual and society as a whole?

05.03.05

Some people think visitors to other countries should imitate local customers and behaviours. Some people disagree; they think the host country should welcome cultural differences. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.

05.03.12

It is generally believed that education is of vital importance to the development of individuals and the well-being of societies. What should education consist of to fulfil both these functions?

05.03.19

Some people think that cultural traditions may be destroyed when they are used as money-making attractions aimed at tourists. Others believe it is the only way to save these traditions. Discuss on both sides and give your opinion.

05.04.02

Pressure on the school and university students is increasing and students are pushed too hard work when they are young. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

05.04.09

Nowadays education quality is very low. Some people think we should encourage our students to evaluate and criticise their teachers. Others believe that it will result in a loss of respect and discipline in the classroom. Discuss on both sides.

05.04.16

The advantages brought by the spread of English as a “global language” will outweigh the disadvantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?

05.05.14

Some school leavers travel or work for a period of time instead of going directly to university. What are the advantages and disadvantages?

05.05.21

Many people are optimistic of the 21st century and see it as an opportunity to make positive changes to the world. To what extent do you share their optimism? What changes would you like to see in the new century?

05.05.28

Nowadays, some universities offer graduate students skills that assist to find employment, but some people believe the main function of a university should be to access knowledge for its sake. What's your opinion?

05.06.11

The government is responsible for protecting a nation's cultural identity. Thus, some people believe new buildings should be built in traditional styles. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

05.06.18

Sending criminals to prison is not the best method of dealing with them. Education and job training are better ways to help them. Do you agree or disagree?

05.06.25

Some people think that the news media nowadays have influenced people's lives in negative ways. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

05.07.09

Some people think the government should pay for health care and education, but other people think it is not the government's responsibility. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

05.07.16

Many employees may work at home with the modern technology. Some people claim that it can benefit only the workers, not the employers. Do you agree or disagree?

05.07.23

The detailed description about crime will affect the people and cause many social problems. Some people say that the media should be strictly controlled. Do you agree or disagree?

05.08.06

Many people say that we have developed into a "throw-away" culture, because we are filling up our environment with so many plastic bags and rubbish that we cannot fully dispose of. To what extent do you agree with this opinion and what measures can you recommend reducing this problem?

05.08.13

Some scientists believe that studying the behaviour of 3-year-old children can tell which children would grow up to be criminals. To what extent in your opinion is crime a product of human nature or is it possible to stop children from growing up to be criminals?

05.08.20

Some people think that people moving to a new country should accept new culture in the foreign country rather than living as a separate minority group with different lifestyle. Do you agree or disagree?

05.09.03

Children who grow up in families which are short of money are better prepared with the problems of adult life than children who are brought up by wealthy parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

05.09.10

The only way to improve the safety on our own road is to have stricter punishment for driving offenders. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

05.09.17

Some people think that using animals for experimentation purpose is cruel, but other people think that is necessary for the development of science. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

05.10.15

In many countries, good schools and medical facilities are available only in cities. Some people think new teachers and doctors should work in rural areas for a few years, but others think everyone should be free to choose where they work. Discuss and give your own opinion.

05.10.22

The speeding up of life in many areas such as travel and communication has negative effects on society at all levels—individual, national and global. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

05.10.29 ≈ 04.08.21

Some people think the increasing business and cultural contact between countries brings many positive effects. Others say it causes the loss of national identities. Discuss on both sides and give your opinion.

05.11.12

As global trade increases between different countries, many daily necessities are produced in other countries. Such goods are usually transported a long distance. Do the benefits of this trend outweigh its drawbacks?

05.11.19

Advertising encourages consumers to buy in quantity rather than promoting quality. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

05.11.26

The main purpose of public libraries is to provide books and they shouldn't waste their limited resources and space on providing expensive hi-tech media such as computer software, videos and DVDs. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

05.12.03

Far too little has been done to prevent animals and plants from dying out, although people have been aware of this problem for a long time. Why do people do so little about it? Give your suggestions on how to solve this problem.

05.12.10

Many people believe that scientific research should be carried out and controlled by the governments rather than private companies. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

05.12.17

It is more important for a building to serve a purpose than to look beautiful. Architects shouldn't worry about producing building as a work of art. Do you agree or disagree?

06.01.07

Some people believe they should keep all the money they have earned and should not pay tax to the state. Do you agree or disagree?

06.01.14

There are social, medical and technical problems associated with the use of mobile phones. What forms do they take? Do you agree that the problems outweigh the benefits of mobile phones?

06.01.21

Today, the advanced science and technology have made great changes to people's life, but artists such as musicians, painters and writers are still highly valued. What can arts tell us about life that science and technology cannot?

06.02.11

In many countries, the proportion of older people is steadily increasing. Does this trend have more positive or negative effects on the society?

06.02.18

Some people believe that air travel should be restricted because it causes serious pollution and uses up the world's fuel resources. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

06.02.25

More and more measures to improve the security in large urban areas have been introduced in many countries because of the increased crime. Do the benefits of these measures outweigh the drawbacks?

06.03.11

In many countries more and more young people are leaving school but unable to find jobs. What problems do you think youth unemployment causes for individuals and the society? What measures should be taken to reduce the level of unemployment among youngsters?

06.03.18

Some people think that teachers should be responsible for teaching students to judge what is right and wrong so that they can behave well. Others say that teachers should only teach students academic subjects. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

06.03.25

One long-distance flight consumes fuel which a car uses in several years' time, but they cause the same amount of pollution. So some people think that we should discourage non-essential flights, such as tourist travel, rather than to limit the use of cars. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

06.04.08

In the past century when a human astronaut first arrived on the Moon, he said, 'It is a big step for mankind.' But some people think it makes little difference to our daily life. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

06.04.22

Some people think history has nothing or little to tell us, but others think that studying the past history can help us better understand the present. Please discuss the two views and give your own opinion.

06.04.29

Some people think that national sports teams and individual men and women who represent their country should be financially supported by the government. However, others argue that they should be funded by non-government sources (e.g. Business, scholarships, etc.) Discuss both views and give your opinion.

06.05.13

Housing shortage in big cities can cause severe social consequences. Some people think only government action can solve this problem. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

06.05.20

International tourism has become a huge industry in the world. Do the problems of international travel outweigh its advantages?

06.05.27

Some people think that using animals for experimentation purpose is cruel, but other people think that it is necessary for the development of science. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

06.06.10

Some people prefer to provide help and support directly to those in the local community who need it. Others, however, prefer to give money to national and international charitable organisations. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

06.06.17

The best way to solve the world's environmental problem is to increase the price of fuel. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

06.06.24

Some people think that students benefit from going to private secondary schools. Others, however, feel that private secondary schools can have a negative effect on society as a whole. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

06.07.08

In many countries today there is insufficient respect to old people. What are the reasons? What problems might it bring to the society?

06.07.22

It is better for students at university to live far away from home than to live at home with their parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

06.07.29

Earlier technological developments brought more benefits and changed the lives of ordinary people more than recent technological developments. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

06.08.05

Some people think museums should be enjoyable places to attract and entertain young people, while others think the purpose of museums should be to educate, not entertain. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

06.08.12

In order to learn a language well, we should also learn about the country as well as the cultures and lifestyles of the people who speak this language. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

06.08.25

Multi-cultural societies, in which there is a mixture of different ethnic peoples, bring more benefits than drawbacks to a country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

06.09.02

There is an increasing amount of advertising directed at children which encourages them to buy goods such as toys and snacks. Many parents are worried that these advertisements put too much pressure on children, while some advertisers claim that they provide useful information to children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

06.09.16

Some people think that the government should decide which subjects students should study at the university, while others think that students should be allowed to apply for the subject they prefer. Discuss the two views and give your opinion.

06.09.23

It is suggested that all the young adults should undertake a period of unpaid work helping people in the community. Does it bring more benefits or drawbacks to the community and the young people?

06.10.14

Some people think the main purpose of schools is to turn the children into good citizens and workers, rather than to benefit them as individuals. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

06.10.21

A country becomes more interesting and develops more quickly when its population includes a mixture of nationalities and cultures. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

06.10.28

As most people spend a major part of their adult life at work, job satisfaction is an important element of individual well-being. What are the factors that contribute to job satisfaction? How realistic is the expectation of job satisfaction for all workers?

06.11.04

Some people think that good health is a basic human need, so the medical service should not be run by profit-making companies. Do you think the disadvantages of the private health care outweigh the advantages?

06.11.18

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 views and give your opinion.

06.11.25

Exposure to international media such as films, TV and magazines has a significant impact on local cultures. What do you think has been the impact? Do you think its advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

06.12.02

Throughout history, male leaders always lead us to violence and conflict. If a society is governed by female leaders it will be more peaceful. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

06.12.09

Modern buildings change the character and appearance of towns and cities. The government should insist that new buildings be built in traditional styles to protect cultural identity. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

06.12.16

Some people think that personal happiness is directly related to economic success. Others argue that happiness depends on different factors. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

07.01.06

The world of work is changing rapidly. Working conditions today are not the same as before and people no longer rely on taking one job for life. Discuss the possible causes for these changes and give your suggestions on how people should prepare for work in the future.

07.01.13

Some people think universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace in the future. Others think the true function of the university is to give access to knowledge for its own sake. What do you think are the main functions of a university?

07.01.20 ≈ 05.07.09

Some people say the government should pay for the health care and education, but others say that it is not the government's responsibility. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

07.02.03 ≈ 04.02.28

Individuals can do nothing to improve the environment. Only governments and large companies can make a difference. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

07.02.10 ≈ 05.11.26

Maintaining public libraries is a waste of money since computer technology is now replacing their functions. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

07.03.03 ≈ 04.12.04

Some people think that schools should select pupils according to their academic abilities, while others believe that it is better to have pupils with different abilities study together. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

07.03.10

With the increase in the use of mobile phones and computers, fewer people are writing letters. Some people think that the traditional skill of writing letters will disappear completely. To what extent do you agree or disagree? How important do you think is letter-writing?

07.03.22

Some people think that the government should provide assistance to all kinds of artists including painters, musicians and poets, etc. However, other people think that is a waste of money. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

07.03.31 ≈ 05.02.26

People can perform everyday tasks, such as shopping and banking as well as business transactions, without meeting other people face-to-face. What are the effects of this on an individual and the society as a whole?

07.04.14

The society would benefit from a ban on all forms of advertising because it serves no useful purpose, and can even be damaging. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

07.04.21 ≈ 06.09.02

Consumers are faced with increasing numbers of advertisements from competing companies. To what extent do you think are consumers influenced by advertisements? What measures can be taken to protect them?

07.04.28 ≈ 04.09.18

Air transport is increasingly used to export types of fruits and vegetables to countries where they cannot be grown or are out of season. Some people say it is a good thing, but other people think it can't be justified. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

07.05.12 ≈ 06.09.23

Some people believe that some unpaid community service should be a compulsory part of high school programmes (e.g. working in a charity, improving the relationship of neighbourhood or teaching sports to children) To what extent do you agree or disagree?

07.05.19

Computers are increasingly used in education. In which areas do you think are computers more important and in which areas are teachers more important?

07.06.02 ≈ 06.05.20

Many developing countries are currently expanding their tourist industries Why is this the case? Is it a positive development?

07.06.09

Some people claim that public museums and art galleries will not be needed because people can see historical objects and works of art by using a computer. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

07.06.16

In many countries traditional foods are being replaced by international fast foods. This is having a negative effect on both families and societies. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

07.06.28

The natural resources such as oil, forests and fresh water are being consumed at an alarming rate. What problems does it cause? How can we solve these problems?

07.07.07

In some countries, secondary schools aim to provide a general education across a range of subjects. In others, children focus on a narrow range of subjects related to a particular career. For today's world, which system is appropriate?

07.07.14

In the last, lecture lectures were used as a way of teaching large numbers of student, but now with the development of technology for education, many people think there is no justification for attending lectures. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

07.07.21

As we are facing more and more problems which affect the whole planet, good relationships between different countries are becoming more important than ever before. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

07.07.26

Team activities can teach more skills for life than those activities which are played alone. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

07.08.11

It is known to all that the technological and scientific advances have made greater changes to the range and quality of our food. Some people regard it as an improvement while others believe that the change is harmful. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

07.08.16

The consumption of the resources on the earth is increasing at an alarming rate and above a dangerous level. What are the causes of this? What can be done to reduce it?

07.08.18

Some people think that we should invent a new language for international communication. Do the benefits of this outweigh the problems?

07.08.25

Some people say that it is the responsibility of individuals to save money for their own care after they retire. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

07.09.01

Some people think that studying in a college or university is the best way for students to prepare for their future career. But others think they should leave school as soon as possible to develop their career through work experience. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

07.09.08

The unlimited use of cars may cause many problems. What are those problems? In order to reduce the problems, should we discourage people to use cars?

07.09.20

Many countries spend a lot of money in art. Some people think investment in art is necessary, but others say money is better spent on improving health and education. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

07.09.22

Higher education can be funded in several ways including the following three:

1. All costs are paid by the government.
2. All costs are paid by the student.
3. All costs are paid by the student using loans from the government that must be repaid after graduation.

Discuss the benefits of each option. Which is the best one?

07.10.06

Today's children are living under more pressure from the society than children in the past. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

07.10.13

Some employers think that formal academic qualifications are more important than life experiences and personal qualities when they look for an employee. Why is it the case? Is it a positive or negative development?

07.10.20

Some people think it is better for children to begin to learn a foreign language at primary school than at secondary school. What's your opinion? Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

07.10.25

Some people think the only purpose of prison is to punish crime. Others think it has other functions. Discuss the two views and give your opinions.

07.11.03

The government should pay for the course fees for everyone who wants to study at the university. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

07.11.17

Nowadays, a large amount of advertising is aimed at children, some people think there are lots of negative effects for children, and should ban it. To what extent you agree or disagree?

07.11.24

Some people believe that giving aid to poorer countries has more negative effects than the positive effects. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

07.12.01

We have entered a throw-away society and fill the environment with rubbish. What are the causes and what are your solutions?

07.12.08

Many people believe that main aim for university education is help graduates to find better job, while some people believe that university education has wider benefit for individual and society. Discuss both view and give your opinion.

07.12.15

Today, it is common that TV news programmes show the images of disasters and violence to the public. Discuss the reasons and the effects on the individual and the society.

08.01.10

Some people believe that time spent on television, video and computer games can be valuable for children. Others believe this has negative effects on a child. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

08.01.12

Some people think the best way of reducing crime is to give longer prison sentences. Others, however, think there are other better ways to reduce crime. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

08.01.19

The older generations have very traditional ideas about the correct ways of life, thinking and behaviour. However, some people think that these ideas are not helpful for the young generation to prepare for modern life. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

08.01.26

In countries where there is a high rate of unemployment, most pupils should be offered only primary education. There is no point in offering secondary education to those who have no hope of finding a job. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

08.02.02

Some people think it is acceptable to use animals for the benefit of humans. Other people think it is wrong to exploit animals for human purposes. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

08.02.14

People living in big cities face many problems today. What are the problems? Should the government encourage people to live in regional towns?

08.02.16

“Tomorrow is the most important thing in life.” -US movie actor & director John Wayne

Why is it important for individuals and countries to think about the future rather than focusing on the present?

08.02.23

In some countries, it is now possible for people to buy a wide variety of foods transported from all over the world. To what extent do the benefits of this development outweigh the drawbacks?

08.03.01

Most countries spend much money on education, as they start to realize the importance of education. In your opinion which two subjects are the most important for young people and which one is the least important?

Subjects: Literature, Sports, Mathematics, Economy, Physics, History, Music, Geography

08.03.08

As the number of cars increases, more money has to be spent on road systems. Some people think the government should pay for this. Others, however, think that the user should pay for the cost. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

08.03.13

People should look after their health as a duty to the society they live in rather than personal benefits. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

08.03.29

Some people think it is the responsibility for government to ensure that people have healthy lifestyles. Others think people should have a free for their own lifestyles decisions. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

08.04.05 = 06.03.25

One long-distance flight consumes fuel which a car uses in several years' time, but they cause the same amount of pollution. So some people think that we should discourage non-essential flights, such as tourist travel, rather than to limit the use of cars. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?

08.04.12

Many people are busy with work and do not have enough time to spend with families and friends. Why does this happen? What are the effects of this on family life and society as a whole?

08.04.19

Some countries have an ever-increasing proportion of population who are aged 15 and younger. What is your opinion of the current and future effects it may have in those countries?

08.04.24

School teachers used to be the source of information; however, some people argue that teachers are not as important as before as the increasing variety of information resources. What is your opinion?

08.05.10

Children can learn efficiently by watching television, so they should be encouraged to watch television regularly both at home and in school. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

08.05.22 ≈ 04.10.23

Schools should teach children some academic subjects which will be beneficial to their future careers. Therefore, other subjects such as music and sports are not important. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

08.05.31

Some people believe that the fittest and strongest individuals and teams always success in sports. Others think that success in sports depends on mental attitudes. Discuss both views and give your opinions.

08.06.05

University students always focus on one specialist subject, but some people think universities should encourage their students to study a range of subjects in addition to their own subject. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

08.06.14

Many people think cheap air travel should be encouraged because it gives ordinary people freedom to travel further. However, others think this leads to environmental problem, so air travel should be more expensive in order to discourage people from having it. Discuss the both sides and give your own opinion.

08.06.21

Some people think that children should obey the rules or do what their parents and teachers want them to do. Other people think that children controlled too much can't deal with problem themselves. Discuss both views and state your own opinion.

08.06.28

Mobile phones and the Internet are very useful. However, it is rare for old people to use them. What ways could mobile phone and the Internet be useful to old people? How does the old people to be encouraged using this new technology?

08.07.05

Nowadays, more university students choose to study some practical subjects (such as marketing, computer programming, etc.) instead of theoretical subjects (such as economy, math, and chemistry). Some people suggest that universities should focus on practical subjects, but not theoretical subjects. Do you agree or disagree?

08.07.12

Some people support the developments in agriculture such as factory farming and creations of new types of fruits and vegetables, while others oppose this view. Discuss both views and give your opinion

08.07.26

Some people think international cooperation has brought benefits to world environment protection, while some people think more benefits has been brought to international business. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

08.08.09 ≈ 04.04.17

In some countries, governments are encouraging industries and businesses to move out of large cities and into regional areas. Do you think the advantages of this development outweigh its disadvantages? Give reasons for you answer and include examples from your knowledge or experiences.

08.08.16 ≈ 05.07.23

Detailed description of crimes on newspaper and TV can have bad consequences on society, so this kind of information should be restricted on media. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

08.08.21

International travel sometimes makes people more prejudiced rather than board-minded. Give out reasons why it cannot bring benefits to those visitors. Do you have ways to improve people's understanding of the countries they visit?

08.08.30 ≈ 05.01.15

Some teachers think it is effective for students to study in group while others think it is better to study alone. What are the benefits of each way and which one do you think is more effective?

08.09.06

Once children start school, teachers have more influence than parents on their intellectual and social development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

08.09.13

Many people think it is very important to protect environment but they make no effort to do it themselves. Why does it happen? How to solve this problem?

08.09.18 ≈ 05.06.18

Putting criminals into prisons is not so effective in dealing with them. Instead, education and job training should be offered to them. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

08.09.27

Students from poor background such as rural areas often find it difficult to access to university education, so people think universities should make it especially easy for them to study at. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

08.10.04 ≈ 04.09.11

Many people are afraid to leave home because of crime. Some believe that more action should be taken to prevent crime, but others feel little can be done. What's your view?

08.10.11

Society is based on rules and laws. It could not function if individuals were free to do whatever they want. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

08.10.23 ≈ 04.11.13

Many people use distance-learning programmes (study material post, TV, Internet, etc.) to study at home, but some people think that it cannot bring the benefit as much as attending college or university. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

08.10.25

Economic progress is one way to measure the success of one country, while some people think there are other factors. What other factors should be considered? Within these factors, do you think anyone is more important than the others?

08.11.08

In modern society, fashion is becoming more and more popular in people's choice of clothes. Why? Do you think it is positive development or negative development?

08.11.15

There are more workers working at home and more students studying at home, because the computer technology is more and more easily accessible and cheaper. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

08.11.20

International travel is becoming cheaper, and more and more countries open their door and with more and more tourists. Do the advantages of the increased tourism outweigh its disadvantages?

08.11.29

Some people say modern children's games do not develop a wide range of skills, while traditional games can be much better for developing such skills. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

08.12.04 ≈ 05.11.12

As global trade increases, many goods, even some daily goods, are exported to another country, which includes long-distance transport during shipping. Do you think its benefits outweigh its drawbacks?

08.12.06

Memorization of information by frequent repetition (rote learning) plays a role in most education systems. Does the usefulness of this method of learning outweigh its limitations?

08.12.13

Some people believe that a country benefits greatly with a high percentage of young people who go to university, while others argue that it only leads to graduate unemployment. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

08.12.20

Nowadays, a lot of charities and organisations have to publicize their activities by setting up a number of special days, like 'National Children's Day', for encouraging good care of children, and 'National Non-smoking Day', for encouraging person to pay more attention to health. Why do these organisations take these activities, and what will the effect be?

09.01.10

Some people believe that the range of technology available to individuals today is increasing the gap between the poor people and the rich people, while some others say this has an opposite effect. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

09.01.15 ≈ 04.11.13, 08.10.23

Students at schools and universities learn far more from lessons with teachers than from other sources (such as the Internet and television). To what extent do you agree or disagree?

09.01.17 ≈ 08.11.15

Today, people in many countries can live and work anywhere they choose, because of improved communication technology and transport. Do the advantages outweigh its disadvantages?

09.02.07 ≈ 07.11.24

Rich countries often give financial aid to poor countries, but it does not solve poverty, so rich countries should give other types of help to the poor countries rather than financial aid. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

09.02.12

Developments of technology are causing environmental problems. Some people think the solution is that everyone accept a simpler life, while others believe that technology can solve these problems. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

09.02.21

Some people believe that environmental problems are too big for individuals to deal with, while others think that individuals should take some action. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

09.02.28

Some people believe that public health should be improved by increasing the number of sports facilities, while others believe that it has little effects other measures should be taken to solve this problem. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

09.03.05

Newspapers have an enormous influence on people's ideas and opinions. Why is this the case? Do you think it is positive or negative?

09.03.07

Some people think music plays an important role in society. Others think it is only a form of individual entertainment. Discuss both sides of this argument and give your own opinion.

09.03.14

More and more students choose to go to another country for higher education. Do you think the benefits outweigh the problems?

09.03.21

Some people think it is more important for government to spend money on promoting healthy lifestyle in order to prevent illnesses than the treatment for people who are already ill. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

09.04.04

Nowadays people live in the society where consumer goods are relatively cheaper to buy. Do you think its advantages outweigh its disadvantages?

09.04.18

If a product is of good quality and meets people's needs, people will buy it. Therefore, advertising is unnecessary and is no more than a type of entertainment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

09.04.25

Some people think computer and Internet are important in children's study, but others think students can learn more effectively in schools and with teachers. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

09.04.30

Some people think museums should be enjoyable places to attract and entertain young people. Other think the purpose of museums is to educate, not to entertain. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

09.05.09

Some people believe that teenagers should concentrate on all school subjects, while others claim that students should focus on the subject that they are best at or that they find interesting. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

09.05.16

It has been believed that people who read for pleasure have developed imagination and good language skills than those who prefer to watch TV. Do you agree or disagree?

09.05.21

A hundred years ago, people think that human race is steadily improving in every area of life. Nowadays, there is no certainty of this case. In which areas do you think we have made important progress nowadays? In which areas do you think we still need to make progress?

09.05.30

Fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, natural gas, are used in many countries. But in some countries, the use of alternative sources of energy, including wind and solar power, are encouraged. Is this trend a positive or a negative development?

09.06.11

Food travels thousands of miles from farm to consumer. Some people think that it would be better to our environment and economic if people only ate local produced food. What extents the disadvantage outweigh the advantage?

09.06.13

Research suggests that the majority of criminals who are sent to prison would commit crimes when set free. Why do you think is the case? What can be done to solve this problem?

09.06.20

Some people think that all school students should learn a foreign language. Others think that a student should not be required to learn a foreign language if he or she does not have talent for it. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

09.06.27

Developing countries require international organization's help. Some people prefer financial aid while others think practical aid and advice are better. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

09.07.04

Money for postgraduate research is limited. Therefore some people think financial support from governments should be only provided for scientific research rather than research for less useful subjects. Do you agree or disagree?

09.07.11 ≈ 07.02.03, 04.02.08

Some people think that companies and individuals, rather than the government, should pay for cleaning pollution. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

09.07.23

Many people are optimistic about the 21st century and see it as an opportunity to make positive changes to the world. To what extent do you agree or disagree with their optimism? What changes would you like to see in the new century?

09.07.25

Nowadays sending children to boarding school is becoming increasingly popular. What is the reason? Do you think it is a positive development?

09.08.08

The development of technology changes the way people connect with each other. In which way does the development of technology change the types of relationships among people? Does it have positive or negative effects on the relationships?

09.08.13

The subjects and lesson contents are decided by the authorities such as the government. Some people argue that teachers should make the choice. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

09.08.22

News media is more influential nowadays. Some people think it is a negative development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

09.08.29

In the past, people used to travel to see the difference from their home country. However, the sceneries in places around the world seem similar nowadays. What are the causes of these similarities? Do you think that the advantages of this similarity outweigh the disadvantages?

09.09.05

Some people think young people should go to university to further their education while others think they should be encouraged to work as car mechanics or builders etc. to serve society. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

09.09.12

Caring for children is probably the most important thing of the society. It is suggested that all mothers and fathers should be required to take the childcare training courses. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement?

09.09.17

Some people think that all the lawbreakers should be sent into the jail, while others believe that they should also be made to do some work or learn some skills in the community. What is your opinion?

09.09.26

In some countries, some high school leavers are choosing to work or travel for a period of time before going to the university. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for those school leavers' decision. Give your own opinion and reasons using your own experience.

09.10.08

Some people think that family life and parents have great influence on children's development, while others consider that external influence plays a more important role in children's life, discuss both views and give your own opinion.

09.10.10

An increase in production of consumer goods results in damage of the natural environment. What are the causes and possible solutions?

09.10.24

Some people think university education should prepare students for employment. Other people think university has other functions. Discuss both views and what do you think the function of university education.

09.10.31

The environment problems facing today's world are so great that there is little ordinary people can do to improve the situation. Government and large companies should be responsible for reducing the amount of damage being done to the environment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

09.11.14

Some people say that professional workers such as doctors, nurses and teachers who make greater contribution to the society should be paid more than those people in the field of sports and entertainment. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

09.11.21

Individuals and countries cannot help everyone who needs help in the world, so they should only be concerned about their own communities and countries. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

09.12.03

Some people tend to take contemporary jobs, for they have the time to do other things they are interested in. Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

09.12.05

Nowadays, people always throw the old things away when they buy new things; whereas in the past, old things were repaired and used again. What factors cause this phenomenon? What effects the phenomenon leads to?

09.12.12

Recently some people can work from home using modern technology. Some say this only benefits the workers, but not the employers. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

09.12.19

Crime is a problem all over the world and there is nothing to do to prevent it. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.01.09

Some people believe that the charity organisations should give aid to those in greatest need, wherever they live. Some people believe that the charity organisations would better concentrate on helping people who live in own country instead. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

10.01.14

In today's world, it is private companies rather than government who pay for and carry out most on scientific research. Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

10.01.23

The gap between the rich and the poor is becoming wider, the rich richer, and the poor even poorer. What problems can the situation cause and give the solutions?

10.01.30

Many people believe that today there is a general increase in anti-social behaviour and lack of respect for others. What might have caused this situation? How to improve it?

10.02.06

Air travel can only benefit the richest people in the world. Ordinary people can get no advantage with the development of air travel. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.02.11

Some people think that politicians have the greatest influence on the world. Other people, however, believe that scientists have the greatest influence. Discuss both of views and give your opinion.

10.02.20

Most countries want to improve standard of living through economic development, however, others think social value is lost as a result. Do you think the advantages of economic development outweigh the disadvantages?

10.02.27

Technological progress in the past century has its negative effect, despite its remarkable contribution. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.03.06

Surveys show that in many countries, people are living longer but increased life expectancy has many implications for the aging individuals and for society as a whole. What are the possible effects of longer living for individuals and society?

10.03.18

Some people think zoos are cruel and all the zoos should be closed. However, some people think zoos are useful to protect the rare animals. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

10.03.20

In today's society, more and more work is done by machines. Do you think the positive effects of the development outweigh the negative effects on individuals and society?

10.03.27

Studies suggest that children spend more time watching TV than they did in the past and spend less on doing active or creative things. Why do you think it is the case? What measures and methods can be used to tackle it?

10.04.10

Some people think the recent increase in cheap air travel brings benefits, while other people think it has drawbacks to the environment and the world's resources. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

10.04.15

Some people think that men and women have different qualities. Therefore, some certain jobs are suitable for men and some jobs are suitable for women. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.04.17

Some people think the governments should act to decide how people live in order to make a healthier life. Others think individual should decide their own lifestyle. What do you concern about? Discuss both views and give your opinion.

10.04.25

It has been suggested that everyone in the world want to own a car, a TV and a fridge. Do you think disadvantage of such a development outweigh advantages?

10.05.08

Schools should concentrate on teaching students the academic subjects that will be useful for their future careers. Subjects such as music and sports are not useful. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.05.15

Nowadays, distance-learning programs are such common thing for us (the study material by post, by internet), but some people argue that courses can never be taken as good as those by attending in a college or university in person. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.05.20

Some people think children should obey the rules their parents and teachers set and listen to them, but others think less control will help children to deal with their future adult life. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

10.05.29

Many people who leave school hold a negative attitude towards learning. Why does this happen? How to solve the problem?

10.06.05

Some groups, such as poor people and people from rural areas, think universities should make it especially easy for them to get access to university education. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.06.17

Societies benefit from international tourism and business. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.06.19

An increasing number of people change their career and place of residence several times during their life time. Is this a positive or negative development?

10.06.26 ~ 08.08.21

International travel often leads people to have some prejudices rather than broad-mind. What are the main reasons of this phenomenon? What do you think people can do to get better understanding of the countries they visit?

10.07.10

Nowadays more and more young people hold the important positions in the government. Some people think that it is a good thing, while others argue that it is not suitable. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

10.07.15

Some people think it is not necessary for adults to receive education in class. Self-study is a good way for them to study more effectively. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.07.17

The movement of people from agricultural areas to cities to work can cause serious problems in both places. What are the serious problems and what measures can be taken to solve this problem?

10.07.31

Some people believe that university students should pay all the cost of studies because university education only benefit the students themselves not the society as a whole. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.08.05

In many parts of the world children and teenagers are committing more crimes. Why is this case happening? How should children or teenagers be punished?

10.08.14

The major cities in the world are growing fast, as well as their problems. What are the problems that young people living in cities are facing with? Give solutions to these problems.

10.08.21

Charities and organizations always give special names to particular days such as 'National Children's Day' and 'National Non-smoking Day'. What are the causes of these particular days? How effective are they?

10.08.28

In many cities, planners tend to arrange shops, schools, offices, and homes in specific areas and separate them from each other. Do you think the advantages of this policy outweigh the disadvantages?

10.09.04

Mobile phones have made life easier: anyone can use a mobile phone to answer/make work calls or home calls at any place 7 days a week. Do you think this development has more positive effects or negative effects on the individual and society?

10.09.11

Some people think it is necessary to use animals for testing medicines intended for human use. Others, however, think it is cruel to do that. Discuss both of these views and give your own opinion.

10.09.16

Society is based on rules and laws. It would not function if individuals are free to do whatever they want to. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.09.25

A report indicated that many children between 7 and 11 spend too much time watching television and/or play video games. How does the problem affect the children, their families and society? What measures can be taken to control it?

10.10.09

Some countries have introduced a law to limit working hours for employees. Why is this law introduced? Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?

10.10.14

In some countries, it is illegal for companies to reject job applicants for their age. Is this a positive or negative development?

10.10.23

Pollution and other environmental problems are resulting from a country's developing and becoming richer. Some think this cannot be avoided. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.10.30

Some people think paying taxes is a big enough contribution to their society, while others think people have more responsibilities as members of society than only paying taxes. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

10.11.04

Some people think parents should read or tell stories to children, while others think parents need not do that, as children can read books, watch TV or movies by themselves. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

10.11.06

Everyone should stay in school until they reach the age of 18. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.11.20

Some people have benefited from modern communications technology, but some people have not benefited from it at all. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.11.27

In some countries, small town-centre shops are going out of business because people tend to drive to large out-of-town stores. As a result, people without cars have limited access to out-of-town stores, and it may result in an increase in the use of cars. Do you think the disadvantages of this change outweigh its advantages?

10.12.04 ≈ 07.06.09

Public museums and art galleries are not needed because people could see historical objects and works by using computers. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

10.12.11

Scientists say that junk food is harmful to people's health. Some say the way to ask people to eat less fast food is to educate them, while others say education does not work. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

10.12.16

Young people are often influenced in their behaviours and situations by others in the same age. This is called "peer pressure". Do the disadvantages outweigh the advantages?

10.12.18

Some people think typical teaching of a teacher and students in the class will not exist by the year 2050. Do you agree or disagree?

11.01.08

Some people think that robots are very important to human's future development, while others think they are dangerous and have negative effects on society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.01.15

Nowadays, some workplaces tend to employ equal numbers of men and women workers. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

11.01.22

Nowadays some individuals behave in an anti-society way, such as committing a crime. In general, it is the society to blame. What causes the anti-social behaviours of individuals? Who should be responsible for dealing with it?

11.01.27

Some people think that it is necessary to travel abroad to learn about other countries, while other people think that it is not necessary to travel abroad because all the information can be seen on TV and the Internet. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.02.12

Tourism is an excellent way to develop a country, but it can also cause harm. How can countries ensure that tourism benefits the development?

11.02.17

Some people think that creative artists should be supported financially by the government of their county, while others believe that they should find financial support from other sources instead. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.02.19 ≈ 03.09.20, 04.01.10

Some people believe that women should play an equal role as men in a country's police force or military force, such as the army, while others think women are not suitable for these kinds of jobs. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.02.26

Some people suggest that a country should try to produce all the food for its population and import as little food as possible. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.03.05

Some people think governments should spend money on measures to save languages with few speakers from dying out completely. Others think this is a waste of financial resources. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.03.10

Some think that children should start school as early as possible, while others believe that they should start school at the age of seven. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

11.03.12

Competitiveness is a positive quality for people in most societies. How does competitiveness affect individuals? Is it a positive or negative trend?

11.03.19 ≈ 08.11.15

Around the world, more adults can work from home and more children can study from home as computer technologies become cheaper and more accessible. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?

11.04.02 ≈ 08.06.14

Many people think cheap air travel should be encouraged because it gives ordinary people freedom to travel further. However, others think this leads to environmental problem, so air travel should be more expensive in order to discourage people from having it. Discuss the both sides and give your own opinion.

11.04.16 ≈ 08.09.13

Many people think it is very important to protect the environment but they make no effort to do it themselves. Why do you think it is the case? What actions can be done to suggest individuals protect the environment?

11.04.28 ≈ 04.06.12

Some people think that too much money has been spent looking after and repairing old buildings, so we should knock down old buildings and build modern ones instead. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.04.30

Some people think foreign visitors should be charged more than local people when they visit the cultural and historical attractions in a country. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.05.07 ≈ 04.02.28, 04.05.15

Environmental problems are too big for individual countries and individual persons to address. In other words, we have reached the stage where the only way to protect the environment is at an international level. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

11.05.14 ≈ 04.02.14, 04.05.22

Individual greed and selfishness has been the basis of the modern society. Some people think that we must return to the older and more traditional values of respect for the family and the local community in order to create a better world to live in. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.05.19 ≈ 04.07.24

The government should control the amount of violence in films and on television in order to decrease the violent crimes in society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.05.28 ≈ 06.03.18

Some people think that teachers should be responsible for teaching students to judge what is right and wrong so that they can behave well. Others say that teachers should only teach students academic subjects. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.06.04 ≈ 05.01.08

Nowadays, we rely on news for our knowledge, but we are uncertain about the truth of these news. Should we believe journalists? What qualities should a good journalist or correspondent have?

11.06.11 ≈ 04.06.26, 04.11.27, 07.09.20

Some people think governments should focus the spending only on public services rather than wasting money on arts (music, printing, etc.). To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.06.23 ≈ 07.06.16

Traditional food is being replaced by international fast foods. This has negative effects on family and society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.06.25 ≈ 04.10.16

We are surrounded by all kinds of advertising, which is having an increasing influence on our lives. Do the positive effects of advertising outweigh its negative effects?

11.07.09 ≈ 03.12.13

Many animal species in the world are becoming extinct nowadays. Some people say that countries and individuals should protect these animals from dying out, while others say we should concentrate more on problems of human beings. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.07.16 ≈ 06.01.21

Today, advanced science and technology have made great changes to people's life, but artists such as musicians, painters and writers are still highly valued. What can arts tell us about life that science and technology cannot?

11.07.28

In schools and universities, girls tend to choose arts subjects, while boys choose science subjects. What is the reason? Should the trend be changed?

11.07.30

Some people think government should ban dangerous sports, while others think it is people's freedom to do whatever sports activities they choose. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.08.13 ≈ 06.10.14

Some people think that the main purpose of schools is to turn children into good citizens and workers, rather to benefit them as individuals. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.08.20

Some people believe that if a police force carries guns, it can encourage a higher level of violence. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.08.27

All over the world, people watch foreign film much more than locally produced films. Why? Should the government provide financial support to local film industries?

11.09.03

Some people think the qualities a person needs to become successful in today's world cannot be learned at a university or similar academic institution. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (110903)

11.09.15

Nowadays a growing amount of advertising aims at children. Some people think this have negative effects on children and should be banned. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.09.17

Some children find some subjects such as mathematic and philosophy too difficult to learn, so some people argue that those subjects should be optional rather than compulsory. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.09.24

The best way for a country to prepare for the future is to invest more resources in its young people. How true do you think of it? What is the best way to invest resources?

11.10.08 ≈ 06.02.11

In many countries, the proportion of older people is steadily increasing. Does this trend have more positive or negative effects on the society?

11.10.22

Anyone can post information on the Internet. Some people say most of what we read on the Internet is inaccurate. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

11.10.29

Nowadays, films and computer games containing violence are popular. Some people think those films and games have negative effects on society and should be banned, while others think they are just harmless relaxation. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.11.05 ≈ 09.07.04

More government money should be invested in teaching science than other subjects for the country to develop and progress. Do you agree or disagree ?

11.11.17

Some people think newspaper is the most effective way to get the latest information because it has more influence than other forms of media. Do you agree or disagree?

11.11.19

Some people think job satisfaction is more important than job security, while others think that people cannot expect to enjoy a job and having a permanent job is more important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.11.26

As economy develops, people get richer. Studies show that people in developing countries feel happier than before, while people in developed countries feel less happy. Why do you think is it? What lessons can we learn from it?

11.12.01

Some people think sports games are important for society, while others believe they should be taken as leisure activities. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

11.12.03 ≈ 09.06.11

Today, food travels thousands of miles from the farm to the consumer. Why is this? Is it a positive or negative trend?

11.12.10

Human activities have negative effects on plant and animal species. Some people think it is too late to do anything about this problem. Others believe that effective measures can be taken to improve this situation. Discuss both views and give our opinion.

11.12.17

It becomes more popular to find out the history of one's family. What are the reasons for people to do this and do you think it is a positive or negative development?

12.01.07

Some people think developing countries should invite large foreign companies to open offices and factories to help with their economic growth. Other people think developing countries should keep large companies out and develop local companies instead. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

12.01.12

Some people think that the government should establish free libraries in each town. Others believe that it is a waste of money since people can access the Internet at home to obtain information. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

12.01.14

Some employers consider social skills as important as good qualifications for success in a job. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

12.02.04 ≈ 08.01.19

Some people think that young people should follow traditions of the society, while other people think that young people should be free to behave as individuals. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

12.02.09 ≈ 12.01.07

The spread of multinational companies and the resulting increase of globalization produce positive effects to everyone. Do you agree or disagree?



IELTS Grammar Exercises

IELTS Grammar Exercise 1

IELTS Grammar Exercise 1 is a review of verb tense:

There are six *basic* verb tenses in English.

Present: I walk.

Past: I walked.

Future: I will walk.

Present Perfect: I have walked.

Past Perfect: I had walked.

Future Perfect: I will have walked.

There are also *continuous* verbs forms, which are not illustrated in the above examples!

Look at the examples of the verb tenses above. Then complete the exercises below by using the grammatically correct form of the verb.

- (1) She _____ (meet) me at the restaurant at 7:00 tonight.
- (2) I _____ (try) my best on the exam yesterday.
- (3) By this time tomorrow, we _____ (finish) this project.
- (4) My Grandmother always _____ (make) delicious cake.
- (5) Until his death, Mr. Brown _____ (always work) on a farm.
- (6) He _____ (purchase) his new car for only £5,000.
- (7) I _____ (trim) my hair last week.
- (8) Maryanne _____ (sing) in the choir every Wednesday afternoon.
- (9) I _____ (never drive) in such heavy traffic before in my life.
- (10) The businessman _____ (conceal) certain important facts in order to complete the deal.

IELTS Grammar Exercise 2

IELTS Grammar Exercise 2 is a review of irregular verb forms:

There are many *irregular* verb forms in English. An irregular verb is one that does not take -ed to form the simple past tenses. Look at these grammar examples:

Regular verb - simple present: I work in a factory.

Regular verb - simple past: I worked in a factory when I was younger.

Irregular verb - simple present: I eat chocolate quite often.

Irregular verb - simple past: I ate chocolate yesterday afternoon.

Look at the grammar examples above. Then complete the exercises below by using the grammatically correct form of the verb.

(1) The final outcome _____ (bear) no resemblance to the original plan.

(2) He _____ (catch) the ball with both hands.

(3) She _____ (feed) her cat special food because of its allergies.

(4) I _____ (feel) unwell for most of the day yesterday.

(5) He _____ (build) a new house after the tornado struck.

(6) He _____ (deal) the cards during the poker game.

(7) I _____ (mistake) her for her younger sister.

(8) He _____ (partake) in illegal activities.

(9) The lawyer _____ (plead) for his client to receive a lenient sentence.

(10) He _____ (sell) some of his old items on an online auction.

IELTS Grammar Exercise 3

IELTS Grammar Exercise 3 is a review of irregular verb forms:

There are many *irregular* verb forms in English. An irregular verb is one that does not take -ed to form the simple past tenses. Look at these grammar examples:

Regular verb - simple present: I work in a factory.

Regular verb - simple past: I worked in a factory when I was younger.

Irregular verb - simple present: I eat chocolate quite often.

Irregular verb - simple past: I ate chocolate yesterday afternoon.

Look at the grammar examples above. Then complete the exercises below by using the grammatically correct form of the verb.

- (1) They _____ (fight) like cats and dogs because of that problem!
- (2) He _____ (speed) away in his new sports car.
- (3) She _____ (hang) the photograph in her living room yesterday.
- (4) I _____ (pay) 12 euros for that book.
- (5) He _____ (wind) the old clock carefully.
- (6) She _____ (sink) lower into despair after losing her job.
- (7) The baby _____ (shut) his eyes and went to sleep
- (8) He _____ (thrust) the paper in front of me and asked me to read it.
- (9) She _____ (sling) the bag over her shoulder carelessly.
- (10) I _____ (wring) out my swimming costume after I got out of the pool.

IELTS Grammar Exercise 4

IELTS Grammar Exercise 4 is a review of irregular verb forms:

There are many *irregular* verb forms in the English language. An irregular verb is one that does not take -ed to form the simple past tenses. Look at these grammar examples:

Regular verb - simple present: I work in a factory.

Regular verb - simple past: I worked in a factory when I was younger.

Irregular verb - simple present: I eat chocolate quite often.

Irregular verb - simple past: I ate chocolate yesterday afternoon.

Look at the grammar examples above. Then complete the exercises below by using the grammatically correct form of the verb.

(1) She _____ (withstand) the pain of her injury in order to complete the race.

(2) The problem with the construction _____ (arise) early last year.

(3) He _____ (bleed) profusely as a result of the accident.

(4) She just _____ (creep) in. I had no idea she was even coming.

(5) He _____ (dive) into the water head first.

(6) They _____ (flee) the country during the riots.

(7) The mother _____ (kneel) in order to speak to her child face-to-face.

(8) He _____ (lend) me 5 euros, but I haven't paid (pay) him back yet.

(9) I _____ (misunderstand) the teacher's instructions and failed the exam.

(10) He _____ (win) the competition for the best essay.

IELTS Grammar Exercise 5

IELTS Grammar Exercise 5 is a review of transitive and intransitive verbs in the English language:

Transitive verbs take an object. *Intransitive* verbs do not take an object.

Transitive verb: He kicked the ball really hard.

He = grammatical subject; kicked = transitive verb (past simple); the ball = object

Intransitive verb: I work from 9:00AM to 5:00 PM every day.

I = grammatical subject; work = intransitive verb (simple present)

In addition, sometimes a verb can be transitive in one sentence and intransitive in another sentence.

Transitive verb: She sang two songs for the audience.

She = grammatical subject; sang = transitive verb (past simple); two songs = object

Intransitive verb: She sings beautifully.

She = grammatical subject; sings = intransitive verb (simple present)

Look at the grammar examples above. Then decide whether each the verb in sentence below is transitive or intransitive.

- (1) Our class went on a trip to London.
- (2) He shut the door behind himself on his way out.
- (3) He sent me a letter on Tuesday last week.
- (4) She complains constantly about her small flat.
- (5) The coach blew the whistle to call a time out.
- (6) She picked the flowers by hand.
- (7) They took a trip to the Lake District.
- (8) He eats too much.
- (9) He ate the cake really quickly.
- (10) I watched TV for most of the evening.

IELTS Grammar Exercise 6

IELTS Grammar Exercise 6 is a review of singular and plural verb forms in the English language:

When writing an essay for the IELTS exam, be sure to identify the grammatical subject of your sentence, especially if the grammatical subject contains prepositional phrases. This will help you to understand whether you need a singular or plural verb.

Singular grammatical subject + singular verb: The child in boy scouts knows how to light a fire.

child = singular subject; knows = verb; ["scouts" is part of a prepositional phrase]

Plural grammatical subject: Many residents of the local community are on good terms with one another.

Residents = plural subject; are = verb; ["community" is part of a prepositional phrase]

Look at the grammar examples above. Then complete the exercises below by using the grammatically correct form of the verb.

- (1) Most of my classmates _____ (agree / agrees) with me.
- (2) Ten euros _____ (is / are) the price.
- (3) Ten miles _____ (seem / seems) a long distance to jog.
- (4) Two cups in the cupboard _____ (is / are) broken.
- (5) Many people in the public eye _____ (has / have) concerns about their privacy.
- (6) My sister or my brother usually _____ (help / helps) my mother.
- (7) The price _____ (is / are) ten euros.
- (8) Two-thirds of the children in the class _____ (has / have) the flu.
- (9) Several workers in the group _____ (need / needs) a higher wage.
- (10) Neither the apples nor the bananas _____ (is / are) fit to eat.

IELTS Grammar Exercise 7

IELTS Grammar Exercise 7 is a review of conditional sentence structures in the English language:

In spoken English, the phrase "if I were you" is used to give advice.

Example: If I were you, I would try to finish the assignment on time.

The phrase "in your shoes" can be used instead of "you" in conversational English.

The phrases "in your position" and "in your situation" can also be used instead of "you" and are more formal than "in your shoes".

Examples:

If I were in your shoes, I would try to finish the assignment on time.

If I were in your position, I would try to finish the assignment on time.

If I were in your situation, I would try to finish the assignment on time.

This type of advice can be made more formal by putting the word "were" first in the sentence. This sentence structure is known as the subjunctive.

Look at these examples of grammatically correct conditional sentences:

Were I you, I would try to finish the assignment on time.

Were I in your position, I would try to finish the assignment on time.

Were I in your situation, I would try to finish the assignment on time.

Look at the grammar examples above. Then complete the exercises below by making grammatically correct sentences out of the jumbled words.

(1) were / I / supervisor / you / I / tell / my / would

(2) I / wouldn't / hard / so / I / in / position / your / work

(3) shoes / in / I / speak / her / were / would / in / I / to

(4) I / more / you / exercise / get / I / would

(5) I / crazy / would / in / go / situation / your / were / I

IELTS Grammar Exercise 8

IELTS Grammar Exercise 8 is a review of subjunctive verb forms:

The phrases "it's high time", "it's time" and "it's about time" can be used to give advice in conversational English.

Example: It's time you told your tutor that you are having problems.

Notice that the verb *tell* is in the simple past tense (*told*). This is the subjunctive verb form.

Look at the grammar example above. Then complete the exercises below by placing the grammatically correct verb from the list in each gap.

Remember: You will need to change verb tense.

start / eat / finish / stop / pay / speak / realise/ get / go / be

- (1) It's high time we _____ home.
- (2) It's about time you _____ to study harder.
- (3) It's time you _____ to your parents about the problem.
- (4) It's about time you _____ staying out so late.
- (5) It's time you _____ your assignment.
- (6) It's high time you _____ more exercise.
- (7) It's about time we _____ more sensibly.
- (8) It's high time you _____ more polite.
- (9) It's time you _____ a visit to your friend.
- (10) It's about time we _____ we can't finish the project on time.

IELTS Grammar Exercise 9

IELTS Grammar Exercise 9 is a review of passive verb forms:

You should write some sentences in your IELTS writing test in the *simple past active* form and other sentences in the *simple past passive* form. This will create a good variety of sentence structures in your IELTS essay.

Examples:

Active: First, the teacher gave the students a card showing a role-play scenario.

Passive: First, the students **were given** a card showing a role-play scenario **by the teacher**.

Look at the grammar examples above. Then complete the passive sentences in the grammar exercises below.

1 (Active): Then the teacher explained the cultural problems related to this scenario.

1 (Passive): Then the cultural problems related to this scenario . . .

2 (Active): During the question and answer session, the teacher allowed the students to take notes.

2 (Passive): During the question and answer session, students . . .

3 (Active): When the students had finished reviewing their notes, the teacher placed them in pairs to perform the role-play.

3 (Passive): When the students had finished reviewing their notes, they . . .

4 (Active): At this time, the teacher observed their interactions.

4 (Passive): At this time, their interactions . . .

5 (Active): Finally, the teacher indirectly corrected the student's errors.

5 (Passive): Finally, the student's errors . . .

IELTS Grammar Exercise 10

IELTS Grammar Exercise 10 is a review of demonstrative pronouns:

Demonstrative pronouns include the following:

Those (used as subject - plural)

Them (used as object - plural)

This (used as subject - present situation)

That (used as subject - past or distant situation)

Look at the grammar examples above. Then place the correct demonstrative pronoun in the gaps in the sentences below.

- (1) _____ apples look really delicious.
- (2) I gave my presents to _____ during my summer holiday.
- (3) _____ outcome wasn't what she expected.
- (4) _____ report has been copied from the Internet.
- (5) _____ trip certainly has been an adventure.
- (6) _____ was a disaster which could have been avoided.
- (7) Homeless people need compassion. We should care for _____ in our community.
- (8) _____ people need our help.
- (9) _____ shoes look too old now.
- (10) _____ coat is my favourite at the moment.

Answers to IELTS Grammar Exercises

IELTS Grammar Exercise 1

- (1) will meet
- (2) tried
- (3) will have finished
- (4) makes
- (5) had always worked
- (6) purchased
- (7) trimmed
- (8) sings
- (9) have never driven
- (10) concealed

IELTS Grammar Exercise 2

- (1) bore
- (2) caught
- (3) fed
- (4) fell
- (5) built
- (6) deal
- (7) mistook
- (8) partook
- (9) pled
- (10) sold

IELTS Grammar Exercise 3

- (1) fought
- (2) sped
- (3) hung
- (4) paid
- (5) wound
- (6) sank
- (7) shut
- (8) thrust
- (9) slung
- (10) wrung

IELTS Grammar Exercise 4

- (1) withstood
- (2) arose
- (3) bled
- (4) crept
- (5) dove
- (6) fled
- (7) knelt
- (8) lent
- (9) misunderstood
- (10) won

IELTS Grammar Exercise 5

- (1) intransitive
- (2) transitive
- (3) transitive
- (4) intransitive
- (5) transitive
- (6) transitive
- (7) transitive
- (8) intransitive
- (9) transitive
- (10) transitive

IELTS Grammar Exercise 6

- (1) agree
- (2) is
- (3) seems
- (4) are
- (5) have
- (6) helps
- (7) is
- (8) have
- (9) need
- (10) are

IELTS Grammar Exercise 7

- (1) If I were you, I would tell my supervisor.
- (2) Were I in your position, I wouldn't work so hard.
- (3) If I were in your shoes, I would speak to her.
- (4) Were I you, I would get more exercise.
- (5) If I were in your situation, I would go crazy.

IELTS Grammar Exercise 8

- (1) went
- (2) started
- (3) spoke
- (4) stopped
- (5) finished
- (6) got
- (7) ate
- (8) were
- (9) paid
- (10) realised

IELTS Grammar Exercise 9

- 1 (Passive):** Then the cultural problems related to this scenario were explained by the teacher.
- 2 (Passive):** During the question and answer session, students were allowed to take notes by the teacher.
- 3 (Passive):** When the students had finished reviewing their notes, they were placed in pairs by the teacher to perform the role-play.
- 4 (Passive):** At this time, their interactions were observed by the teacher.
- 5 (Passive):** Finally, the student's errors were indirectly corrected by the teacher.

IELTS Grammar Exercise 10

- (1) Those
- (2) them
- (3) That
- (4) This
- (5) This
- (6) That
- (7) them
- (8) Those
- (9) Those
- (10) This



Grammar Reference from 'IELTS Graduation' (Macmillan)

Unit 1 Tense revision

Use

- 1 A verb phrase will give information about:
 - time, or when something happened.
 - aspect, eg whether an action is complete or incomplete, permanent or temporary.

See Unit 5 for information about active and passive uses of verbs.
- 2 The simple aspect is used for actions or events which we think are finished or permanent.
 Present simple: used for facts, opinions and regularly occurring actions or events, eg *There are many highly respected universities in America. I live in London and travel to work by train.*
 Past simple: used for regularly occurring or completed past actions or events, eg *I attended university in London. I travelled on the Underground.*
- 3 The continuous aspect (to be + present participle) is used for actions or events we think are incomplete, involving change or temporary.
 Present continuous: used for temporary or incomplete present actions or events, eg *The number of students attending university is decreasing, but we hope to see an improvement in numbers.*
 Past continuous: used for incomplete or interrupted past actions or events, eg *The school was preparing its students for final exams when bad weather forced it to close.*
- 4 The perfect aspect (to have + past participle) is used when we look back from one time to an earlier time.
 Present perfect (simple or continuous): used for a present action or event which is connected to the past because it is still continuing or recently completed eg *Numbers have been falling since last month. I've just received my exam results.*
 Past perfect (simple or continuous): used to describe a past action or event that happened before another past action or event, eg *The government had predicted that student numbers would improve, but instead they fell. Universities had been warning the government for some time before it acted.*

- 5 These are the main ways in which we refer to the future in English:

Future simple: used to refer to facts or to state beliefs about the future, eg *I'll be twenty years old on my next birthday. I don't think there will be an end to world conflict.*

Going to: used for predictions where there is evidence for the prediction or to state intentions, eg *I don't feel well – I think I'm going to be sick! I'm going to study Architecture at university.*

Present continuous: used to describe arrangements, eg *We're flying to Paris tomorrow.*

Future perfect: used for actions or events we believe will be completed by a point of time in the future, eg *By the end of the year I'll have completed university.*

Future continuous: used to describe actions or events we believe will be in progress at a point of time in the future. Example: *In five years, time fewer young people will be studying abroad.*

See Unit 9 for more information on future tenses.

- 6 In academic English, verbs in the simple aspect are the most common and present simple is the most common tense.

Form

Regular and irregular verbs:

Present simple: increase; rise

Past simple: increased; rose

Future simple: will increase; will rise

Present continuous: am / is / are increasing; am / is / are rising

Past continuous: was / were increasing; was / were rising

Future continuous: will be increasing / will be rising

Present perfect: have / has increased; have / has risen

Past perfect: had increased; had risen

Future perfect: will have increased; will have risen

Present perfect continuous: have / has been increasing; have / has been rising

Past perfect continuous: had been increasing; had been rising

There is/was ...

Use

- When we say that something 'is' or exists we can start the sentence with *There + be*. In these sentences, *there is* the grammatical subject and the real subject, or what we are talking about, comes after the verb.

eg There are **many reasons** why I felt it necessary to ask you here today. eg Look! There's **snow** on the ground. (*many reasons* and *snow* are the real subjects of the sentences.)

- There + be* is usually used to introduce new information or topics. This new information is usually in the form of an indefinite noun or pronoun.

eg *There is a lamp on the table* (new information / indefinite) is more likely than *There is the lamp on the table* (known information / definite).

eg *There is someone at the door* is more likely than *There is John at the door*.

Form

- We use a singular form of *to be* before a singular or countable noun, and a plural form before a plural noun. This remains true if there is more than one noun after the verb, eg *There are some tools and a bucket in the shed*, but *There is a bucket and some tools in the shed*.
- We can use *there* as a grammatical subject with all tenses of the verb *to be*.
- Be careful with the word order of *there + be* clauses when *to be* is followed by a participle. In these sentences the participle does **not** separate *to be* and the noun following it.
eg There **are 24 teams** competing in the tournament, NOT There **are competing 24 teams** in the tournament.
There **has been an investigation** ordered into the death, NOT There **has been ordered an investigation** into the death.
- There* is often used with modal verbs and *seem*. In these sentences we use an infinitive form of *to be*.
eg **There must be/has to be** a reason for this. **There should be / ought to be** someone here to help you. **There seems to be** a mistake.

Practice

- Complete the table.

Present simple	decrease	fall
Past simple	1	fell
Future simple	2 will decrease	3
Present continuous	is decreasing	4
Past continuous	5	6
Future continuous	7	8
Present perfect	9	has fallen
Past perfect	10	11
Future perfect	12	13
Present perfect continuous	has been increasing	14
Past perfect continuous	15	16

- For a Task 1 Writing question the tenses you use must match the times given in the diagram. Complete the following sentences by putting the verb in brackets into the most appropriate tense. Name each tense.

- The number of students choosing Business _____ (increase) considerably throughout the 1980s.
- If the trend continues, by 2025 the percentage of graduates _____ (double).
- For the last five years, on the job training _____ (rise) steadily.
- Figures for this year _____ (reveal) a slight drop.
- In the next decade, the ratio of males to females _____ (level off).
- The table shows that retraining _____ (grow) for the last 30 years.
- The proportion of non-Asian students _____ (decline) gradually in 2000 but this year it _____ (remain stable).
- The cost of subsidies, which _____ (fall) throughout the 1990s, _____ (begin) to rocket in 2000.

Unit 2 Sentences and their subjects

Sentences

Use

- 1 We use sentences to make statements, ask questions, or to make requests or give commands. A sentence can also be an exclamation.
- 2 We use conjunctions, eg *and, because, if, since* to show relationships between ideas in a sentence.
eg Many young people say that they smoke *because* they are unhappy.
Because links the reason for the action with the action.
eg Six out of ten boys *and* seven out of ten girls feel pressured by schoolwork.
We use *and* to add one piece of information to another.
Note: Conjunctions and other linking expressions are covered in Unit 8.
- 3 To use English effectively you need to know
 - the meaning of conjunctions and other linking expressions in English
 - how to use them grammatically in a sentence.

Form

- 1 A simple sentence contains one clause with a noun phrase (subject) and a verb phrase. The verb phrase must have a tense:
eg Many young people **feel** unhappy, but NOT ~~Many young people feeling unhappy~~
- 2 A compound or complex sentence contains two or more clauses joined by a conjunction. We often omit subjects and auxiliary verbs after *and, but* or *or*.
eg Many young people feel unhappy **but** (they) lack understanding of how to deal with their emotions. (The sentence has two clauses.)
eg **When** the children were asked about quality of life, England was in the bottom half of the league, **while** Dutch, Swedish and Greek young people were the happiest. (The sentence has three clauses.)

Sentence subjects

Use

- 1 Statements and questions in English must have a grammatical subject. See Unit 1 for sentences beginning with *There + to be ...*

eg There is a book on the table, but NOT ~~Is a book on the table~~

It is raining, but NOT ~~Is raining~~

- 2 The sentence subject is often the agent, or person or thing responsible for an action.
eg **Alex** put the book on the table.
- 3 With verbs that describe states, eg *is, live, know* the subject is often the person or thing experiencing an action or state.
eg **Yun** is a doctor. **She** lives in China.
- 4 With a passive verb the subject is usually the person or thing affected by the action.
eg **The bank** was robbed yesterday.

Form

Subjects may take the following forms:

- Noun: **John** is a doctor.
- Pronoun: **He** is married to Alice.
- *-ing* clause: **Swimming** is his hobby.
- Infinitive clause: **To become a doctor** was John's childhood ambition.

Practice

Parts of speech 1: Revision

- 1 Match the parts of speech in A with their examples in B.

Example: 0–f

A	B
0 nouns	a can, must should
1 main verbs	b what, who, how
2 adjectives	c do, be, have
3 adverbs	d the, some, our
4 determiners	e and, however, nevertheless
5 pronouns	f London, book, beauty
6 auxiliary verbs	g she, her, myself
7 modal verbs	h live/ lived, swim/ swam/ swum
8 linking expressions	i heavy, quick, happy
9 question words	j heavily, quickly, hard

- 2 Match the expressions (1–7) with the sections of the text in *italics* (a–g).

- 1 adjective + noun
- 2 preposition + noun
- 3 determiner + noun
- 4 preposition + adjective + noun
- 5 modal verb + verb
- 6 linking expression
- 7 adjective + adjective + noun

(a) *The number of overseas students who study*
 (b) *at British universities* could rise to 850,000 by 2020. (c) *However*, British universities need to spend more (d) *on facilities* to continue to attract (e) *overseas students*, or they (f) *will find* (g) *many overseas students* turn to other countries, including the US Germany and France.

Parts of speech 2: Revision

- 1 Match the grammatical term in **A** with its definition in **B**.

A

- 1 infinitive
- 2 present participle
- 3 past participle
- 4 auxiliary verb
- 5 modal verb
- 6 phrase
- 7 clause
- 8 sentence

B

- a the form of the verb ending in *-ing*; used in progressive tenses and as an adjective, eg *living, doing*
- b a verb used with another verb to show tense or to form questions, negatives or the passive, eg *do, be, have*
- c a word or group of words which form a unit in a clause, eg *the boy* (noun), *is walking* (verb), *to school* (preposition)
- d the basic form of the verb, eg *(to) live, (to) do*
- e a group of words that expresses a statement, question or instruction; contains two or more clauses, eg *The boy is walking to school because the bus drivers have gone on strike.*
- f an auxiliary verb used with a main verb to show certainty, permission or intention, eg *will, must*
- g a group of words that contains a subject and a verb; is a sentence or a main part of one, eg *the boy is walking to school*

- h the form of the verb ending in *-(e)d* for regular verbs; used in perfect tenses, the passive and as an adjective, eg *lived, done*

- 2 Match the terms (1–9) with the sections of the text in *italics* (a–h). For one of the terms there is no example.

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 infinitive | 5 modal verb |
| 2 present participle | 6 subject / noun phrase |
| 3 past participle | 7 verb phrase |
| 4 auxiliary verb | 8 relative clause |
| | 9 simple sentence / clause |

(a) *Albert Einstein* was born in Ulm, Germany on March 14, 1879. From (b) *being* a shy child, (c) *whose parents feared his slow development*, he grew up (d) *to be* a first-rate scholar. When he left school, his record (e) *showed* the highest possible grade in geography, history, algebra, geometry and physics. In spite of this, there is a belief that he was a poor student. Perhaps this is due to the fact that he dropped out of school at the age of around 14 and rejoined his family who (f) *had* (g) *moved* to Italy. Then, during his higher education at the Zurich Polytechnic he skipped most of his classes, *hating* them because of the Polytechnic's regimented methods. (h) *He continued his studies alone.*

Unit 3 Compound adjectives

Use

Compound adjectives are used to condense a lot of information in few words. They are more common in writing than in speech.

There are two main types of compound adjectives:

- 1 Compound adjectives which are original to the text in which they occur. These words will not usually be found in a dictionary.
Example: **oil-rich** shales; hydrogen **fuel-cell** activity
- 2 Compound adjectives which are used so commonly that they have become part of the vocabulary of the English language. These words will usually be found in a dictionary
Example: a **short-sighted** policy = a policy which shows little thought for what is likely to happen in the future

Form

- 1 The most commonly used compound adjectives are formed in the following ways:
 - 1 adverb + adjective, eg **environmentally friendly**
 - 2 adverb + participle, eg **highly strung; well-known**
 - 3 adjective + participle, eg **best-selling; hard-working; ready-made; short-sighted**
 - 4 noun + participle, eg **king-sized; man-eating; face-saving**
 - 5 adjective + noun, eg **full-time; high-speed**
 - 6 noun + adjective, eg **accident-prone; lead-free; sugar-coated; tax-free**
- 2 Compound adjectives usually come before the noun they describe. However, they can also come after certain verbs.

Example: He's a **well-known** film star.
He's quite **well known**.

Practice

Replace the relative clause in italics. Use an appropriate compound adjective below.

environmentally friendly face-saving
hard-working high-speed lead-free
ready-made sugar-coated

- 0 Firms will compete to employ individuals with talent *who are willing to work hard*.
Firms will compete to employ hard-working individuals with talent.
- 1 There is an increased demand for products *which do not cause pollution*
- 2 Sales of petrol *which has no added lead* have soared in recent years.
- 3 Many doctors still prefer to prescribe tablets *which are covered in sugar* for children.
- 4 Many commuters now travel from London to Paris on trains *which travel very quickly*.
- 5 Foods *which have been prepared in advance* are a popular choice for working parents.
- 6 The government was forced to make a compromise *which would avoid further embarrassment*.

Unit 4 Defining and non-defining relative clauses

- 1 **Relative pronouns:** We form relative clauses using these relative pronouns: *which, who, whom, whose, that, where, when, why*. *Which, who* and *that* are used most frequently.

Example: Chocolate contains substances **which** are known to affect the hypothalamus.

Example: Men **who** eat modest amounts of chocolate live longer.

- 2 **Defining relative clauses:** these identify the person or thing we are talking about. They provide essential information in the sentence. In defining relative clauses we can use *that* in place of *who, whom* or *which*.

Example: Example: Chocolate contains substances **which/that** are known to affect the hypothalamus.

Example: Men **who/that** eat modest amounts of chocolate live longer.

Non-defining relative clauses: these add extra information or a second idea to the main idea. Non-defining relative clauses do not provide important or necessary information and are separated from the rest of the sentence with commas.

Example: Peter, **who/whom** I introduced you to last night, is the new Regional Manager.

We cannot replace the relative pronoun with *that*.

- 3 **Subject and object relative clauses**

The relative pronoun can replace the subject or the object of the relative clause.

Subject: Chocolate contains substances **which/that (they)** are known to affect the hypothalamus.

The subject relative pronoun is followed by a verb. We cannot leave out the pronoun.

Object: Chocolate is something **which/that/zero many people** feel guilty about eating (**it**).

The object relative pronoun is followed by another noun or pronoun. If the clause is defining we can leave out the relative pronoun altogether.

I see an excellent doctor, **who/whom** a colleague recommended.

Whom is more formal than *who*.

- 4 **Participle clauses:** In academic writing it is common to replace a relative clause with a clause containing a past or present participle.

With an active verb we use a present participle. When the active verb is progressive we leave out the relative pronoun and the verb *to be*.

Active verb: The woman ~~who is sitting~~ next to the door has been looking at you. Do you know her?

When the verb is passive we keep the past participle and leave out the relative pronoun and the verb *to be*.

Passive verb: The article ~~which was published~~ in yesterday's *Times* could be useful.

Note: We cannot reduce the relative clause when the relative pronoun is the object of the clause.

eg The man who(m) I was telling you about is over there, NOT

~~The man I telling you about is over there.~~

Practice

Are these sentences right (R) or wrong (W)? Correct those which are wrong.

- I was given a prescription for an acne medication which worked wonders for my complexion.
- There are powerful forces, that are affecting the way doctors treat their patients.
- Your doctor is not supposed to be an authority whom determines the course of action necessary.
- Many drugs are available as over-the-counter remedies that consumers choose them themselves.
- The patient has become like a customer ordering from a menu.
- A sick patient is visiting a healthy care-giver will be entering into a one-sided relationship.
- There is an inequality in the doctor-patient relationship that no amount of education can resolve it.
- Governments, that are worried about the increasing cost of medication, are reluctant to pay for it.
- Consumers, encouraged by drug companies, are becomingly increasingly confident about their ability to make medical decisions.

Unit 5 The passive

Use

- We use the passive when the person or thing responsible for the action, or the agent, is unknown, obvious or is less important than the action, event or process. The passive is commonly used in academic writing and in descriptions of processes.
- In many passive sentences the agent is not mentioned.
Hurricanes **are named** to avoid confusion about which storm **is being described**. (No agent).
- We do not mention the agent when the subject of the active sentence is a pronoun.
eg **We** name all tropical hurricanes. All tropical hurricanes are named **by us**.

Form

We form the passive using the verb *to be* in the same tense as the active verb followed by the past participle of the active verb. When the agent is mentioned we use the preposition *by*.

eg The scale for measuring wind speed *was devised by* Sir Francis Beaufort.

The most commonly used active-passive transformations are:

	Active	Passive
Present simple	identify / identifies	am / is / are identified
Present continuous	am / is / are identifying	am / is / are being identified
Present perfect	has / have identified	has / have been identified
Past simple	identified	was / were identified
Past continuous	was / were identifying	was / were being identified
Past perfect	had identified	had been identified
Future simple	will identify	will be identified
Future perfect	will have identified	will have been identified
Modal verbs	will / may / could etc. identify	will / may / could etc. be identified

Practice

- Put the verbs in brackets into an appropriate passive tense.

Did you know?

- To meet the demand for hardwood, 4.5 million hectares of rainforest **1** _____ (log) each year. Hardwoods take hundreds of years to mature, so they **2** _____ (cannot/easily/replace).
- Topsoil can take 1000 years to develop, and yet it **3** _____ (can/destroy) in less than 10 years.
- The rainforest contains such a density of plants that it **4** _____ (call) 'the lungs of the world'. The atmosphere on which life depends **5** _____ (create) by the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide which takes place when sunlight **6** _____ (convert) into energy.
- Forests absorb solar energy. Now that they are disappearing, the 'shininess' of the earth's surface **7** _____ (alter). As a consequence, in the near future wind currents and rainfall **8** _____ (disrupt) and weather patterns worldwide **9** _____ (affect).

Unit 6 Conditional sentences

Use

- We use **real** conditionals to talk about a possible situation and its result.
If/When you *boil* water, it *evaporates*. = The situation is always true.
If public awareness *is raised*, then real changes *will take* place. = The speaker believes that the change is likely if public awareness is raised.
- We use **unreal** conditionals to talk about unlikely, hypothetical or imaginary situations.
If tourists *were* more considerate, there *would be* far less damage to the environment. = The speaker believes it is unlikely that tourists will be considerate.
If laws *had been enacted* earlier, there *would be* fewer issues to discuss today. = The past cannot be changed.
- The modals used in conditionals are often *will* and *would*. However, other modals like *could*, *may* and *might* can be used to express less certainty about the result.
 - In first and second conditional main clauses we use *may*, *might* and *could* in similar ways to talk about possibility.

If X happens, then Y *could/may/might* happen.

- Could not* and *could not have done* can change the meaning of the main clause.
If tourism were banned, then many businesses *may/might not survive*. = It's possible that many businesses would not survive.
If tourism were banned, then many businesses *could not survive*. = It's certain that many businesses would be unable to survive.
- Unless has the same meaning as If ... not ...
If X *doesn't happen*, Y will happen = *Unless* X happens, Y will happen.

- Provided (that)* and *unless* cannot be used in unreal conditionals.

Unless new laws are enacted, future generations will pay the price.

~~*Unless new laws had been enacted, future generations would have paid the price.*~~

Provided new laws are enacted, future generations will have fewer worries.

~~*Provided new laws had been enacted, future generations would have had fewer worries.*~~

Form

- In real conditionals when the outcome is always true, we can use:

If/When + present tense, present simple
When it *snows/is snowing*, the children *love* to go outside to play.

When the outcome is likely to happen, we can use:

If + present, *will/could/may/might*
If you *tell/are telling* me the truth, I'll *forgive* you.

- In unreal conditionals when we talk about an unlikely or hypothetical situations in the future, we can use:

If + past simple/continuous, *would/could/may/might* + infinitive
If I *had* enough money, I'd *buy* a new car.

In more formal speech and writing we often use *were* in place of *was* after if:

eg If tourism *was/were* banned, businesses would be affected.

When we talk about an imaginary situation in the past, we can use:

If + past perfect, *would/could/may/might* have done/do

If you *had told* me the truth, I *could have forgiven/could forgive* you.

Practice

Re-write each sentence so that it contains the word in capitals.

- 0 Anyone who wishes to work in the tourist industry must speak English and one other language. IF
If you wish to work in the tourist industry, you must speak English and one other language.
- 1 The city was not chosen as the venue for the Olympics because the public transport system was inadequate. WOULD
- 2 Because governments don't invest enough money in protecting the environment, future generations will suffer the consequences. UNLESS
- 3 Assuming no delays, we should be at our destination by midday tomorrow. PROVIDED
- 4 Winning the lottery would allow me to travel the world. WON
- 5 The government ignored economic warnings and as a result the country is in recession. IF
- 6 Edward doesn't speak Spanish so he wasn't offered the job in South America. BEEN
- 7 Before the invention of the airplane travel to distant parts of the world was impossible for most people. WOULD
- 8 It's best not to apply for the job if you really don't want it. UNLESS

Unit 7 That - clauses

Use

- 1 *That* may be used as a conjunction which connects a clause to a larger sentence. *That* has no real meaning.
eg The Prime Minister has **announced that** he will step down.
eg Tests **show that** the drug is safe and effective.
- 2 Clauses beginning with *that* may:
 - 1 report speech, thoughts, feelings or information
eg The Prime Minister is **certain/confident** that the war will be won.
eg It is **unlikely that** he will prove to be correct.

Form

- 1 *That*-clauses can occur after verbs (*announced, show*) or adjectives (*certain, confident, unlikely*).
eg It is **hoped/unlikely** that the situation will improve.
- 2 *That*-clauses may follow verbs or adjectives in sentences beginning with *It*.
eg **The fact that unemployment has fallen** (sentence subject) does not necessarily mean that the economy is strong.
- 3 *That*-clauses which form the subject of a sentence may follow *The fact (that)...* or *In spite of/Despite the fact (that)...*
eg **The fact that unemployment has fallen** (sentence subject) does not necessarily mean that the economy is strong.
- 4 *That*-clauses should not be confused with defining relative clauses where the relative pronoun (*that, who, which, etc.*) replaces either the subject or object of the relative clause.
That - clause: It is clear *that immediate action must be taken*.
The clause following *that* contains all of its grammatical parts and could function independently as a sentence.
Relative clause: I have a number of ideas *that (they) could help to improve the situation*.
The relative pronoun *that* replaces the subject of the clause. The relative clause could not function independently as a sentence.
- 5 Some reporting verbs, eg *tell*, take a direct object before the *that*-clause.
eg Alex **said** that if I wanted the job I should apply for it.
eg Alex **told me** that if I wanted the job I should apply for it.

Practice

Put the verbs into the table. Use a dictionary to help you.

admit announce argue assume assure
claim convince deny estimate inform
insist persuade point out remind recognize

Verb + <i>that</i> -clause eg <i>say that</i>	Verb + Object + <i>that</i> -clause eg <i>tell someone that</i>

Unit 8 Linking expressions

Use

- 1 We use linking expressions to show:
 - a the relationships between ideas in a sentence or paragraph
 - b the structure of a text
- 2 We often use linking expressions in academic writing and argument to:
 - a show that an action, event or conclusion is a result or consequence of something: *so, *therefore, *thus, as a result.
 - b support (through an example) or restate information or arguments: *for example, **eg, that is, **ie, such as
 - c show a contrast between two ideas or between less important information and the main point: *although, *however, despite, in spite of, nevertheless, on the other hand, whereas / while
 - d list or add information or reasons to support an argument: first, second, lastly, *furthermore, in addition, as well as
 - e explain purpose: *in order to; in order / so that, *so as to
 - f to indicate a reason: because (of), since
- 3 Linking expressions are also used in academic writing to:
 - a express time: *when, after, before, until, as, since
 - b express a condition: *if, unless (See Unit 6)
*These expressions are common in academic writing.
**These expressions are not commonly used in academic writing.

Form

- 1 Conjunctions connect clauses to form a sentence.
eg He left his parent's home **because** he wanted to live independently.
Because he wanted to live independently, he left his parents' home.
 - a Some prepositions also act in this way, but prepositions are followed by a noun, eg *despite, in spite of, because of* + noun.
eg **Despite** growing up in a city, he preferred country living.
Despite the fact that he grew up in a city, he preferred country living.
 - b Some words can act as prepositions or conjunctions, eg *since*.
eg He hasn't lived at his parents' home **since** last month. (preposition)

Since he was no longer living at his parent's home, he was forced to spend less. (conjunction)

- c Some conjunctions can express more than one meaning, eg *as, since, while*.
eg **Since** he's left, the house has felt empty. (time)

Since he had to stop and change the tire, he was delayed. (reason)

- 2 Linking adverbials connect a sentence to another sentence or to a paragraph.
eg Finding somewhere to live can be difficult.
However, the more time and money you have to spend the easier it can be. **For example**, ...
 - a In academic writing, the most common place for the adverbial is at the front of the sentence. The next most common position is between the noun and the verb.
eg **Therefore**, our work here is finished.
Our work here, **therefore**, is finished.
 - b Most, but not all, adverbials at the front of a sentence are followed by a comma.

Practice

Complete the first part of a Task 2 essay with an appropriate linking expression.

Some people argue that city officials should provide public works of art, 1 ____ others argue that they should put resources into efficient services and an effective infrastructure, 2 ____ communications and transport systems.

3 ____ putting a focus on infrastructure seems sensible, it does not necessarily mean that this would always be in the best interests of the city. In many cities, public art attracts people, 4 ____ making them popular locations to work and visit. 5 ____, the popularity of London is partly due to the famous buildings and statues, 6 ____ the city having some serious infrastructure problems with an aging underground and a congested road system.

7 ____, I believe that public art is a major factor in a city retaining a skilled workforce and remaining an attractive destination for tourists.

Unit 9 Talking about the future

- 1 For some of the ways in which we refer to the future in English see Unit 1.
- 2 When we are talking about future events there is always a degree of certainty attached to what we say. We use *will* and *shall* to show that we are very certain that an event will take place. Other modals like *may*, *might* and *could* show that we are less certain about the likelihood of an event.
eg By 2050 the world's population **will have exceeded** 1 billion in number. (The speaker is certain.)
By 2050 the world's population **may have exceeded** 1 billion in number. (The speaker is less certain.)
- 3 We also use expressions like *certainly*, *(un)likely*, *probably* and *possibly* to show how certain we are about something happening.
eg They'll **probably be** late, because they nearly always are, NOT ~~They may probably be late~~.

Form

- 1 We form the future perfect using *will have + past participle*.
eg By next year I'll **have finished** my College course.
- 2 We form the future continuous using *will be + present participle*.
eg By 2050 the majority of the world's population **will be living** in cities.
- 3 We say *X will probably/definitely/certainly + infinitive ...*, but *X probably/definitely/certainly won't + infinitive ...*
eg He **will probably be** late BUT
He **probably won't be** on time.

Complete these sentences. Use either the future perfect or the future continuous.

- 1 In the next century, people (live) on the moon.
- 2 By 2050, scientists (discover) how to turn lead into gold.
- 3 Twenty years from now, doctors (produce) the first human clone.
- 4 In the 21st century people (use) virtual technology for home entertainment, in place of television.
- 5 By 2010 all fuel-burning engines (replace) by 'greener' energy devices.
- 6 By 2100 humans (travel) to different galaxies to explore and colonize.

Unit 10 Articles

- 1 The indefinite article (*a/an*) is used with singular countable nouns. We use *a/an*
 - a when the person or thing is new to the reader/listener because the person or thing
 - has not been mentioned before.
 - is not already known to the reader/listener.
 - b when we mean any person or thing of a particular type.
eg You need **a dictionary** for this exercise.
 - c when we say what type, class or group something belongs to, or what job someone has.
eg My father is **a computer programmer**.
 - d with a singular countable noun when we use one example to make a generalization. Note that zero article with a plural noun has a similar meaning.
eg **A computer** needs to be checked occasionally for viruses. or **Computers** need to be checked regularly for viruses.
 - e with some expressions of quantity, eg *a few*, *a lot*, *a great deal*
- 2 The definite article (*the*) is used with countable and uncountable nouns. We use *the*:
 - a when the reader/listener knows which person or thing we are referring to because:
 - the person or thing has been mentioned before.
 - it is obvious because there is only one, eg *the sun*, *the earth*, *the beginning/end*
 - it is clear from the context or situation.
eg Would you open **the window**, please?
 - b with singular countable nouns when we make a general statement about a class or group of people or things. Note that we can use the zero article in the same way.
eg **The car** is a popular means of transport. or **Cars** are a popular means of transport.
 - c when we refer to parts of a thing or parts of the body.
eg Using a computer can cause injury to **the wrists and arms**.
 - d before dates or periods of time, eg *the 12th of September*, *the 1980's*.
 - e when we explain which person or thing we are referring to by using a relative clause or a prepositional phrase,
eg **The school** which I attend specializes in Information Technology.

f before an adjective to form a noun which refers to a group or class.
eg **The rich** have better access to information than **the poor**.

g Other uses:

- before superlative adjectives, eg *the most efficient system*
- before the names of seas, deserts, rivers or groups of mountains, eg *the Pacific Ocean, the Thames, the Sahara, the Alps*
- before plural countries and republics, eg *the United States, the Republic of China*

3 Zero article (Ø) is used with uncountable and plural countable nouns when we are referring to people or things in a general way.

eg **Information** is widely available. (information in general)

The information they sent was misleading. (specific information)

Other uses:

- before institutions in general, eg She is in (Ø) hospital. He goes to (Ø) school.
- when talking about travelling by a particular form of transport; eg I travel to work by (Ø) car, bus, etc.
- before the names of individual mountains or lakes, eg the Himalayas but (Ø) Mount Everest; the Great Lakes but (Ø) Lake Superior
- before the names of streets, towns, countries, counties, states or continents, eg I come from (Ø) Canada.
- before the names of meals, eg What time is (Ø) dinner?

Practice

Complete the text. Use *a/an, the* or leave the space blank.

Research into mass communication research started at 1 ____ beginning of 2 ____ twentieth century. However, it was not until after 3 ____ Second World War in 4 ____ United States that 5 ____ possibility of 6 ____ communication science was first discussed. In fact, it was 7 ____ mathematician, Claude Shannon, who first provided the stimulus to 8 ____ social scientists to think about 9 ____ communication in model form.

INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM



UNIVERSITY of CAMBRIDGE
ESOL Examinations

WRITING ANSWER BOOKLET

Candidate Name: Candidate Number:

Centre Number: Date:

Module: ACADEMIC ☐ GENERAL TRAINING ☐ (Tick as appropriate)

TASK 1

EXAMINER'S USE ONLY

EXAMINER 2 NUMBER:

CANDIDATE NUMBER:

EXAMINER 1 NUMBER:

EXAMINER 2
TASK 1

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

EXAMINER 1
TASK 1

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

[illegible]

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	
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UNDERLENGTH		NO OF WORDS		PENALTY	
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