

IELTS

WRITE RIGHT

TASK 2

In Writing Task 2 of both the Academic and General Training modules you will be expected to write 250 words or more expressing your opinion about a given topic. The vast majority of IELTS Writing Task 2 questions are about trends or problems in society. It is essential that you learn to distinguish between these two: global tourism is a trend because it has both positive and negative aspects (it is both good and bad), while pollution is a problem because it only has negative aspects (it is all bad). IELTS writing questions related to such societal trends and problems generally come in the following forms:

1. Do you Agree or Disagree?

You may be asked whether you agree or disagree with a given statement and requested to give reasons for your answer. This type of question can be expressed in the following two ways:

Form A: What are your opinion on this?

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Writing about the following topic:

International tourism is now more common than ever before. Some feel that this is a positive trend, while others do not.

What are your opinions on this?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Form B Do you agree or disagree?

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Men and women are different in term of their characteristics and abilities. For this reason, some jobs are better done by men and others by women.

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.

2. Discuss Causes, Effects and/or Solutions.

Some IELTS writing tasks will require you to discuss the causes, effects and/or solutions to a topical , societal issue.

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many people believe that educational standards have declined in recent times, particularly in the area of literacy and numeracy.

Discuss the causes of this problem and offer some possible solutions to it

Write at least 250 words

What Are Your Opinions on This?

Question 11	The Internet
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WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

The Internet has dramatically altered our lives over the past few decades. Although some of these changes have been negative, the overall effect of this technology has been positive.

What are your opinions on this?

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

Write at least 250 words

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5

There are various different opinions on the subject of the Internet. While some people might suggest that it has negatively affected our lives and society, I personally believe that it has actually made the world a much better place. In my opinion, there are two main benefits to this technology.

Firstly, I am sure most people would agree that the Internet has improved the way we communicate. Although spending too much time using the Internet instead of talking to real people can cause social isolation, most of us have benefited greatly from e-mail and internet chat programs like MSN Messenger. These useful and powerful communication tools have made it much faster, easier and cheaper to keep in touch with family and friends in other countries (and also to do international business).

In addition to this, the Internet provides us with all of the information in the world at work, school and home. In the past, research involved spending many hours in the library. Now, however, the same information is available online. Of course, not all of the material on the Internet is offensive and some of it is dangerous – there is everything from pornography to instructions on how to make bombs. Nevertheless, I feel that this free movement and sharing of information has generally been beneficial.

To conclude, I once again restate my view that the Internet has had a positive influence on modern life because of its effects on both communication and the flow of information.

(259 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7

The Internet has brought significant changes to our lives in recent years. Yet, there remains some disagreement as to whether the overall effect of this technology has been positive or negative. While there are certainly valid arguments to the contrary, I personally believe that the benefits of the Internet far outweigh its drawbacks. These benefits are twofold.

First of all, it is an indisputable fact that the Internet has revolutionized the way we communicate. Despite the risk of social isolation – a problem occasionally seen in people who spend too much time at their computer terminal rather than relating to people in the real world – most of us have benefited greatly from e-mail and internet chat programs like MSN Messenger. These incredibly useful and powerful tools of communication facilitate both contact with loved ones in faraway places and global trade.

Equally importantly, though, the Internet has placed the entire world (and all of the information in it) at our fingertips. In earlier times, conducting research entailed long hours searching library shelves. Now, however, the same information can be accessed at the click of a button.

Admittedly, not all of the information available on the Internet is reliable or helpful – there is a vast amount of material online that some would consider offensive or dangerous, ranging from pornography to instructions on how to make bombs. Nonetheless, I would contend that this free flow of information has generally been a very positive development.

By way of conclusion, I once again reaffirm my position that the Internet has had a positive impact on modern life because of its influence on communication and the flow of information

(272 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	The Internet has dramatically changed our lives in recent times
	IELTS 6	The Internet has caused dramatic changes in our lives in recent years
	IELTS 7⁺	The Internet has brought significant changes to our lives in recent years
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	But people still disagree about whether the effect of the Internet has been good or bad
	IELTS 6	However, there is still some disagreement about whether the overall effect of the Internet has been good or bad
	IELTS 7⁺	Yet, there remains some disagreement as to whether the overall effect of this technology has been positive or negative
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	First, most people would agree that the Internet has improved the way we communicate
	IELTS 6	Firstly, most people would disagree that the Internet has greatly improved the way we communicate
	IELTS 7⁺	First of all, it is an indisputable fact that the Internet has revolutionized the way we communicate
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	It is true that spending too much time using the Internet is dangerous because it can cause social problems. However, e-mail and internet chat programs like MSN Messenger have helped most of us
	IELTS 6	Although there is some danger of social isolation (a problem that we sometimes see in people who spend too much time online instead of talking to real people), e-mail and internet chat programs like MSN Messenger have brought great benefits to most of us

	IELTS 7⁺	Despite the risk of social isolation-a problem occasionally seen in people who spend too much time at their computer terminal rather than relating to people in the real world-most of us have benefited greatly from e-mail and internet chat programs like MSN Messenger
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	But I feel that this free movement of information has been a very positive trend
	IELTS 6	However, I would argue that this free movement of information has generally been a very positive trend
	IELTS 7⁺	Nonetheless, I would contend that this free flow of information has generally been a very positive development
Sentence 6	IELTS 6	In conclusion, I restate my opinion that the Internet has positively influenced modern life because of its effect on communication and the movement of information
	IELTS 7⁺	By way of conclusion, I once again reaffirm my position that the Internet has had a positive impact on modern life because of its influence on communication and the flow of information

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Opinion (n.)	Position (n.)	
Change (n./v.)		Alter (v.)
Affect (v.) Effect (n.)	Influence (v./n.)	Impact (v./n.)
	Believe (v.) Feel (v.)	
	Improve (v.)	Revolutionize (v.)
Talk to		Relate to
	Communication (n.) Contact (n./v.)	
	Instead of	Rather than
Family and friends		Loved ones
Other countries		Faraway places
	International business	Global trade
	In the past	In earlier times
	Involve (v.)	Entail (v.)
	(be) available	Can be accessed
	Of course	Admittedly (adv.)
	Much of	A vast amount of
True (adj.)		Reliable (adj.)
Helpful (adj.) Useful (adj.)		
		Nevertheless (adv.) Nonetheless (adv.)
	To conclude	By way of conclusion
		Reaffirm (v.) Restate (v.)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. What is Question 11 about?
 - A. The causes of a problem in society
 - B. The effects of a societal trend
 - C. The effects of a problem in society

Question 2-4 refer to the following three simplified sentences (from paragraph 2 of both model answers)

- I. **These communication tools help us to keep in touch with people in other countries.**
- II. **E-mail and chat programs like MSN Messenger are especially useful.**
- III. **The Internet certainly makes it easier to communicate**

2. Put the above sentences in the correct order.
 - A. II./I./III.
 - B. I./II./III.
 - C. III./II./I.
3. Which of these sentences is the most general?
 - A. i.
 - B. ii.
 - C. iii.
4. What does the phrase “**these communication tools**” (see Model Answer A) refer to?
 - A. E-mail and chat programs like MSN Messenger
 - B. The Internet
 - C. People in other countries
5. What verb tense does the writer use in these essays?
 - A. Past and present tense
 - B. Past tense
 - C. Past, present perfect and present tense

6. Which of the following sentences is grammatically correct (see Model Answer B)?
- A. The Internet has brought significant changes to our lives in recent years.
 - B. The Internet has brought significant changes to our life in recently
 - C. The Internet brought significant changes to our lives recent years
7. Which of the following sentence is grammatically correct (see Model Answer A)?
- A. In the past, research had involved spending many hours in the library.
 - B. In the past, research has involved spending many hours in the library.
 - C. In the past, research involved spending many hours in the library.

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

8. The writer says what other people think before offering his own opinion
(see Model Answer A)
9. In Model Answer B, the word “**benefit**” is used as both a noun and a verb.
10. In Model Answer B, “**pornography**” is an example of “**offensive or dangerous material**”

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. B

The Internet has advantages and disadvantages, so it is a trend not a problem

2. C

The first sentence (iii.) says that the Internet makes it easier to communicate; the second (ii.) gives examples of internet communication; and the last sentence (i.) says how these programs help us.

3. C

You should start each paragraph with a general sentence and then give specific examples to support it.

4. A

5. C

Any time you need to talk about changes between the past and the present, you will probably need these three tenses

6. A

Any time you write “**recently**” or “**in recent times**”, you will probably need to use present perfect tense (has/have done). Also, the plural form of “**life**” is “**lives**”

7. C

Whenever you write “*in the past*” or “*in earlier times*”, you will probably need to use past tense.

8. YES

This makes the writer’s opinion seem stronger.

9. YES

“**Benefit**” can be a noun or a verb. The adjective is “**beneficial**”

10. YES

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic:

Fast food is now universally in most countries and is becoming increasingly popular.

Some feel that this is a positive trend, while others do not.

What are your opinions in this?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5⁺

There are various different perspectives on the issue of fast food. Some people believe that this kind of food has a positive role to play in the world because of its convenience and low cost; however, I would argue that it is harmful both to the people who eat it and to society at large. There are two main reasons for this

Firstly, it is a well-known fact that eating too much fast food is extremely unhealthy. Foods such as fried chicken, hamburgers and chips contain a great deal of fat and salt, which cause major health problems like high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease, although I certainly agree that fast food is both cheap and convenient, the illnesses it causes when we get older are very expensive and it is the taxpayer who often has to pay for this treatment

In addition to this, many fast food restaurants advertise to children in order to influence their future eating habits. The McDonalds clown is a good example of this kind of advertising. Ronald McDonald's bright clothes and smile are clearly designed to attract the attention of children, who then push their parents to take them to McDonalds. I believe the restaurant does this because it feels that children who grow up eating in McDonalds also provides playgrounds and holds children's birthday parties to get busy parents through the door

In conclusion, I once again restate my view that fast food has a negative effect on our lives because of the health programs it causes and the way that fast food chains try to change the eating habits of children.

(278 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

The past 50 years have seen a dramatic increase in the availability of fast food. Some laud its convenience and relatively low cost; however, in this essay I intend to argue that this kind of food is detrimental both to the individuals that consume it and to society at large. There are two primary reasons for this.

First of all, it is an undeniable fact that consuming fast food to excess results in serious health problems. Foods such as fried chicken, hamburgers and chips – which are incredibly high in fat and salt are responsible for such ailments as high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease. Moreover, although I certainly agree that fast food is both affordable and convenient, the cost and inconvenience of treating the illnesses it causes in later life are significant. In other words, while fast food is beneficial in the short term, its long-term effects are generally negative.

Further and even more importantly, though, some fast food chains deliberately attempt to attract children in order to shape their future eating habits. One particularly good example of this is the character Ronald McDonald the bright clothes and smile of the McDonalds clown are a beacon to children. Having grown up eating in McDonalds restaurants, people are likely to continue eating there throughout their adult lives. It is also interesting to note that McDonalds provides playgrounds and frequently holds children's birthday parties in order to attract young children and their parents.

By way of conclusion, I believe that fast food will continue to become more popular as the pace of life increases. Given the health risks associated with this trend, I believe that public education campaigns warning people about the dangers of fast food would be warranted

(288 words.)

Model sentences structure.

sentence 1	IELTS 5	Fast food is now much more widely available than it was 50 years ago
	IELTS 6	in the past 50 years the availability of fast food has increased dramatically
	IELTS 7+	The past 50 years have seen a dramatic increase in the availability of fast food
sentence 2	IELTS 6	some people feel that this kind of food plays a positive role in the world because it is convenient and cheap
	IELTS 7+	Some people believe that this kind of food has a positive role to play in the world because of its convenience and low cost
sentence 3	IELTS 5	But I believe that this kind of food is bad for the people who eat it and also for society
	IELTS 6	however, in this essay I will argue this kind of food is harmful both to individuals who eat it and to society in general.
	IELTS 7+	however, in this essay I intend to argue that this kind of food is detrimental both to the individuals that consume it and to society at large
sentence 4	IELTS 5	As everybody knows, fast food is very unhealthy
	IELTS 6	firstly, it is a well-know fact that eating too much fast food cause serious health problems.
	IELTS 7+	first of all, it is an undeniable fact that eating fast food to excess results in serious health problems
sentence 5	IELTS 5	Food like fried chicken, hamburgers and chips contain large amounts of fat and salt. They cause illnesses like high blood pressure, weight problems and heart disease.
	IELTS 6	Foods such as fried chicken, hamburgers and chips are very high in fat and salt. These foods are responsible for ailments like high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease.
	IELTS 7+	foods such as fried chicken, hamburgers and chips which are incredibly high in fat and salt are responsible for such ailments as high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease.

Academic Vocabulary

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
	cause(n.V)	(be) responsible for /result in
	harmful(adj)	detrimental
	firstly(adv)	
	first of all	
too much		to excess
		(be) incredibly high in fat/ contain a great deal of fat
	illness	ailment
	serious health problem	major health problem
	when we get older	in later life
	although(conj) while(conj)	
cheap(adj)		affordable
	in addition to this	further and even more importantly, though,
	believe (v) feel(v)	
	interestingly(adv)	it is interesting to note that
eat(v)		consume(v)
	in conclusion	by way of conclusion
	danger(n)	risk(n)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. Question 12 asks you to write about:
 - a. The effects of a societal problem
 - b. The causes of a problem in society
 - c. The positive and negative effects of a societal trend
2. Choose the best title for these two essays.
 - a. Fast food is a bad things
 - b. Fast food is a good things
 - c. Fast food is unhealthy
3. Choose the best summary of Model answer B
 - a. We should warn people about the dangers of fast food. It is unhealthy and fast food chains try to change children's eating habits. Fast food is a bad things.
 - b. Fast food is a bad thing. It is unhealthy and fast food chains try to change children's eating habit. We should warn people about the dangers of fast food.
 - c. Fast food is unhealthy and fast food chains try to change children's eating habits. Fast food is a bad thing. We should warn people about the dangers of fast food.
4. In Model Answer B, the word "**laud**" means:
 - a. Dislike
 - b. Discuss
 - c. Welcome
5. Which of the following statements is grammatically correct?
 - a. This kind of foods have a positive role to play in the world because it is convenience
 - b. This kind of food has a positive role to play in the world because of it is convenient
 - c. This kind of food has a positive role to play in the world because of its convenience
6. In paragraph 2 of both model answers, "**obesity**" means:
 - a. Fatness
 - b. Overeating
 - c. Fat
7. In the phrase "**having grown up eating in McDonalds restaurants**" (see model answer B) the word "**having**" means:
 - a. Before
 - b. After

c. During

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

8. In these essays, the writer says that the growing popularity of fast food is a positive trend.
9. **“Because of”** is exactly the same **“given”**
10. In model Answer B, the writer uses the word **“moreover”** in the middle of a paragraph.
11. **“A great deal of”** means **“a little”**
12. The writer makes a suggestion in the conclusion of Model Answer B

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. C : **“Societal trend”** means **“trend in society”**
2. A : the writer says this at the end of paragraphs 1 using different words: **“it (fast food) is harmful both to the people who eat it and to society at large”**. You should always state your opinion at the end of your introduction.
3. B : you should plan your essay by writing this kind of summary on a separate piece of paper before you start writing the actual essay.
4. C : **“laud”** means to **“like”** and **“welcome”** a new trend or development
5. C : **“Because of”** must be followed by a noun such as **“convenience”**
6. A : **“Fatness”** is not a real word in English. You must write **“obesity”** instead.
7. B
8. NO : the writer says that the popularity of fast food is a negative trend.
9. Yes: look at question 5 to see how to use **“because of”**
10. Yes: the writer uses this word in the middle of the paragraph to make a stronger point on the same topic. This is the best place for it.
11. NO: it means **“a lot”**
12. Yes: this is often a good way to conclude.

WRITING TASK 2:

International tourism is now more common than ever before. Some feel that this is a positive trend, while others do not.

What are your opinions on this?

MODEL ANSWER a: IELTS band 5+

International tourism has increased considerably in the last 50 years. While this industry has certainly created a great deal of wealthy for many destination countries, I believe that it has actually caused far more problems than it has solved. The following are just two of the main difficulties involved with international tourism.

One particularly serious issue is that international travel has brought western problems to developing countries. Only wealthy people can afford to travel overseas. As a result, increasing numbers of tourists from rich(mostly western) countries now holiday in poorer countries like Thailand and Indonesia. In many of these places, this flood of tourists is closely associated with such problems as prostitution, alcoholism and drug abuse. Although international tourism can certainly bring people together and create greater cross-cultural understanding, this will probably not happen while it is still such a powerful sign of western power and lack of moral standards.

Even more worrying, however, is the damage that international tourism has caused to the environment in many parts of the world. Australia's great Barrier Reef is an especially good example of this – large areas of coral reef have been slowly destroyed by the thousands of boats, scuba divers and snorkelers that have visited it over the years. Likewise, Bali's famous Kuta Beach is now often covered in litter from the crowds who go there. In order to maintain such tourist attractions, I feel we must regulate international tourism more carefully.

To conclude, it is clear that the difficulties created by the growing international tourist trade are complicated and many. While they are certainly not impossible to overcome, I believe these problems will probably continue for some time.

(278 words.)

Model Answer B : 7+

The past 50 years have seen a considerable increase in global tourism. Despite the undeniable economic prosperity it has brought to many host countries, I would argue that the overall impact of international holiday making has in fact been negative. Two of the primary drawbacks associated with this trend are as follows.

First of all, global tourism tends to export many negative aspects of western culture. Since it is only the wealthy who can afford to travel abroad, developing countries like Thailand and Indonesia have become the playgrounds of tourists from more affluent ones. In many such nations, this influx of mainly western tourists has brought with it problems such as prostitution as well as alcoholism and drug abuse. Admittedly, international tourism does have the potential to foster greater understanding and tolerance between people of different cultures. However, this is unlikely to occur while it remains such a potent symbol of western cultural domination and moral decadence.

Even more disturbing, though, is the environmental degradation that international tourism has caused in many parts of the world. One particularly salient example of this is Great Barrier Reef in Australia – the countless boats, divers and snorkellers that have visited the reef over the past few decades have gradually destroyed vast sections of coral. Similarly, world renowned Kuta Beach in Bali has become heavily polluted in recent years. In order to be sustainable, greater regulation of global tourism is required.

In conclusion, the challenges presented by the booming international tourist industry are numerous and complex. Although they are by no means insurmountable, it is highly unlikely that they will be resolved in the foreseeable future.

(272 words)

Model sentences structure.

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	I will now discuss two of the main problems caused by international tourism
	IELTS 6	the following are just two of the main difficulties involved with international tourism
	IELTS 7	two of the primary drawbacks associated with this trend are as follows
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	because of only rich people have enough money to travel overseas, poorer countries like Thailand and Indonesia have become the playgrounds of richer ones.
	IELTS 6	As it is only the rich that can afford to holiday overseas, poorer countries such as Thailand and Indonesia have become the playgrounds of wealthier nations.
	IELTS 7	Since it is only the wealthy who can afford to travel abroad, developing countries like Thailand and Indonesia have become the playgrounds of tourists from more affluent ones.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	In many of these countries, this increasing number of visitors (mostly from western countries) has caused problems like prostitution, alcoholism and drug abuse.
	IELTS 6	In many such countries, this flood of mostly western tourists has created problems like prostitution along with alcoholism and drug abuse.
	IELTS 7	In many such nations, this influx of mainly western tourists has brought with it problems such as prostitution as well as alcoholism and drug abuse.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	However, the damage that global tourism has caused to the environment in many places is even more worrying.
	IELTS 6	Even more worrying, however, is the damage that international tourism has caused to the environment in many parts of the world.
	IELTS 7	Even more disturbing, though, is the environmental degradation that international tourism has caused in many parts of the world.

Sentence 5	IELTS 5	Australia's Great Barrier Reef is an especially good example of this - large areas of coral reef have been slowly destroyed by the thousands of boats, scuba divers and snorkellers that have visited it over the years.
	IELTS 6	one especially good example of this is Australia's Great Barrier Reef - the numerous boats, divers and snorkellers who have been there in recent years have slowly destroyed large areas of coral reef.
	IELTS 7	One particularly salient example of this is the Great Barrier Reef in Australia - the countless boats, divers and snorkelers that have visited the reef over the past few decades have gradually destroyed vast sections of coral.
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	They are certainly not impossible to overcome, but I believe these problems will probably continue for some time.
	IELTS 6	They are certainly not insurmountable; however, it is very unlikely that they will be solved in the near future.
	IELTS 7	Although they are by no mean insurmountable, it is highly unlikely that they will be resolved in the foreseeable future.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
last (adj)	past(adj)	
international(adj)	global (adj)	
	although (conj) while (conj)	
	industry (n)	
	trade (n)	
	wealth (n)	prosperity(n)
country (n)	nation (n)	
	destination country/ host country	
travel (n)	tourism(n)	holidaymaking(n)
actually(adv.)	in fact	
	bring problems/ cause problems	create difficulties
	create wealth	bring economic prosperity
solve(v)	resolve(v)	
main (adj)		primary(adj)
many (adj)	numerous (adj)	countless (adj)
problem (n)	difficulty(n)	challenge(n)
	involved with	associated with
rich(adj)	wealthy(adj)	affluent(adj)
overseas (adj/adv)	abroad(adj/adv)	
visit (v)	holiday in	
poorer country	developing country	
like/such as		
flood (N)		influx (n)
	mostly (adv)	mainly(adv)
and	as well as	
	not likely	highly unlikely
powerful(adj)		potent(adj)
sign(n)		symbol (n)
power(n)		domination(n)

	lack of moral standards	moral decadence
	worrying(adj)	disturbing (adj)
	however (conj)/ though	
	damage (n)	degradation(n)
	especially (adv)	particularly(adv)
good example		salient example
	large(adj)	vast (adj)
slowly (adv)	gradually(adv)	
area (n)	section(n)	
	likewise(adv)/similarly (adv)	
famous (adj)		world renowned
growing		booming (adj)
complicated (adj)	complex (adj)	
	certainly not	by no mean
	impossible to overcome	insurmountable (adj)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. Question 13 asks you to:
 - a. Say why tourism is a negative trend
 - b. Discuss how travel affects holidaymakers
 - c. Agree or disagree that tourism is a negative trend and give reasons for your view

Questions 2-4 refer to the following three simplified sentences (taken from model Answer B).

- i. The countries these tourists visit include Indonesia and Thailand.
- ii. Rich western tourists bring certain problems to the places they visit.
- iii. The problems they bring include drug abuse, alcoholism and prostitution.

2. Put the above sentences in the correct order.
 - a. Iii/ii/i
 - b. Ii/i/iii

- c. i/ii/iii
3. which of the above sentences gives examples of less affluent nations?
- a. i.
 - b. ii.
 - c. lii.
4. Which of the above sentences is the topic sentence (the most general sentence)?
- a. i.
 - b. ii.
 - c. lii.
5. Which of the following statements is grammatically wrong?
- A. People in some place believe that western tourists lack moral standards.
 - B. People in some places believe that western tourists lack of moral standards
 - C. There is a lack of moral standards among some western tourists.
6. In Model Answer B, “**is unlikely to**” means:
- A. will probably not
 - B. might
 - C. will probably

Answer these questions by writing YES or No

7. The word “**insurmountable**” (see Model Answer B) means “**cannot be overcome**”
8. In the introduction to Model Answer B, the writer says that tourism has damaged the environment.
10. The phrase “**as a result**” (see Model Answer A) is a more formal (and better) way to say “**so**”.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. C

2. B

Note that the sentences become progressively more specific

3. A

“**Thailand**” and “**Indonesia**” are examples of poorer (less affluent) countries.

4. B

5. B

“**Lack**” can be a verb or a noun. In the phrase “**a lack of**” the word “**lack**” a noun. You could write, “**They lack moral standards**” or “**There is a lack of moral standards among these people**”

6. A

7. YES

8. YES

The writer says that global tourism has brought “**economic prosperity**” to many countries.

9. YES

“**Environmental degradation**” means “**environmental damage**”

10. YES

Writing task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic:

Nowadays, more people are migrating to other countries than ever before. In order to become integrated into society in their adopted countries, immigrants should abandon their old ways and adapt to local customs and codes of behavior.

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.

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

There are a variety of different opinions on whether or not immigrants should change their behavior to fit in with their new country. Although some people would no doubt disagree, I personally believe that newcomers should indeed try to adapt. In my view, this means following both the written laws and social customs of their adopted country. There are two primary reasons for this.

Firstly, it is obvious that society would not function properly if newcomers did not obey the law. One particularly good example of this is road rules – imagine what would happen if people refused to drive on the same side of the road. Thus, it is necessary for immigrants to make sure that they obey the law in their new country even if laws in their home country are different. Two other examples of things which are allowed in some countries but illegal in others are owning a gun and gambling.

Secondly, it is important to remember that societies are built on shared values. The social rules of a country are the glues that keep it together, so immigrants must respect them. Certainly, having many different cultures makes a country more interesting; however, I would argue that too much difference weakens a society by making people feel that they do not belong there. I believe that similarities between people bring them together, while their differences pull them apart. A healthy society is a society with strong sense of unity.

In conclusion, I once again restate my belief that new immigrants to a country must try to adjust to local rules of behavior. As the old saying goes: “When in Rome, do as the Romans do”

(280 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

These days, it seems that more people are migrating to other countries than ever before. This raises certain questions about the integration of newcomers into society. Although there are valid arguments to the contrary, in this paper I will argue that it is the responsibility of immigrants to adapt to accepted rules of behavior in their adopted country, both written and unwritten. The reasons for this are twofold.

Firstly, it is vitally important that newcomers observe the laws of their adopted country for the sake of social order. Imagine the chaos that would ensue if people refused to drive on the same side of the road. It is, therefore, necessary for all-immigrants to ensure that they observe the law in their new country regardless of any differences to laws in their home country. Two further instances of practices which are permitted in some countries but prohibited in others are the possession of firearms and gambling.

Secondly and more importantly, though, in order to maintain societal cohesion it is essential that newcomers respect the social norms of their adopted country. Of course, having a mixture of different cultures and traditions gives a country color and vibrancy; however, I would contend that too much cultural diversity undermines a society by alienating people from each other. It is my belief that similarities unite people, whereas differences have a tendency to divide. A strong society is a homogenous society with shared values and goals.

By way of conclusion, I believe that this issue is likely to become even more important in the future as borders between countries become increasingly blurred. It, therefore, demands further consideration.

(273 words)

Model sentence structure

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	First, if we want society to run smoothly, immigrants must follow the rules of their new country
	IELTS 6	Firstly, it is very important that immigrants obey the laws of their new country to maintain order in society
	IELTS 7	Firstly, it is vitally important that newcomers observe the laws of their adopted country for the sake of social order
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	So immigrants should follow the rules in their new country even if laws in their home country are different.
	IELTS 6	Therefore, immigrants need to make sure that they obey the law in their new country despite any differences to laws in their home country.
	IELTS 7	It is, therefore, necessary for all immigrants to ensure that they obey the law in their new country regardless of any differences to laws in their home country.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	It is true that different cultures makes a country more interesting, but I believe that too much difference makes it weak by making people feel that they do not fit in there
	IELTS 6	Certainly, having many cultures makes a country more interesting; however, I would argue that too much difference weakens a society by making people feel that they do not belong there
	IELTS 7	Of course, having a mixture of different cultures and traditions gives a country color and vibrancy; however, I would contend that too much cultural diversity undermines a society by alienating people from each other.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	I believe that things we have in common bring us together, but difference pull us apart.
	IELTS 6	I believe that similarities between people unite them, while their differences divide them
	IELTS 7	It is my belief that similarities unite people, whereas difference have a tendency to divide
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	To conclude, I think this question will be even more important in the future because the lines between countries are slowly disappearing
	IELTS 6	In conclusion, I believe that this issue will probably become even more important in the future as borders between countries become less and less clear.
	IELTS 7	By way of conclusion, I believe that this issue is likely to become even more important in the future as borders between countries become increasingly blurred.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic 5	Intermediate 6	Advanced 7
	immigrant (n.) newcomer (n.)	
rule of behavior/ social rule	social custom	social norm
fit in		adapt (v.) adjust (v.)
new country		adopted country
rule (n.)	law (n.)	
	obey the law	observe the law
	therefore (adv.)	thus (adv.)
important (adj.)	necessary (adj.)	essential (adj.) vitaly important
make sure		ensure (v.)
example (n.)		instance (v.)
	allow (v.)	permit (v.)
	illegal (adj.)	prohibited (adj.)
own (v.)		possess (v.)
gun (n.)		firearm (n.)
	social (adj.)	societal (adj.)
	in conclusion	by way of conclusion

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these question by circling A, B or C

1. Choose the best heading for these essays.
 - A. Immigrants should drive on the same side of the road as locals.
 - B. Newcomers should try to adapt to local ways.
 - C. Immigrants should observe the social rules of their adopted country.
2. Choose the best summary for Model Answer B.
 - A. Immigrants should try to fit in. Society needs written laws. It also needs social rules. This issue will become even more important in the future
 - B. This issue will become even more important in the future. Society needs social rules. It also needs written laws. Immigrants should try to fit in.
 - C. Society needs written laws. It also needs social rules. This issue will become even more important in the future. Immigrants should try to fit in.
3. Which of these is the strongest?
 - A. Should
 - B. Must
 - C. Have to
4. Which of the following sentences is grammatically wrong (see both model answers)?
 - A. Imagine the chaos that would ensue if people refused to drive on the same side of the road.
 - B. Image the problems it would cause if people refused to drive on the same side of the road.
 - C. Image what would happen if people refused to drive on the same side of the road.
5. The word **“chaos”** (see Model Answer B) is:
 - A. A verbs
 - B. An adjective
 - C. A noun

Answer these questions by writing Yes or No

6. **“Imagine what would happen”** (see Model Answer A) is exactly the same as **“Imagine what will happen”**.
7. The writer concludes Model Answer A with the English proverb, **“When in Rome, do as the Romans do”**. You can also use Vietnamese proverbs in your essays.
8. The word **“whereas”** (see Model Answer B) is similar to **“but”**.
9. The noun **“homogenous”** (see Model Answer B) means **“all the same kind”**

10. “Increasingly blurred” (see Model Answer B) means “less and less clear”

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. B

This means that immigrants should change and try to fit in with local customs.

2. A

You should write this kind of summary as a plan before you write your essay. Each sentence in the summary represents one paragraph in your essay.

3. C

“**Should**” is used to suggest; “**must**” is used to make a strong suggestion; and “**have to**” is used to talk about an obligation (something you have no choice in) or give an order.

4. B

“**Image**” is not a verb; it is a noun that means “**pictures**”. “**Imagine**” is a verb, so it is correct in these sentences.

5. C

“**Chaos**” is a noun; “**chaotic**” is the adjective. There is no verb.

6. NO

The first phrase is used to talk about an unreal or imaginary situation; the second one is used to talk about a planned situation.

7. NO

Chinese sayings often sound strange in English. (in Vietnamese is “Nhập gia tùy tục”)

8. YES

“**Whereas**” means “**while**” or “**on the other hand**”

9. NO

“**Homogenous**” means “**all the same kind**”, but it is an adjective.

10. YES

QUESTION 15

Jobs and Gender

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Men and women are different in terms of their characteristics and abilities. For this reason, some jobs are better done by men and others by women.

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.

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5⁺

There are a variety of different perspectives on the question of whether or not men and women are equally good at all jobs. Although many people still believe that some kinds of work should only be done by females and other kinds by males, it is my argument that both men and women are able to do any job well. There are two main reason for this.

Firstly, I would argue that traditional ideas about men and women are not always right. It is certainly true that there are characteristics that are typically male and others which are typically female; however, not everybody is typical. Not every woman is physically weak, in the same way that not every man is a poor communicator – traditional gender roles do not fit everybody. A man who wants to do a job normally performed by women or a woman who wants to work in a male – dominated industry should be given the chance to demonstrate his/ her ability.

Furthermore, I feel that having both male and female employees in a workplace creates a sense of balance. The two sexes often, though certainly not always, do things differently. Instead of seeing these differences as weaknesses, I believe that we should view them as chances to find new ways of doing things and thus improve the way we work. Therefore, a person's weak point can be turned into strengths.

To conclude, for the reasons stated above I maintain that men and women can do any job equally well and that a person's individual ability is far more important than their sex in this regard.

(266 words)

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 7⁺

These days, it seems that more women are entering “male occupations” than ever before and vice versa. While some still hold to the conservative view that certain jobs are better performed by men and others by women, it is my personal belief that people of their sex are capable of doing any job effectively. The reasons for my position are as follows.

First of all, I believe it is a mistake to base our views on broad generalisations about the characteristics of men and women as such stereotypes are often inaccurate. Although there are certainly traits which are typical of men and others which are typical of women, there are exceptions to every rule. Not all women are physically weak, just as not all men are poor interpersonal communicators; conventional gender roles are not appropriate for everybody. If a man and woman desires to pursue a career which is traditionally reserved for the opposite sex, I believe he/ she should be provided the opportunity to prove him/ herself capable.

Secondly, I would contend that the presence of both males and females in a workplace brings a sense of balance. Men and women frequently, though by no means always, have different methods of doing things. Rather than judging these differences to be weakness, I feel that we should view them as opportunities for innovation and the discovery of more effective and efficient work practices. A person’s weakness can thus be transformed into strengths.

In summary, I once again reaffirm my position that both male and female employees are an asset to any industry and as our stereotypes about men and women are not always appropriate, we must not discourage anyone from choosing an occupation simply because of his/ her gender.

(285 words)

Model sentence structure

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	There are many different opinions about whether or not men and women are equally good at all jobs.
	IELTS 6	There are various different opinions on the question of whether men and women are equally good at all jobs.
	IELTS 7 ⁺	There are a variety of different perspective on the question of whether or not men and women are equally good at all jobs.
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	Some people with more traditional view think that women should do some jobs and men should do others, but I believe that both men and women can do any job well.
	IELTS 6	Some people still take the traditional view that some occupations are better done by women and others by men; however, I personally believe that people of either sex are able to do any job effectively.
	IELTS 7 ⁺	While some still hold to the conservative view that certain jobs are better performed by men and others by women, it is my personal belief that people of either sex are capable of doing any job effectively.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	First, we should not base our opinions on traditional ideas about men and women because these ideas often wrong
	IELTS 6	First, I feel it is a mistake to base our opinions on broad generalisations about men and women because these stereotypes are often wrong.
	IELTS 7	First of all, I believe it is a mistake to base our views on broad generalisations about the characteristics of men and women as such stereotypes are often inaccurate.
Sentence 4	IELTS 6	If a man wants to do a job which is usually done by women or if a woman to do a man's job, I think he/she should be given a chance to show that he/she can do it.
	IELTS 7	If a woman desires to pursue a career which is traditionally reserved for the opposite sex or vice versa, I believe he/she should be provided the opportunity to prove him/herself capable.
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	Instead of seeing these differences as weaknesses, I believe we should see them as chances to find new and better ways to work.
	IELTS 6	Instead of judging these differences to be weaknesses, I feel we should view them as opportunities to innovate and discover more effective and efficient ways to work.
	IELTS 7	Rather than judging these differences to be weaknesses, I feel that we should view them as opportunities for innovation and the discovery of more effective and efficient work practices.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
	view (n) position (n)	perspective (n)
	(be) able to	(be) capable of
man (n)	male (n/adj)	
woman (n)	female (n/adj)	
Job (n)		occupation (n)
traditional (adj)		conservative (adj) conventional (adj)
	well (adv)	effectively (adv)
		although (conj)
		while (conj)
	believe (v) feel (v)	
	argue (v)	contend (v)
	I believe I feel	I would argue / I would contend
		generalisation (n) stereotype (n)
right (adj)		accurate (adj)
sex (n)		gender (n)
give (v)	provide (v)	
chance (n)		opportunity (n)
	bring (v) create (v)	
often (adv)		frequently (adv)
	instead of	rather than
see (v)	view (v)	
	weak point weakness (n)	
want (v)		desire (v)
	therefor (adv)	thus (adv)
		maintain (v) reaffirm (v)
	in summary / to conclude	

Note: the words “sex” and “gender” do not mean exactly the same thing, but the difference between them is very small and for IELTS purposes they can be used interchangeably.

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. Question 15 asks you to
 - A. List the different characteristics of men and women.
 - B. Say why men are such poor communicators.
 - C. Agree or disagree that men and women can do any job equally and explain why

Question 2 refers to the following four simplified sentences based on the above essays.

- i. Not all women are physically weak
- ii. Therefore, I believe that men and women can do any job equally well.
- iii. Similarly, not any man is poor communicator
- iv. Traditional ideas about men and women are not always right because not everybody is typical.

2. Put the above sentences in the correct order.

- A. iii / ii / i / iv
- B. iv / i / iii / ii
- C. i / ii / iii / iv

3. Which of the following sentences is wrong (see Model Answer B) ?

- A. If a person desires to pursue a career which is traditionally reserved for the opposite sex, I believe they should be provided the opportunity to prove themselves capable.
- B. If a man or woman desires to pursue a career which is traditionally reserved for the opposite sex, I believe he/ she should be provided the opportunity to prove him/ herself capable.
- C. If a man or woman desires to pursue a career which is traditionally reserved for the opposite sex, I believe he should be provided the opportunity to prove himself capable.

4. Which of the following means “ **I still believe**” (see Model Answer A) ?

- A. I maintain
- B. I would contend
- C. I feel

5. What two stereotypes are mentioned in these essays?

- A. Women are weak and men do not know how to communicate with people.
- B. Men are physically strong and know how to communicate with people.
- C. Women are good with children, while men are good at earning money

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

- 6. The main reason that Model Answer B would get a higher IELTS band score is because it is longer than Model Answer A
- 7. “**Certain jobs**” (see Model Answer B) is a more formal way to say “**some jobs**” because it is more formal.
- 8. “**Simply**” (see Model Answer B) is a more formal way to say “**only**”
- 9. The writer gives several examples of jobs that women should not do.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

- 1. C
You must agree or disagree with the statement (on your introduction) and give reasons (in the main body of your essay)
- 2. B
The writer says that stereotypes are not always right, gives two examples of inaccurate stereotypes, and then concludes.
- 3. C
Nowadays, you cannot just write “**he**” because it is considered sexist. You must try to be inclusive.
- 4. A
- 5. A
- 6. No
Length is not the most important factor.
- 7. YES
“**Certain**” often means “**some**” and is more academic sounding.
- 8. YES
- 9. NO
Because the writer does not believe that there are any jobs that should only be done by men or women.

Question 16

Cigarette Smoking

WRITING TASK 2 :

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic:

Smoking is a major cause of serious illness and death throughout the world today. In the interest of the public health, governments should ban cigarettes and other tobacco products. Do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

There are range of different views on the question of whether tobacco should be banned or not. Some people would argue that smoking is a personal choice and that introducing laws to prevent people from smoking would be repressive. However, I feel that tobacco should indeed be made illegal. There are two main reasons for this.

Firstly, it is important to remember that tobacco is actually a drug. Most countries around the world have strict laws against selling or using recreational drugs. Therefore, if governments want to consistent in the way they handle the problem of drug abuse, I believe they must ban tobacco as well. This is especially true considering the fact that many drugs which are now illegal, such heroin and marijuana, could be used by doctors to treat various real medical problems. On the other hand, tobacco is useless.

Further and even more importantly, though, smoking should be banned for the sake of public health. It is a proven fact that smoking causes serious illnesses, such as lung cancer and heart disease. Although cigarette companies and pro-smoking groups may claim that people have the right to decide what to put into their own bodies, I would argue that the rights of society are more important than those of the individual. The medical treatment smokers need when they get sick is often very expensive , and it is usually governments and society who pay the bill. Thus, I believe that anti-smoking laws would be a good idea.

To conclude, although governments will probably not ban tobacco in the near future, I feel this should be the long-term goal as there are few habits as pointless and destructive as smoking

(283 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

There are widely differing views on the issue of whether tobacco should be banned or not. Some people would suggest that it is their right to smoke and that prohibiting cigarettes would be a violation of their civil liberties; however, I personally believe that tobacco should indeed be made illegal. There are two principal reasons for this.

One point which I believe to be absolutely pivotal is the fact that tobacco is a drug. The majority of governments around the world take a prohibitionist approach to the problem of substance abuse. If the governments wish to be consistent in pursuing their "war on drug", therefore, I believe they must ban tobacco as well. This is particularly so given the fact that many currently illicit drugs – including heroin and marijuana - have legitimate medical applications, while tobacco has none.

However, perhaps the strongest argument in favour of banning cigarettes and other tobacco products is that of public health. It is irrefutable fact that smoking leads to lung cancer and other such potentially fatal diseases. Pro-smoking groups would no doubt argue that each individual has the right to determine what goes into his/her own body. Nevertheless, I would suggest that the interests and rights of society at large must override those of the individual. The medical treatment that smokers require is often incredibly costly, and it is frequently governments and society that cover these costs rather than the individual smoker. Hence, I feel laws prohibiting smoking would be entirely justified.

In reality, of course, the widespread prohibition of smoking is unlikely in the near future. However, given the seriousness of the problems that it causes, I believe that this should be the ultimate goal.

(282 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	One thing that I think is very important is that tobacco is a drug
	IELTS 6	One thing which I believe to be vitally important is the fact that tobacco is a drug.
	IELTS 7	One point which I believe to be absolutely pivotal is the fact that tobacco is a drug .
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	This is especially true because doctors could use some illegal drugs, like heroin and marijuana, to treat sick people if they were not banned.
	IELTS 6	This is especially so considering the fact that some drugs which are now illegal, such heroin and marijuana, could be used by doctors to treat various real medical problems.
	IELTS 7	This is particularly so given the fact that some currently illicit drugs – including heroin and marijuana – have legitimate medical applications while tobacco has none.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	But maybe the best reason to ban smoking is that it is bad for our health
	IELTS 6	However, possibly the best argument for banning cigarettes and other tobacco products is public health.
	IELTS 7	However, perhaps the strongest argument in favour of banning cigarettes and other tobacco products is that of public health
Sentence 4	IELTS 6	It is a proven fact that smoking causes lung cancer and other serious illnesses
	IELTS 7	It is an irrefutable fact that smoking leads to lung cancer and other such potentially fatal diseases.
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	So I think that there are a number of very good reasons to ban smoking.
	IELTS 6	Thus, I believe it would be justified to ban smoking.
	IELTS 7	Hence, I feel that laws prohibiting smoking would be entirely justified.
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	Of course, the fact is that smoking probably will not be banned for many years to come.
	IELTS 6	Of course, in reality smoking is unlikely to be prohibited in the near future.
	IELTS 7	In reality, of course, the widespread prohibition of smoking is unlikely in the near future.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
question (n/v)	issue (n)	
	ban (n/v)	prohibit (v)
	illegal (adj)	illicit (adj)
main (adj)		principal (adj)
important (adj)		absolutely pivotal
	therefore (adv)	thus (adv) hence (adv)
most (adj)		the majority of
	drug abuse	substance abuse
want (v)		wish (v)
		especially (adv) particularly (adv)
	Proven (adj)	irrefutable (adj)
	Cause (n/v)	lead to
pay the bill		cover the cost
	illness (n) diseases (n)	
expensive (adj)		Costly (adj)
decide (v)		Determine (v)
		I would argue that / I would suggest that
need (v)		require (v)
	however (adv)	nevertheless (adv)
very (adv)	incredibly (adv)	
often (adv)	frequently (adv)	
	feel (v) believe (v)	

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. Question 16 is about
 - A. Why people like to smoke
 - B. How we can stop people from smoking
 - C. Whether smoking should be banned

Question 2 refers to the following three simplified sentences (from paragraph 1 of both model answers)

- i. Some people believe that they have the right to smoke
 - ii. But I think smoking should be illegal
 - iii. There is little agreement on the issue of banning smoking
2. Put the above sentences in the correct order.
 - A. ii / I / iii
 - B. i / ii / iii
 - C. iii / ii / i
3. What reasons does the writer give for banning smoking?
 - A. Smoking is unhealthy, but drugs like heroin and marijuana are worse.
 - B. Smoking is unhealthy and should be treated in the same way as other drugs
 - C. Smoking is unhealthy and many drugs are now illegal, such as heroin and marijuana, could be used by doctors.
4. Which of the following sentences is a grammatically correct way to make a prediction about results of a action?
 - A. Laws naming smoking would improve public health
 - B. Laws naming smoking will improve public health
 - C. Laws naming smoking have improved public health
5. Which of the following if weakest ?
 - A. Have to
 - B. Must
 - C. Should
6. Which of the following means “**most**” (see Model Answer B) ?
 - A. A minority of
 - B. The minority of
 - C. A large proportion of

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

7. Most countries will certainly ban smoking in the future
8. **“Wish to”** (see model answer B) is a more formal way to say **“want to”**
9. **“Pro-smoking groups”** (see model answer B) refers to people who dislike smoking and want it banned
10. **“Costly”** (see model answer B) means **“cheap”**

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. C
2. C

One way to start an introduction to this kind of opinion-type essay is to say that people tend to disagree about the topic, then say what other people think, and finally state your opinion. You should not give reasons for your opinion in the introduction.

3. B
4. A

“Would” is correct, because the writer thinks it is unlikely that governments will ban smoking. This kind of structure is common in IELTS writing task 2.

5. C

“Should” is a suggestion, whereas **“must”** is a very strong suggestion and **“have to”** means that there is no choice

6. B

“the majority of” is a formal way to write **“most”**

7. NO

What will happen in the future is never 100% certain

8. YES

“Wish” has two different meanings. **“Wish to”** means **“want to”** in formal writing (E.g. I wish to enrol in your Master’s programme) ; however, **“wish”** can also mean to want something impossible

9. NO

“Pro” means to like support something. The opposite of **“pro”** is **“anti”**

10. NO

“Costly” means **“expensive”**

Question 17

Endangered Species.

Writing task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic:

Trying to save endangered animal species from extinction is a waste of valuable resources.

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.

Model Answer A: IELTS band 5+

The question of whether or not we should try to save endangered species is definitely a controversial one. Although some people argue that these animals are not useful and we should let them die in the same way that many others (like the dinosaurs) have died out before, I personally believe that endangered species are actually worth saving. There are two main reasons for this.

First of all, it is important for us to recognise the key role that endangered species play in nature. The environment is made up of fragile ecosystems, where plants and animals all rely on one another to survive. If one animal disappears or a new one is introduced, it upsets the balance of nature and affects other animals above and below it in the food chain by changing the environment that they live in. These changes often come back to affect us in ways that we do not expect. In the same way that rabbits introduced to Australia by the British now eat the plants that many native animals need to live and ruin farmer's crops, the extinction of a predatory animal would allow its prey to reproduce out of control and would probably cause plagues. Thus, because environment change is actually a danger to us, we clearly have an interest in saving endangered species.

However, maybe the strongest argument for saving endangered species is that all life is valuable in and of itself. Even if these animals do not have any practical use, they should still be saved. Furthermore, because human activity has destroyed the natural living environment of many endangered species, we should do the best we can to save them.

To conclude, I feel that endangered animals are indeed worth saving. They not only have their own value, but the balance of nature would be disturbed if they died out.

(311 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS band 7+

The issue of whether we should attempt to save endangered species from extinction or not is certainly a contentious one. Despite the arguments of some people that such animals serve no useful purpose and should be allowed to die out just as many others (including the dinosaurs) have in the past, it is my personal belief that they should in fact be preserved. Two of the principal reasons for this are as follows.

Firstly, it is vital that we appreciate the importance of endangered species on maintaining the balance of nature. Ecosystems are delicate arrangements where plants and animals all depend on each other for survival. The disappearance or introduction of any animal species disrupts the balance and negatively impacts upon other plants and animals by breaking the food chain and altering the habitat in which they live. Such imbalances frequently returns to haunt us in unexpected ways. Just as rabbits that were introduced to Australia soon after European settlement now compete with native species for food and destroy farmer's crops, the extinction of a predator can cause plagues by following its prey to multiply unchecked. Therefore, since ecological change constitutes a potential risk to us and our environment, it is clearly in our own interest to protect endangered species.

Yet, perhaps the strongest argument in favour of preserving endangered species is that all life has intrinsic value; even if endangered species are not useful to us in any practical way they should be preserved nevertheless. Further, given that humans are responsible for destroying the natural habitat of many endangered animals, we should make every possible effort to save them.

In conclusion, i once again restate any view that saving endangered species is worthwhile. Not only do they help to maintain balance of nature, but they also have value in and if themselves.

(305 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	Some people say that we should let these animals die out just like the dinosaurs did because they are not useful, but I think that they should be saved.
	IELTS 6	Although some people might argue that these animals are not useful and should be allowed to die out just like many others (such as the dinosaurs) have died out in the past, I personally believe that they should be saved.
	IELTS 7	Despite the arguments of some people that such animals serve no useful purpose and should be allowed to die out just as many others (including the dinosaurs) have in the past, it is my personal belief that they should in fact be preserved.
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	When an animal disappears or a new one is introduced, it disturbs the balance of nature and negatively affects other plants and animals by breaking the food chain and changing their natural environment.
	IELTS 6	When any animal species disappears or a new one is introduced, it disrupts the balance and negatively influences other plants and animals by breaking the food chain and altering the environment which they live in.
	IELTS 7	The disappearance or introduction of any animal species disrupts the balance and negatively impacts upon other plants and animals by breaking the food chain and altering the habitat in which they live.
Sentence 3	IELTS 6	Imbalances like this often come back and cause unexpected problems in the future.
	IELTS 7	Such imbalances frequently returns to haunt us in unexpected ways.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	Clearly, we should save endangered species because environment change is dangerous to us and also to the world that we live in.
	IELTS 6	Because ecological change is a possible ganger to us and to the world that we live in, it is clearly best for us to protect endangered species.
	IELTS 7	Since ecological change constitutes a potential risk to us and our environment, it is clearly in our own interest to protect endangered species.

Sentence 5	IELTS 5	Also, because we people are destroying the homes of many rare animal species, we should try so save them.
	IELTS 6	Furthermore, since we people are destroying the natural living environment of many endangered animal species, we should make an effort to save them.
	IELTS 7	Further, given that humans are responsible for destroying the natural habitat of many endangered animals, we should make every possible effort to save them.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
question (n)	issue (n)	
try (v)		attempt (v)
save (v)	protect (v)	preserve (v)
	definitely (adv) certainly (adv)	
	controversial (adj)	contentious (adj)
let (v)	allow (v)	
	die out disappear (v)	become extinct
like (prep)	including (prep)	
before (adv)	in the past	
main (adj)		principal (adj)
firstly (adv) first of all		
important (adj)		vital (adj)
	recognise (v)	appreciate (v)
		delicate (adj) fragile (adj)
	depend on/ rely on	
each other / one another		
	upset (v) disturb (v)	disrupt (v)
	affect (v)	impact upon
change (v)		alter (v)
often (adv)	frequently (adv)	
come back	return (v)	

	destroy (v)	ruin (v)
		predator (n) predatory animal
	multiply (v)	reproduce (v)
out of control		unchecked (adj)
	therefore (conj)	thus (conj)
because (conj)	since (conj)	given that
danger (n)		risk (n)
maybe (adv)	perhaps (adv)	
	still (conj)	nevertheless (conj)
	furthermore (conj)	further (conj)
natural living environment		habitat (n)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

- What does question 17 ask you to do?
 - Say if you think endangered species are worth saving
 - Say why endangered species are dying out
 - Talk about the best way to save endangered species
- Which of these sentences is the best to use in academic writing? (see Model answer B)
 - It's really important for us to save endangered species
 - It is undeniably important that we endangered species
 - It's undeniably important that we endangered animal species
- Which of the following is not a good sentence to include in your introduction?
 - Some people would argue that trying to save endangered animal species from extinction is a waste of valuable resources.
 - Some people would argue that the cost of preventing endangered animals from dying out is too high.
 - Certainly, preventing endangered animals from becoming extinction is an expensive and difficult endeavour.
- Which of the following sentences is the most logical?
 - Some people would suggest that endangered species serve no useful purpose, and I agree that they are not worth saving.
 - Some people would suggest that saving endangered animals is not worthwhile; however, I believe that such animals should be preserved.

- C. Despite the argument of some people that endangered animals serve no useful purpose and should be allowed to die out just as many others (including the dinosaurs) have in the past, it is my personal belief that we should not attempt to preserve them.
5. These essays are both too long
6. The writer argues that endangered species should be saved because they are a vital part of the ecosystems in which they live.
7. The writer suggest that we have a responsibility to preserve endangered animals as we are largely responsible for destroying their homes.
8. The writer repeats his main opinion in the conclusion of both model answers.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. A

2. B

Sentence A is too informal; sentence C is not bad, but we should not use contractions (like **“isn’t”** or **“can’t”**) in formal writing.

3. A

Sentence A uses exactly the same words as the question. You should try to avoid this.

4. B

It sounds strange to write what other people think and then agree with them. You can write your opinion directly without discussing other people’s views or write what other people think and then disagree with them.

5. NO

There is no maximum word limit. Most candidates should try to write 150-200 words in Task 1 and 250-300 words in Task 2. However, you will not lose marks for writing more. Just make sure you spend enough time on both questions.

6. YES

The writer says, **“Firstly, it is vital that we appreciate the importance of endangered species on maintaining the balance of nature. Ecosystems are delicate arrangements where plants and animals all depend on each other for survival”**.

7. YES

The writer says, **“Further, given that humans are responsible for destroying the natural habitat of many endangered animals, we should make every possible effort to save them.”**

8. YES

This is one thing that you can often do to conclude your essay. It is a good idea to use different words, rather than simply repeating yourself though.

Discuss : Causes and effects / and Solutions

Question 18	Rural depopulation
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WRITING TASK 2 :

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic:

These days, it seems that an increasing number of people are leaving rural areas to live in the city.

Discuss some of the effects of rural depopulation (migration from the country to the city) and suggest some ways on which this trend could be reversed.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A : IELTS band 5+

Rural depopulation is a very important issue in many parts of the world today. In this essay, I will discuss some of the main effects of this problem and also offer some possible solutions to it.

Firstly, it is clear that migration away from the country negatively affects life in the city. Serious environmental and social problems often occur when cities become overcrowded. Problems such as air, water and noise pollution are increasing common in urban areas around the world because there are simply too many people living there. Pollution can make city life very uncomfortable indeed and can even cause illness. Beijing is a very good example of this. Overcrowding in cities can also lead high unemployment (especially in poorer parts of the world) and crime.

In order to prevent people from moving away from the country and reduce the size of cities, I feel we make country life more attractive. In my view, the best way of doing this would be to improve services in the country. One of the main reasons that so many people have left the country is that facilities like shopping centres, cinemas, swimming pools, restaurants, libraries, schools and hospitals are generally better in the city. If such facilities were available in the country, more people would choose to live there. Another effective solution would be for the government to subsidise businesses and workers who move to the country.

In conclusion, I believe we must all recognise how serious this problem is. For the sake of the environment and our own quality of life it is vital that we preserve rural communities.

(271 words)

Model Answer B : IELTS band 7+

While country towns were once vibrant and growing places, these days many appear to be dying as people move to the city in search of work and excitement. In this essay, I intend to discuss the impact of this problem as well as how more people could be encouraged to live in the rural areas.

Surprisingly, the most serious consequences of rural depopulation are often felt in urban areas. As a result of overcrowding, cities throughout the world today are increasingly prone to environmental problems like air, water and noise pollution. Beijing is a particularly good example of this. Further, the uncontrolled growth of cities also gives rise to social problems such as high unemployment, crime and in less affluent countries, the creation of slums. Clearly, there is a limit to how many people can live in one area before living standards are negatively influenced.

In order to stem the tide of rural depopulation, I believe we must first address its root causes. At the heart of the matter is the disparity between services and facilities in the country and those in the city. I firmly believe that urban and rural dwellers alike would find the idea of country life far more appealing if high quality shopping centres, cinemas, swimming pools, restaurants, libraries, schools and hospitals were more readily available in the country. One further method of attracting people to the country would be for government to provide financial incentives to business and professional workers who willingly relocate to rural areas.

In reality, this problem is unlikely to be resolved in the short term. However, it is by no means insurmountable, and I am convinced that more people will choose the country as city life becomes less comfortable and more expensive.

(291 words)

Model sentence structure

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	It is surprising to note that cities often experience the most serious effects of migration away from the country.
	IELTS 6	It is somewhat surprising that the most serious effects of rural depopulation are often experienced in the city.
	IELTS 7	Surprisingly, the most serious consequences of rural depopulation are often felt in urban areas
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	Cities everywhere are having more and more environmental problems like air, water and noise pollution because they are overcrowded.
	IELTS 6	Because of overcrowding, cities around the world today are suffering from more and more environmental problems like air, water and noise pollution.
	IELTS 7	As a result of overcrowding, cities throughout the world today are increasingly prone to environmental problems like air, water and noise pollution.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	Overcrowding in cities also causes problems like high unemployment and crime.
	IELTS 6	Further, overcrowding in cities also leads to social problems like high unemployment (especially in poorer parts of the world) and crime.
	IELTS 7	Further, the uncontrolled growth of cities also gives rise to social problems such as high unemployment, crime and in less affluent countries, the creation of slums.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	If we want to prevent people from moving to the city we must resolve the causes of the problem.
	IELTS 6	If we are to slow the flow of people moving from the country to the city, I believe we must first resolve its causes.
	IELTS 7	In order to stem the tide of rural depopulation, I believe we must first address its root causes.
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	The main cause of the problem is that services and facilities in the country are different from services and facilities in the city.
	IELTS 6	At the centre of the problem is the difference between services and facilities in the country and those in the city.
	IELTS 7	At the heart of the matter is the disparity between services and facilities in the country and those in the city.
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	One other way to get people to live in the country would be for government to give companies and workers money if they move to the country.

	IELTS 6	Another method of attracting people to the country would be for government to give subsidies to business and professional workers who choose to move to the country.
	IELTS 7	One further method of attracting people to the country would be for government to provide financial incentives to business and professional workers who willingly relocate to rural areas.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic - 5	Intermediate - 6	Advanced - 7
today (n./adv)	these days	
affect (v.) effect (n.)	influence (n.v.)	consequence (n.) impact (n./v.)
the country		rural area
the city		urban area
	cause (n./v.)	lead to / give rise to
poorer (adj.)		less affluent
	feel (v.) believe (v.)	(be) convinced
	resolve (v.)	address (v.)
	attractive (adj.)	appealing (adj.)
		subsidise (v.) provide financial incentives
move (n./v.)		relocate (v.)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. Question 18 asks you to :
 - A. Say if you think it is a good or bad thing that people are leaving the country
 - B. Talk about why people prefer to live in the city and suggest how the trend could be reversed
 - C. Discuss the consequences of people moving from the country to the city and offer some solutions
2. The writer begins Model Answer B by talking about:
 - A. The past
 - B. The present
 - C. The future
3. The solutions to rural depopulation are strongly connected to:
 - A. The city
 - B. The effects of the problem
 - C. The causes of the problem
4. What negative effects of rural depopulation are mentioned?
 - A. Pollution, crime and joblessness
 - B. Pollution and cramped living space
 - C. Crime, unemployment and high cost of living

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. In the introduction to Model Answer A the writer says what he plans to write about.
6. The writer gives examples of how the problem of rural depopulation affects country towns in both model answers.
7. In both model answers, the writer gives examples of facilities that are better in the city.
8. The word **“increasingly”** (see both model answers) means **“more and more”**.

9. In both model answers the writer says that governments should provide more job opportunities in the country.
10. **“Stem the tide”** (see Model Answer B) means **“slow or stop something from happening”**.
11. The conclusion of Model Answer B talks about the future of this problem.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **C**

The question asks you to discuss the effects (consequences) of the problem and suggest how it could be resolved.

2. **B**

The writer often talks about the past, then talks about the present. This is useful if you need to discuss changes that have happened and say whether you think the past was better or worse than the present.

3. **C**

The best solutions to a problem are usually connected to its causes.

4. **A**

“Air, water and noise pollution” are mentioned as well as **“crime”** and **“unemployment”**

5. **YES**

It is good idea to say what you want to talk about at the end of your introduction.

6. **NO**

The writer gives examples of how rural depopulation affects cities.

7. **YES**

In Model Answer A, the writer states that **“facilities like shopping centres, cinemas, swimming pools, restaurants, libraries, schools and hospitals are generally better in the city”**. Model Answer B says something very similar.

8. **YES**

“Increasingly” is a better word to use in academic writing. **“More and more”** sounds like spoken English.

9. **NO**

The writer says that governments should **“subsidise businesses and workers who move to the country”**. This means that they should give money to these companies and people, not jobs.

10. **YES**

Another way to say the something would be **“stem the flow”**

11. **YES**

It is often possible to conclude by talking about the future of a trend or problem.

Question 19	Distance within Modern Families
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WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

With divorce rates and family breakdowns increasing globally, it is generally accepted that families today are not as close as they used to be.

Discuss the causes of this problem and offer some possible solutions to it.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A: IELTS 5⁺

Lack of communication and closeness between family members is a vitally important issue in many societies today. In this essay, I will firstly discuss the causes of this problem and then offer some possible solutions to it.

In my view, the primary cause of this problem is the modern lifestyle. Most parents today work much harder than ever before. In the past, one parent – usually the mother – stayed at home to take care of the children. In recent times, however, it has become increasingly common for both parents to work. As a result, more and more children now grow up with neither parent at home. It is unsurprising, then, that families are no longer as close as they once were. One other factor adding to this problem is that people today spend too much time on solitary activities like watching television.

In order to overcome this problem and make families closer, people's lifestyle must change. I feel more parents should stay at home and take care their children. Perhaps governments could subsidise parents who choose to look after their families rather than working. Of course, these subsidise would probably not fully cover the income a family would reduce the financial pain of surviving on one income and afford to do so. Another positive step would be to promote active pastimes through public education programmes.

To conclude, while it is improbable that any solution will be found in the near future, I feel that the abovementioned measures would be a good first step.

(280 words)



Model Answer B: IELTS 7⁺

Divorce and family breakdown were virtually unheard of just 100 years ago. Now, however, almost half of all marriages fail. This phenomenon is symptomatic of the growing distance between family members in modern society. In this essay, I intend to explore the sources of this problem along with some possible solutions to it.

Chief among the causes of this problem is the modern lifestyle. Today's parents have to work harder than those of previous generations to support their families. Traditionally, one parent assumed the role of breadwinner, while the other – typically the mother – acted as the homemaker. Recently, though, double income families have become the norm. Consequently, an increasing number of children now grow up in a parentless environment. Little wonder, then, that they feel alienated. Another contributing factor is the passive and solitary nature of many modern forms of entertainment.

In order to resolve this sense of alienation within families, I believe we must first address its root causes. Perhaps the most effective method of doing this would be for governments to offer financial incentives to parents who choose to remain at home and take care of their families. Admittedly, such incentives would probably not fully compensate couples for lost income; however, they would at least soften the hardship of living on a single income and provide an alternative for parents who would rather remain at home but are unable to do so because of financial constraints. One further measure would be to promote more interactive leisure activities in the community through public education campaigns.

In conclusion, I believe that this is clearly a problem of such complexity that no solution is likely in the short term. However, I believe that the measures outlined above would constitute a good first step.

(292 words)

Model Sentences Structures

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	Divorce and family breakdown were very unusual in the past.
	IELTS 6	Divorce and family breakdown were almost unheard of in the past.
	IELTS 7⁺	Divorce and family breakdown were virtually unheard of just 100 years ago.
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	The modern way of life is the main cause of this problem.
	IELTS 6	The chief cause of this problem is the modern way of life.
	IELTS 7⁺	Chief among the causes of this problem is the modern lifestyle.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	However, double income families have become more common recently.
	IELTS 6	Recently, however, double income families have become more normal.
	IELTS 7⁺	Recently, though, double income families have become the norm.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	So more and more children now grow up without their parents at home.
	IELTS 6	As a result, more and more children now grow up in a parentless environment.
	IELTS 7⁺	Consequently, an increasing number of children now grow up in a parentless environment.
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	So it is not surprising that they do not feel close (to their families).
	IELTS 6	It is no wonder, then, that they do not feel close (to their families).
	IELTS 7⁺	Little wonder, then, that they feel alienated (from their families).
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	One other cause of this problem is modern entertainment.
	IELTS 6	Another factor that adds to this problem is that many types of modern entertainment are passive and designed for one person.
	IELTS 7⁺	Another contributing factor is the passive and solitary nature of many modern forms of entertainment.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic (5)	Intermediate (6)	Advanced (7 ⁺)
	discuss (v.)	explore (v.)
	cause (n./v.)	source (n.) contributing factor
	recently (adv.)	in recent times
		offer (n./v.) provide (v.)
		chief (n./adj.) primary (adj.)
	traditionally (adv.) in the past	
usually (adv.)		typically (adv.)
		consequently (adv.) as a result
more and more		an increasing number of
		little wonder/ it is unsurprising
	resolve (v.)	address (v.) overcome (v.)
	feel (v.) believe (v.)	
		subsidy (n.) financial incentive
	of course	admittedly (adv.)
choice (n.)		alternative (n.)
look after/		

take care of		
	programme (n.)	campaign (n./v.)
	would prefer to	would rather
stay (v)		remain (v)
cannot (do)		(be) unable to (do)
	leisure activity	pastime (n)
	another (adj) one other	one further
	to conclude/ in conclusion	
step (n)		measure (n)
		abovementioned (adj) outlined above

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

- Question 19 asks you to:
 - say why families are not so close and what can be done to improve the situation.
 - say what the effects of family problems are and offer some solutions to the problem.
 - discuss whether or not families are as close as they used to be.
- Which of the following is the best sentence to use in academic writing?
 - Now, however, almost half of all marriages fail.
 - However, now almost half of all marriages fail.
 - But now nearly half of all marriages fail.
- The introduction to Model Answer B says that:
 - divorce was very unusual 100 years ago.
 - many people have gotten divorced in the past 100 years.
 - divorce was illegal 100 years ago.

4. The second paragraph of both model answers is about:

- A. problems with the modern lifestyle
- B. watching television
- C. both parents working

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

- 5. Question 19 asks you to talk about families who live far away from each other.
- 6. The writer gives three examples of the modern lifestyle in both model answers.
- 7. **“Is symptomatic of”** (see Model Answer B) means **“is a sign of”**.
- 8. **“Of course”** (see Model Answer A) and **“admittedly”** (see Model Answer B) are opposites.
- 9. The writer suggests that governments should give money to parents who stay at home to raise their children (see both model answers).
- 10. The writer suggests that mothers should stay at home instead of working (see Model Answer B).
- 11. Model Answer B concludes by saying that this problem will probably be solved soon.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

- 1. **A**
The question says **“discuss the causes of this problem and offer some possible solutions to it”**.
- 2. **A**
“However” is better than **“but”** in academic writing, and it is often better to place **“however”** after the adverb of time or after the subject of the sentence.
- 3. **A**
The phrase **“virtually unheard of”** means **“very unusual”**.
- 4. **A**
“Problems with the modern lifestyle” is the topic of the paragraph. **“Watching television”** and **“both parents working”** are example of this.
- 5. **NO**
The question asks you to talk about families who feel far away from each other.

6. **NO**

The writer only gives two examples – both parents working and modern entertainment.

7. **YES**

The word “*symptomatic*” sounds good in academic writing.

8. **NO**

These words mean the same thing in the context of this essay (they are synonyms).

9. **YES**

The writer says that governments should subsidise or give financial incentives to parents who stay at home to raise their children.

10. **NO**

The writer says that a parent should stay at home, but does not say that it must be the mother.

11. **NO**

It says we probably will not solve this problem anytime soon.

Question 20

Declining Educational Standards

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many people believe that educational standards have declined in recent times, particularly in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

Discuss the causes of this problem and offer some possible solutions to it.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5⁺

This issue of falling educational standards is of great importance in the world today. In this essay, I will briefly discuss some of the main causes of this problem and also offer some possible solutions to it.

In my view, one of the main reasons for poor quality education is that school students are not disciplined properly. In the past, teachers could smack or cane children who misbehaved. Now, however, this kind of punishment is not allowed and many teachers are losing control of their students as a result. If students do not listen, teachers cannot teach and learning becomes impossible. Clearly, discipline must be restored if we are to improve educational standards. Of course, there are many other ways to discipline children; however, I would argue that physical punishment is still the most effective method.

Another reason for poor reading, writing and mathematical skills among students today is that many schools waste too much time teaching “soft” subjects like music, art and drama. These subjects are certainly interesting. However, they tend to distract students from more important subjects like mathematics and English. The more time a student spends learning how to paint, the less time they spend learning how to read. Thus, in order to improve basic literacy and numeracy, I would argue that schools should focus their attention on core subjects.

In conclusion, this is such a complex problem that I don't believe any real solution will be found in the near future. However, I am convinced that the steps mentioned above would be helpful.

(258 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7⁺

There is a widely held perception in many parts of the world today that educational standards are in decline. In the following essay, I aim to identify the sources of this problem as well as some viable solutions to it.

From my perspective, one of the most significant obstacles to learning in schools today is lack of discipline. While the teachers of previous generations were able to maintain order through the use of corporal punishment, such methods are no longer permitted. This has left many teachers powerless to control unruly students. The resultant misbehaviour and inattention on the part of students seriously undermines the learning process. If educational standards are to be raised, therefore, it is crucial that classroom discipline be restored. Admittedly, there are numerous alternatives to corporal punishment, which is frowned upon by many these days. Nonetheless, I remain firmly convinced that physical forms of punishment are often the most effective method of behaviour management.

Another major contributing factor in the sub-standard academic achievement of today's students is the undue attention that many schools give to "soft" subjects like music, art and drama. Interesting though they may be, these subjects simply serve to distract students from more important and practical subjects like mathematics and English. The more time a student spends learning how to paint, for instance, the less time they spend learning how to read. In order to improve educational outcomes, therefore, we must ensure that core subjects are not neglected.

In reality, of course, this is a vast oversimplification of the issue. Solutions such as the reintroduction of corporal punishment would be problematic in themselves. However, I believe that the hard way is sometimes the best way.

(281 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	The falling quality of education is a very important matter in the world today.
	IELTS 6	The falling standard of education is an issue of great importance in the world today.
	IELTS 7⁺	The issue of falling educational standards is of great importance in the world today.
Sentence 2	IELTS 6	If students spend more time learning to paint, they spend less time learning to read.
	IELTS 7⁺	The more time a student spends learning how to paint, the less time they spend learning how to read
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	Many people in the world today believe that the quality of education is falling.
	IELTS 6	Many people in the world today hold the perception that educational standards are declining.
	IELTS 7⁺	There is a widely held perception in many parts of the world today that educational standards are in decline.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	In my opinion, what prevents students from learning in schools today is that they are not disciplined.
	IELTS 6	From my perspective, one of the greatest barriers to learning in schools today is that students lack discipline.
	IELTS 7⁺	From my perspective, one of the most significant obstacles to learning in schools today is lack of discipline.

Sentence 5	IELTS 5	These subjects are interesting. However, they just prevent students from concentrating on more important and practical subjects like mathematics and English.
	IELTS 6	Although these subjects are interesting, they simply distract students from more important and practical subjects like mathematics and English.
	IELTS 7⁺	Interesting though they may be, these subjects simply serve to distract students from more important and practical subjects like mathematics and English.
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	Of course, the truth is that this question is not really so simple.
	IELTS 6	In truth, of course, this is an oversimplification of the matter.
	IELTS 7⁺	In reality, of course, this is a vast oversimplification of the issue.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic (5)	Intermediate (6)	Advanced (7 ⁺)
	fall (n/v)	decline (n/v)
	poor quality	sub-standard (adj)
smack or cane	discipline (n/v) punish (v)	
	physical punishment	corporal punishment
	cause (n/v) reason (n)	factor (n) source (n)
important (adj)		crucial (adj)
	in my view	from my perspective
	allow (v)	permit (v)
		major (adj) significant (adj)
important subject		core subject
	therefore (adv)	thus (adv)
	however (adv)	nonetheless (adv)
like (prep)	such as	
	of course	admittedly (adv)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

Questions 1-3 refer to the following four simplified sentences based on the above essays.

- i. Now, however, this kind of punishment is not allowed.**
- ii. In the past, teachers could smack naughty children.**
- iii. Thus, students are becoming more and more difficult to control and this makes teaching impossible.**
- iv. Educational standards are falling because school students are not disciplined properly.**

1. Put the above sentences in the correct order.

- A. ii / i / iii / iv
- B. iv / ii / i / iii
- C. ii / i / iv / iii

2. Which of the above sentences is the most general?

- A. i
- B. ii
- C. iii
- D. iv

3. Which of the above sentences focuses on the effects of poor discipline?

- A. i
- B. ii
- C. iii
- D. iv

4. Which of these two simplified introductions is better?

A. Many people believe that educational standards are falling. In this essay, I will discuss the causes of this problem and also some ways to resolve it.

B. In this essay, I will discuss the causes of falling educational standards and also some ways to resolve this problem. Many people believe that educational standards are in decline.

5. An **“obstacle”** (see Model Answer B) is something that:

A. stops you

B. helps you

C. teaches you

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

6. The question asks you whether or not educational standards have fallen.

7. The writer mentions causes and solutions in different paragraphs (see both model answers).

8. The writer says that physical punishment is cruel and unnecessary (see both model answers).

9. **“Thus”** (see Model Answer A) and **“therefore”** (see Model Answer B) mean the same thing.

10. In the conclusion of Model Answer B, the writer discusses some weakness in the solutions he has suggested.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **B**

The writer starts with a very general sentence, then talks about the past, the present and the final result. This is a logical way to write a paragraph and makes it easier to read.

2. **D**

3. **C**

The word **“thus”** is a clue. It is often used when talking about results or effects.

4. **A**

It is more logical to say what you will talk about at the end of your introduction, not the beginning.

5. **A**

An **“obstacle”** is a **“barrier”**.

6. **NO**

It asks you why educational standards have fallen and how we can resolve this problem.

7. **NO**

Paragraphs 2 and 3 contain one cause and one solution each.

8. **NO**

The writer says that physical punishment is both important and necessary.

9. **YES**

These words are synonyms.

10. **YES**

If you have to make some suggestions, it may be possible to discuss remaining questions or possible challenges in the implementation of your solutions towards the end of your essay.

However, you must be careful not to undermine your arguments.