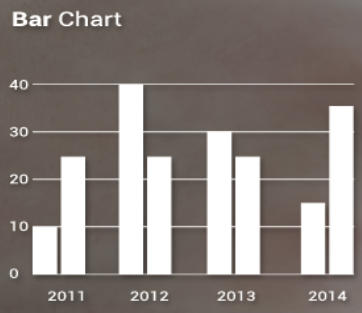
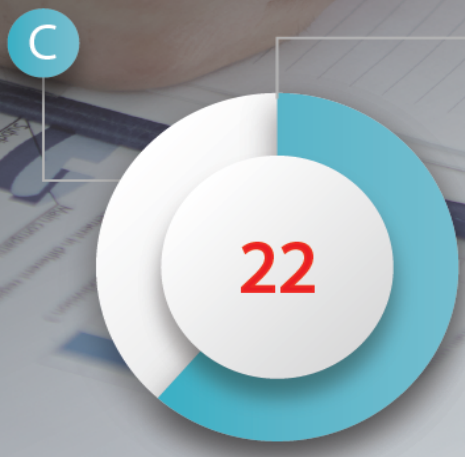
FROM THE MASTER OF IELTS WRITING

The complete solution

IELTS WRITING 2016

ANH TOAN







ZIM

Tủ sách band 8+



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Foreword

This book has been written to provide students who are preparing for the IELTS exam with a brief summary of how to write a report in the first part and to write an effective essay in the second part of the IELTS writing section. It helps IELTS learners have thorough insights into the structure as well as the style necessary to answer a variety of different types of writing that commonly appear in the exam.

The way this book is organized is quite clear and simple. The general understanding of the task's requirements and a common structure used to write every type of essay in the IELTS writing task 1 & 2 will be primarily presented in order for students to grab hold of the overall idea of how they should divide their essays into a few key paragraphs. Then the complete guidance of how to ace each particular type of essay will instruct students to effectively study for the real exam.

This small guide only acts as a self-studying material and a supplement for students' IELTS writing courses. Therefore, it is not recommended that students only take this book, albeit helpful and valuable, as a sole source of preparation. Non-stop effort and diligence result in success in the real exam!

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Luyện thi IELTS cam kết đầu ra

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IELTS WRITING TASK 1

CHAPTER 1

What you need to know about the IELTS writing task 1

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1. General introduction

- This is the first part of the writing section which makes up one third of the overall band score.
- Candidates are required to write a report on a given info graphic of at least 150 words or more within suggested 20 minutes.

2. Assessment criteria

Your writing will be assessed on 4 different criteria, each of which is worth 25% of your total marks for task 1.

TA **Task achievement**	**CC** **Coherence & Cohesion**	**LR** **Lexical resource**	**GRA** **Grammatical range & accuracy**
The examiner will check your information, overview, detail and accuracy.	Your organization of information, your paragraphing, and your use of linking devices will be marked.	Your use of vocabulary, your spelling and the number of mistakes will affect your score.	You will get a band score for your sentence structures, tenses, control of grammar and the number of mistakes.

3. IELTS writing task 1 band descriptors

- TA: Task Achievement

Band	**Requirements**
9.0	- Fully satisfies all the requirements of the task - Clearly presents a fully developed response
8.0	- Covers all requirements of the task sufficiently - Presents, highlights and illustrates key features/bullet points clearly and appropriately

7.0	- Covers the requirements of the task - (Academic) Presents a clear overview of main trends, differences or stages - (General training) presents a clear purpose, with the tone consistent and appropriate - Clearly presents and highlights key features/bullet points but could be more fully extended
6.0	- Addresses the requirements of the task - (Academic) Presents an overview with information appropriately selected - (General) Presents a purpose that is generally clear; there may be inconsistencies in tone - Presents and adequately highlights key features/bullet points but details may be irrelevant, inappropriate or inaccurate
5.0	- Generally addresses the task; the format may be inappropriate in places - (Academic) Recounts detail mechanically with no clear overview; there may be no data to support the description - (General training) may present a purpose for the letter that is unclear at times; the tone may be variable and sometimes inappropriate - Presents, but inadequately covers, key features/bullet points; there may be a tendency to focus on detail
4.0	- Attempts to address the task but does not cover all key features/bullet points; the format may be inappropriate - (General training) Fails to clearly explain the purpose of the letter; the tone may be inappropriate

	- May confuse key features/ bullet points with detail; parts may be unclear, irrelevant, repetitive or inaccurate
3.0	- Fails to address the task, which may have been completely misunderstood - Presents limited ideas which may be largely irrelevant/repetitive
2.0	- Answer is barely related to the task
1.0	- Answer is completely unrelated to the task
0	Does not attend Does not attempt the task in any way Writes a totally memorized response

- CC: Coherence & Cohesion

Band	**Requirements**
9.0	- Uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention - Skillfully manages paragraphing
8.0	- Sequences information and ideas logically - Manages all aspects of cohesion well - Use paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately
7.0	- Logically organizes information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout - Uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-/over-use
6.0	- Arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression - Uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical

	- May not always use referencing clearly or appropriately
5.0	- Presents information with some organization but there may be a lack of overall progression - Makes inadequate, inaccurate or over-use of cohesive devices - May be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution
4.0	- Presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response - Uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive
3.0	- Does not arrange ideas logically - May use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas
2.0	- Has very little control of organizational features
1.0	- Fails to communicate any message
0	Does not attend Does not attempt the task in any way Writes a totally memorized response

- LR: Lexical Resource

Band	**Requirements**
9.0	- Uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8.0	- Uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings - Skillfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be

	occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation - Produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation
7.0	- Uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision - Uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation - May produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation
6.0	- Uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task - Attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy - Makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication
5.0	- Uses limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task - May make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader
4.0	- Uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task - Has limited control of word formation and/or spelling; errors may cause strain for the reader
3.0	- Uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/or spelling - Errors may severely distort the message
2.0	- Uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling
1.0	- Can only use a few isolated words

0	Does not attend Does not attempt the task in any way Writes a totally memorized response

- GRA: Grammatical Range & Accuracy

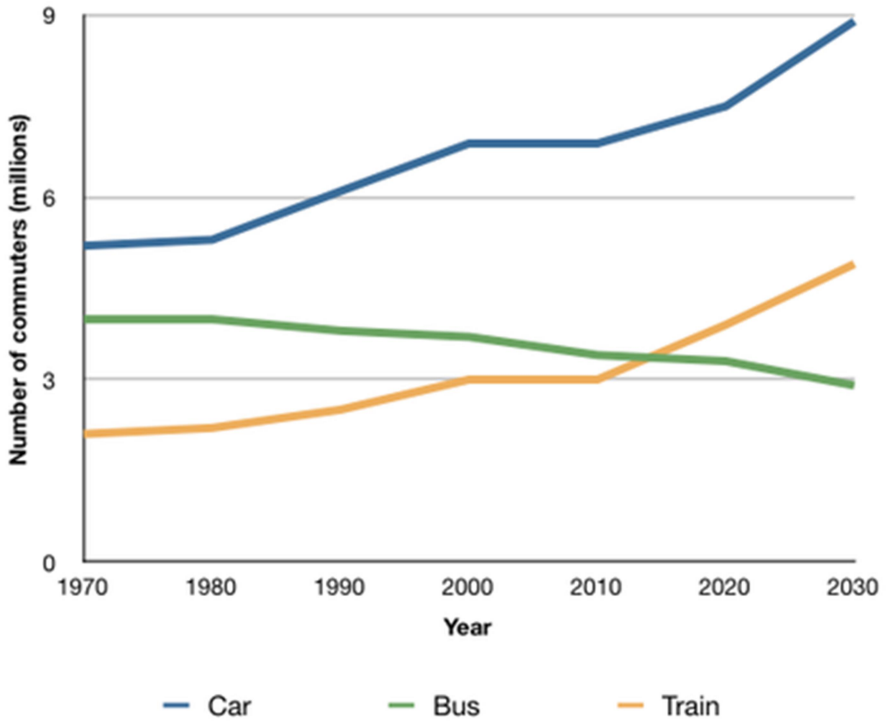
Band	**Requirements**
9.0	- Uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8.0	- Uses a wide range of structures - The majority of sentences are error-free - Makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
7.0	- Uses a variety of complex structures - Produces frequent error-free sentences - Has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors
6.0	- Uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms - Makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication
5.0	- Uses only a limited range of structures - Attempts complex sentences but the these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences - May make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader
4.0	- Uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses - Some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and

	punctuation is often faulty
3.0	- Attempts sentences forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning
2.0	- Cannot use sentence forms except in memorized phrases
1.0	- Cannot use sentence forms at all
0	Does not attend Does not attempt the task in any way Writes a totally memorized response

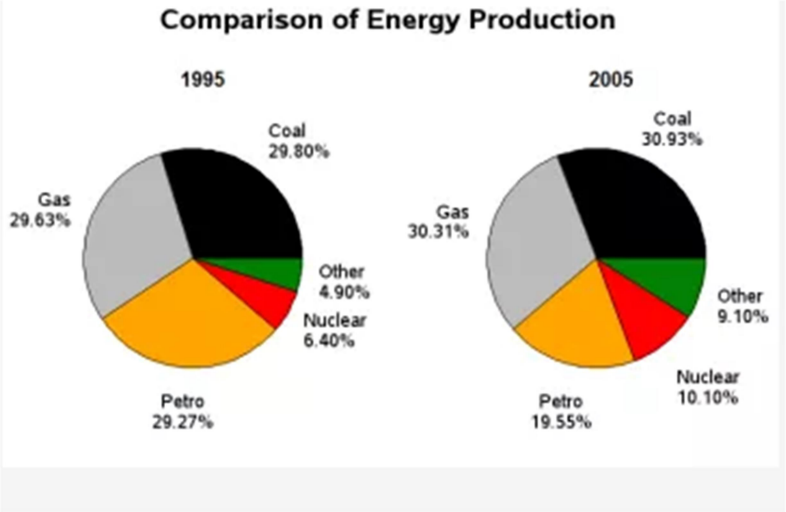
4. Common types of IELTS writing task 1

- **Line graph**

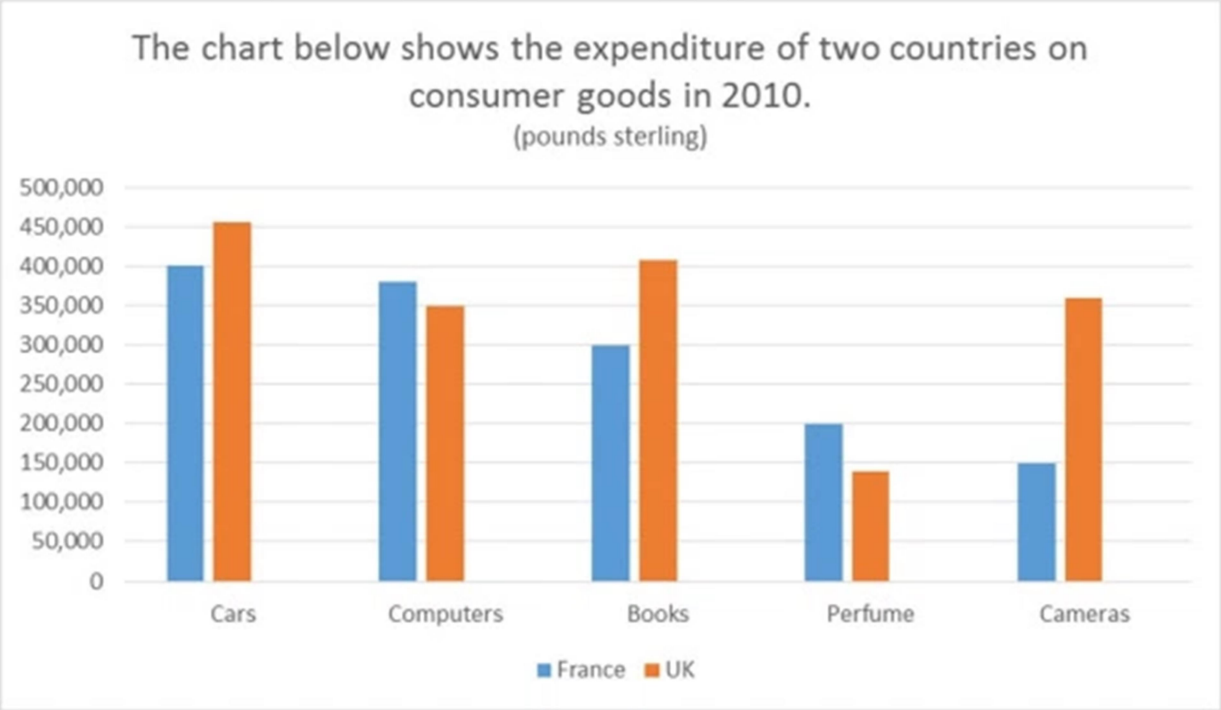
The graph below shows the average number of UK commuters travelling each day by car, bus or train between 1970 and 2030.



Pie chart



- **Bar chart**

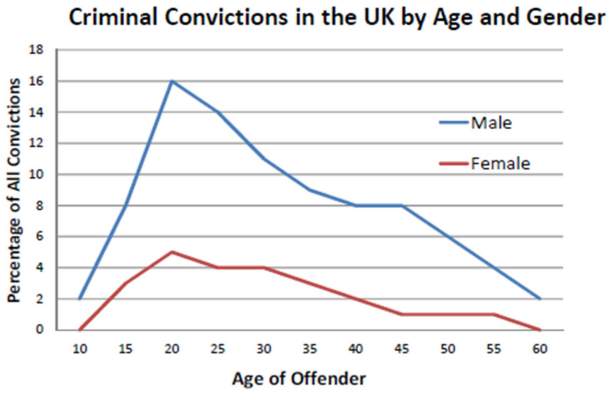


- **Table**

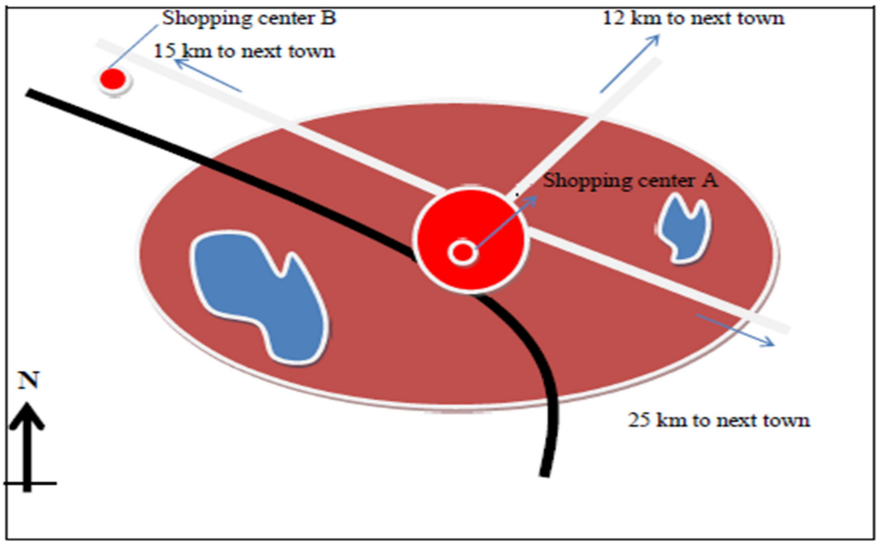
Family type	Proportion of people from each household type living in poverty
single aged person	6% (54,000)
aged couple	4% (48,000)
single, no children	19% (359,000)
couple, no children	7% (211,000)
sole parent	21% (232,000)
couple with children	12% (933,000)
all households	**11% (1,837,000)**

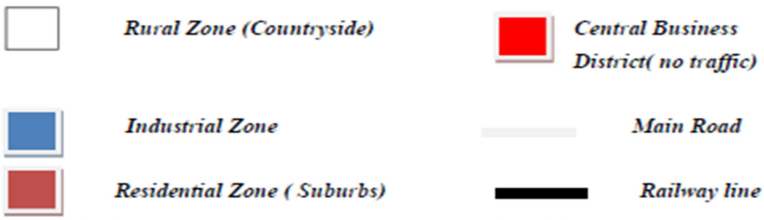
- **Mixed**



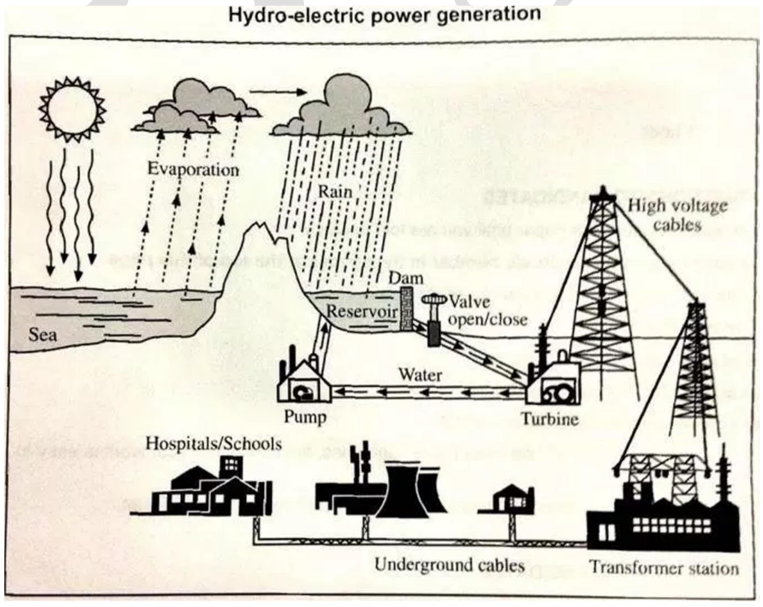


- **Maps**





- **Process**



5. Important notes:

- *No contractions*
- *No "I" or "you"*
- *Always paraphrase where possible*
- *DON'T include any personal opinions*
- *DON'T try to include everything*
- *Writing an overview is a must*
- *Be careful of verb tenses*
- *Try to write 4 paragraphs*

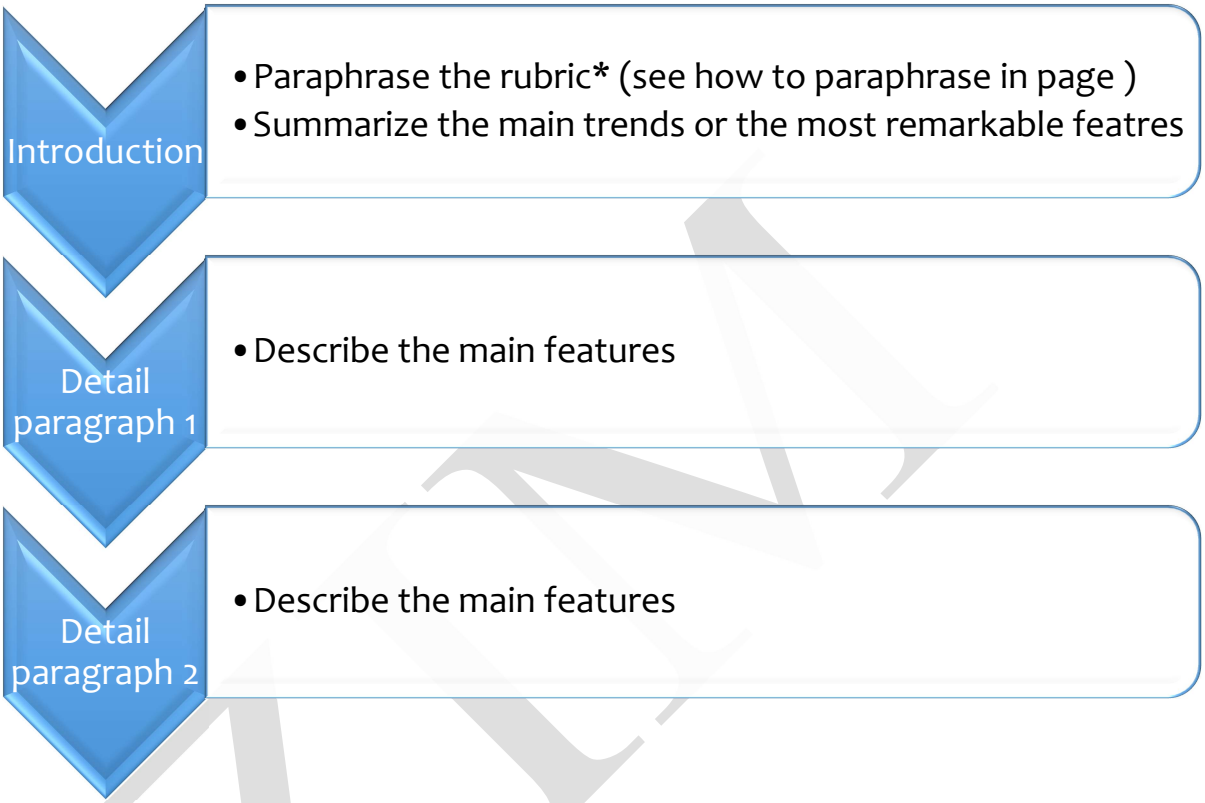
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CHAPTER 2

General structure

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The 3-paragraph structure can be applied to write a report in the first part of the IELTS writing section.



- *It is important to keep in mind that writing an overview (the summary of the main trends and the most remarkable features) is a must.*
- *What is "the rubric"?*

Every chart, graph, table or diagram has a sentence that describes what the info graphic is about. That sentence is called "the rubric".

Example:

The line graph below shows the unemployment rate in Vietnam from 1990 to 2010.

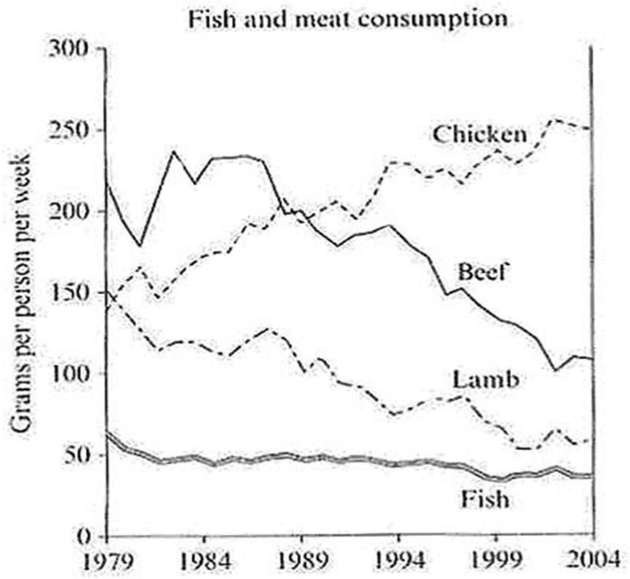
CHAPTER 3

How to write all types of IELTS writing task 1

ZIM

I. Line graph

The graph below shows the consumption of fish and some different kinds of meat in a European country between 1979 and 2004.



The line graph above illustrates the amount of fish and three other kinds of meat namely lamb, beef and chicken that people of a European country consumed during the period of 1979 and 2004. Overall, the consumption of fish showed small degree of fluctuation; meanwhile, the figure for Lamb, Beef and Chicken changed dramatically from the year of 1979 to 2004.

Starting with more than 50 grams for each individual per week in 1979, the amount of Fish slightly declined for the next five years until 1984, followed by fifteen years of stability. In 1999, this amount decreased a little and then nearly remained unchanged until 2004.

However, Lamb and Beef consumption with very high starting points of 150 grams and more than 200 grams per person per week respectively experienced many years of up and down and had the main tendency to diminish up to the year of 2004. Unlike these two kinds of food, the consumption of Chicken with a rather lower start than Lamb tended to soar and reached its peak of more than 250 grams for each person a week in 2003 and stopped in 2004 with a small decline.

Analysis:

- The introduction

The line graph above illustrates the amount of fish and three other kinds of meat namely lamb, beef and chicken that people of a European country consumed during the period of 1979 and 2004. Overall, the consumption of fish showed small degree of fluctuation; meanwhile, the figure for Lamb, Beef and Chicken changed dramatically from the year of 1979 to 2004.

➔ Sentence 1: '***The line graph above illustrates the amount of fish and three other kinds of meat namely lamb, beef and chicken that people of a European country consumed during the period of 1979 and 2004***' is the paraphrase of the rubric: ***The graph below shows the consumption of fish and some different kinds of meat in a European country between 1979 and 2004.***

➔ Sentence 2: '***Overall, the consumption of fish showed small degree of fluctuation; meanwhile, the figure for Lamb, Beef and Chicken changed dramatically from the year of 1979 to 2004'*** is the summary of the main trends of the four lines.

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- Detail paragraph 1

Starting with more than 50 grams for each individual per week in 1979, the amount of Fish slightly declined for the next five years until 1984, followed by fifteen years of stability. In 1999, this amount decreased a little and then nearly remained unchanged until 2004.

➔ Describe how the consumption of Fish changed over the given period.

- Detail paragraph 2

However, Lamb and Beef consumption with very high starting points of 150 grams and more than 200 grams per person per week respectively experienced many years of up and down and had the main tendency to diminish up to the year of 2004. Unlike these two kinds of food, the consumption of Chicken with a rather lower start than Lamb tended to soar and reached its peak of more than 250 grams for each person a week in 2003 and stopped in 2004 with a small decline.

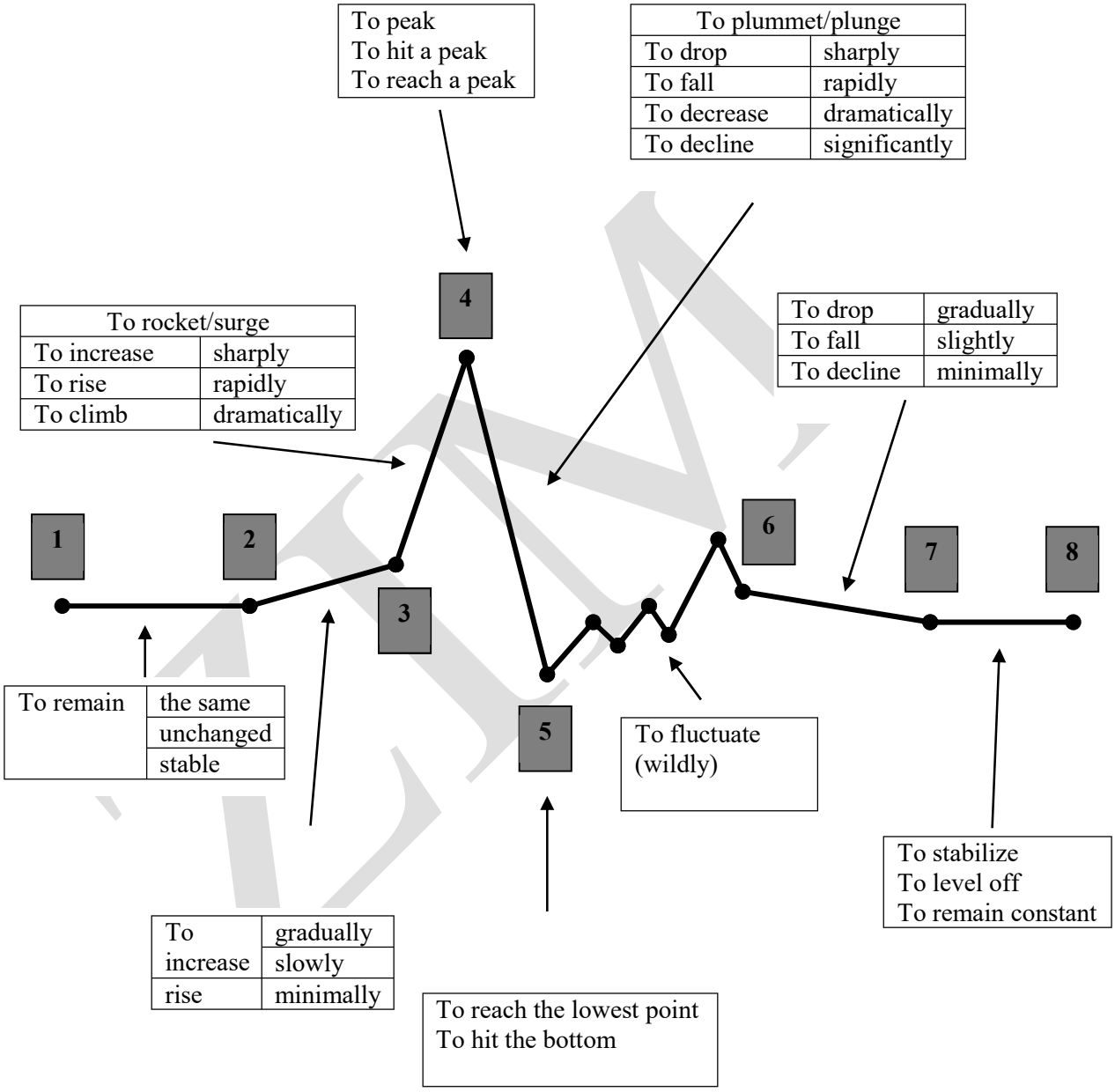
➔ Describe how the consumption of the other types of food over the given period

- **Note:**

- **Don't give numbers in the summary sentence**
- **Try not to describe the lines separately. Try to make comparisons where possible.**
- **Use past tenses for past years, and use future tenses for future years.**
- **Don't use the passive, continuous or perfect tenses.**

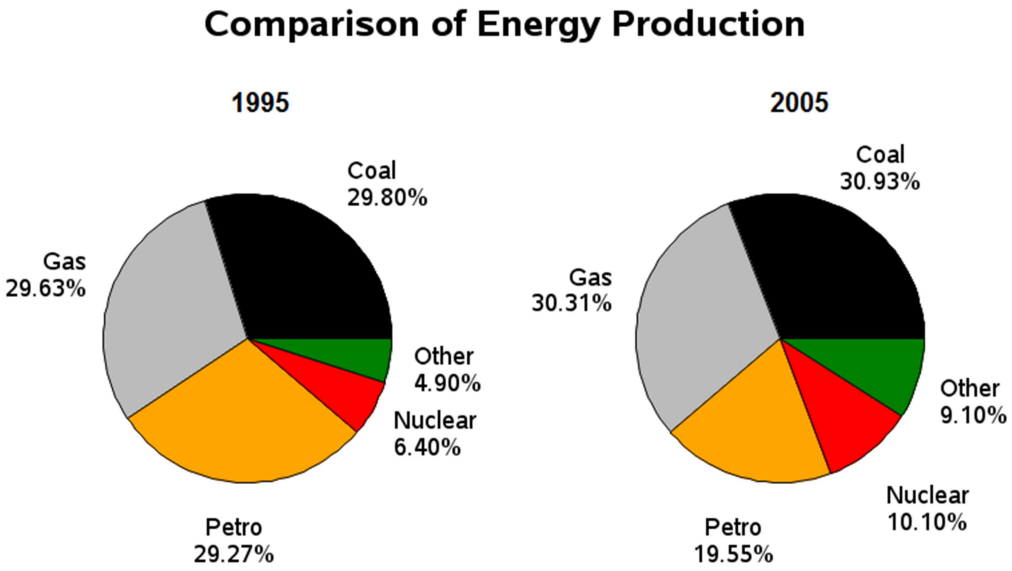
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Language of change:



II. Pie chart

The charts below show the comparison of some kinds of energy production of France in 2 years.



The pie charts compare 5 different types of energy sources, namely coal, gas, petrol, nuclear and other, of France in 1995 and 2005. It is clear that gas and coal made up the same and also the biggest proportion of energy production in both examined years; and remarkably, the amount of energy produced from petro decreased in 2005 in comparison with the increase in the use of nuclear and other sources.

In 1995, both gas and coal occupied approximately 29% of the French total energy production. After 10 years, there was a slight rise in those figures to just under 31%.

Roughly 29% of the entire amount of energy in France came from petro in 1995. However, up to the year of 2005, that figure considerably declined be about 10%. Meanwhile, the use of nuclear and other materials to generate energy became more popular, from 6.4 % and nearly 5% in 1995 to around 10% and 9% in 2005 respectively.

Analysis

- The introduction

The pie charts compare 5 different types of energy sources, namely coal, gas, petrol, nuclear and other, of France in 1995 and 2005. It is clear that gas and coal made up the same and also the biggest proportion of energy production in both examined years; and remarkably, the amount of energy produced from petro decreased in 2005 in comparison with the increase in the use of nuclear and other sources.

➔ Sentence 1: '***The pie charts compare 5 different types of energy sources, namely coal, gas, petrol, nuclear and other, of France in 1995 and 2005'*** is the paraphrase of the rubric: ***The charts below show the comparison of some kinds of energy production of France in 2 years.***

➔ Sentence 2: '***It is clear that gas and coal made up the same and also the biggest proportion of energy production in both examined years; and remarkably, the amount of energy produced from petro decreased in 2005 in comparison with the increase in the use of nuclear and other sources'*** is the summary of the most remarkable features.

- Detail paragraph 1

In 1995, both gas and coal occupied approximately 29% of the French total energy production. After 10 years, there was a slight rise in those figures to just under 31%.

➔ Describe some main features of the pies

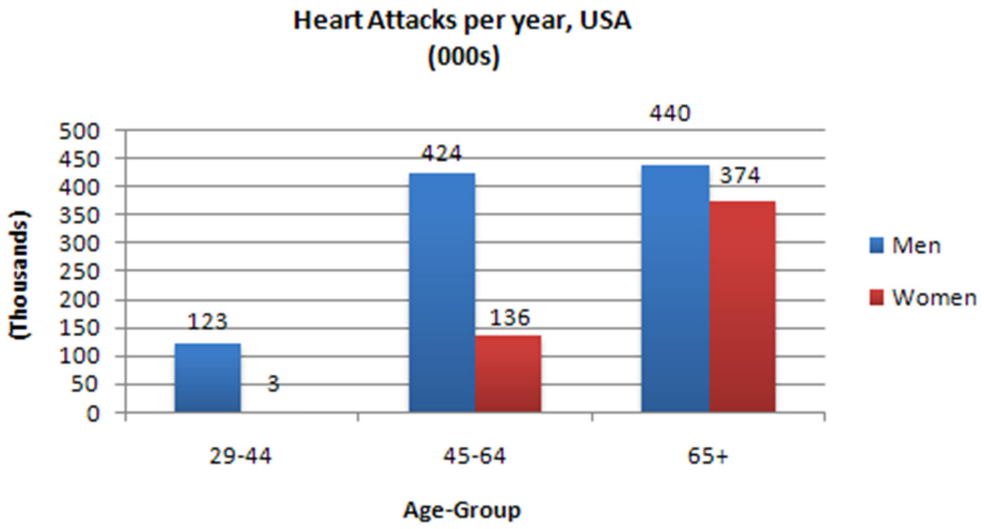
- Detail paragraph 2

Roughly 29% of the entire amount of energy in France came from petro in 1995. However, up to the year of 2005, that figure considerably declined be about 10%. Meanwhile, the use of nuclear and other materials to generate energy became more popular, from 6.4 % and nearly 5% in 1995 to around 10% and 9% in 2005 respectively.

➔ Describe some main features of the pies

III. Bar chart

The chart below indicates the number of people who have heart attacks every year in the US.



The chart gives data about the differences in the annual number of men and women of three age groups who suffer from heart attacks in the USA. It is clear that as people grow older, the risk for heart attack increases; and it can also be seen from the chart that heart attacks often happen to men rather than women.

At the age of 29 to 44, 123 thousand female patients have heart attacks, while the figure for women is only 3 thousand. Remarkably, from 45 to 64 years old, there are 424 thousand men who undergo heart attacks and 136 thousand was the number of women suffering from the same medical situation.

440 thousand men are recorded to have heart attacks when they reach their 65 or higher while the figure for women of the same age is only 374 thousand.

Analysis

- The introduction

The chart gives data about the differences in the annual number of men and women of three age groups who suffer from heart attacks in the USA. It is clear that as people grow older, the risk for heart attack increases; and it can also be seen from the chart that heart attacks often happen to men rather than women.

➔ Sentence 1: '***The chart gives data about the differences in the annual number of men and women of three age groups who suffer from heart attacks in the USA'*** is the paraphrase of the rubric: ***'The chart below indicates the number of people who have heart attacks every year in the US'***

➔ Sentence 2: '***It is clear that as people grow older, the risk for heart attack increases; and it can also be seen from the chart that heart attacks often happen to men rather than women'*** is the summary of the most remarkable features

- Detail paragraph 1

At the age of 29 to 44, 123 thousand female patients have heart attacks, while the figure for women is only 3 thousand. Remarkably, from 45 to 64 years old, there are 424 thousand men who undergo heart attacks and 136 thousand was the number of women suffering from the same medical situation.

➔ Describe some main features

- Detail paragraph 2

440 thousand men are recorded to have heart attacks when they reach their 65 or higher while the figure for women of the same age is only 374 thousand.

➔ Describe some main features

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IV. Table

The table below shows the sales at a small restaurant in a downtown business district in 2010.

Sales: week of October 7-13

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
Lunch	$2,400	$2,450	$2,595	$2,375	$2,500	$1,950	$1,550
Dinner	$3,623	$3,850	$3,445	$3,800	$4,350	$2,900	$2,450

The table gives data about the profit that a restaurant in a business area made from 2 main meals during the second week of October in the year of 2010. It can be seen that the sales from dinner were much higher than those from lunch during the examined period.

From Monday to Friday, the profit was the lowest on Thursday, at only 2375$ in comparison with the highest figure on Wednesday, at nearly 2600$. Meanwhile, customers spent the least amount of 3623 $ on dinner on Monday compared to the other days of the week and 4350$ on Friday, which was the highest number in the category.

At the weekend, the difference in the sales between lunch and dinner was almost 1000 $. While the money gained from lunch on Saturday was only 1950 $, the figure for dinner was 2900$. Diners coming to the restaurant on Sunday spent 1550 $ and 2450 $ for lunch and dinner respectively.

Analysis

- The introduction

The table gives data about the profit that a restaurant in a business area made from 2 main meals during the second week of October in the year of 2010. It can be seen that the sales from dinner were much higher than those from lunch during the examined period.

➔ Sentence 1: '***The table gives data about the profit that a restaurant in a business area made from 2 main meals during the second week of October in the year of 2010'*** is the paraphrase of the rubric: ***'The table below shows the sales at a small restaurant in a downtown business district in 2010'***

➔ Sentence 2: '***It can be seen that the sales from dinner were much higher than those from lunch during the examined period'*** is the summary of the most remarkable feature.

- Detail paragraph 1

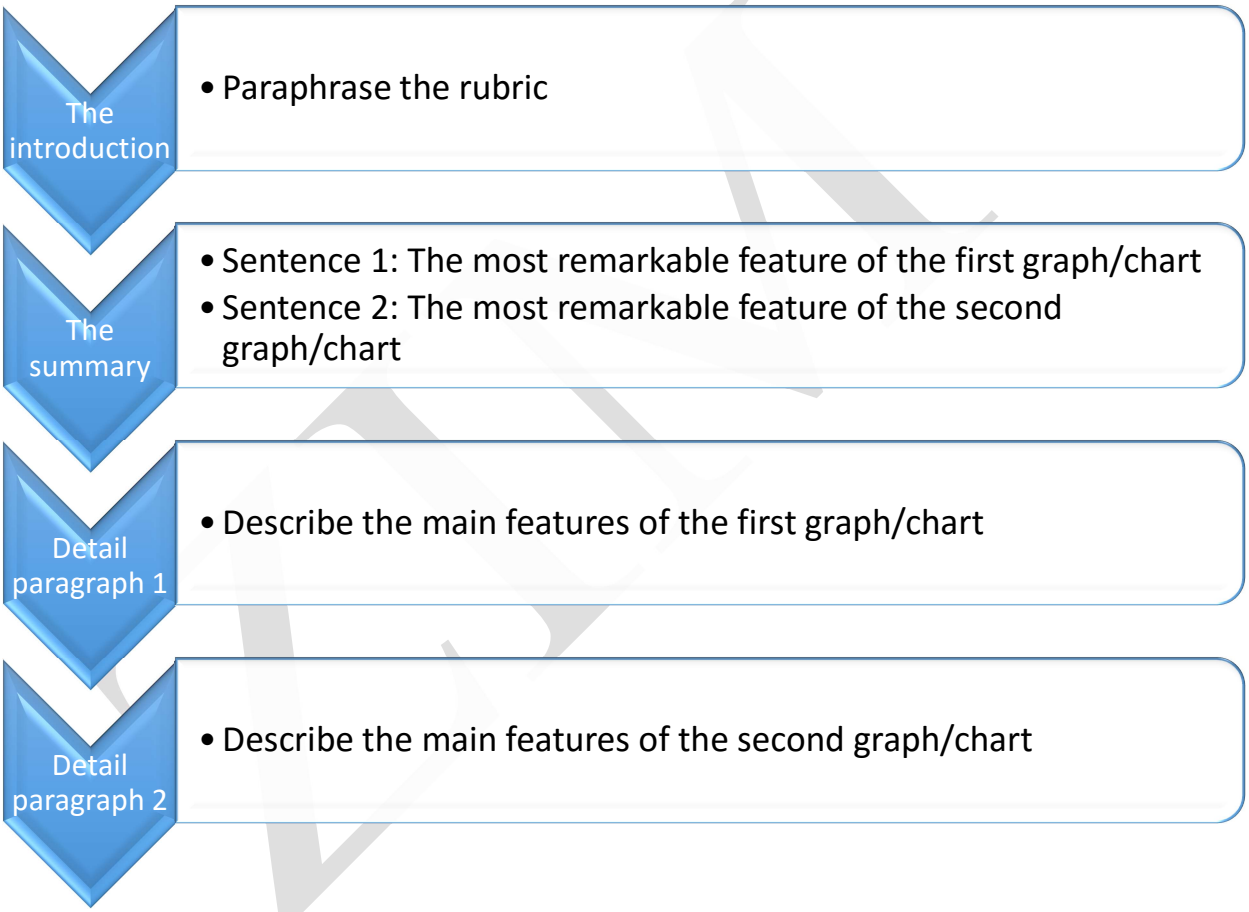
From Monday to Friday, the profit was the lowest on Thursday, at only 2375$ in comparison with the highest figure on Wednesday, at nearly 2600$. Meanwhile, customers spent the least amount of 3623 $ on dinner on Monday compared to the other days of the week and 4350$ on Friday, which was the highest number in the category.

- Detail paragraph 2

At the weekend, the difference in the sales between lunch and dinner was almost 1000 $. While the money gained from lunch on Saturday was only 1950 $, the figure for dinner was 2900$. Diners coming to the restaurant on Sunday spent 1550 $ and 2450 $ for lunch and dinner respectively.

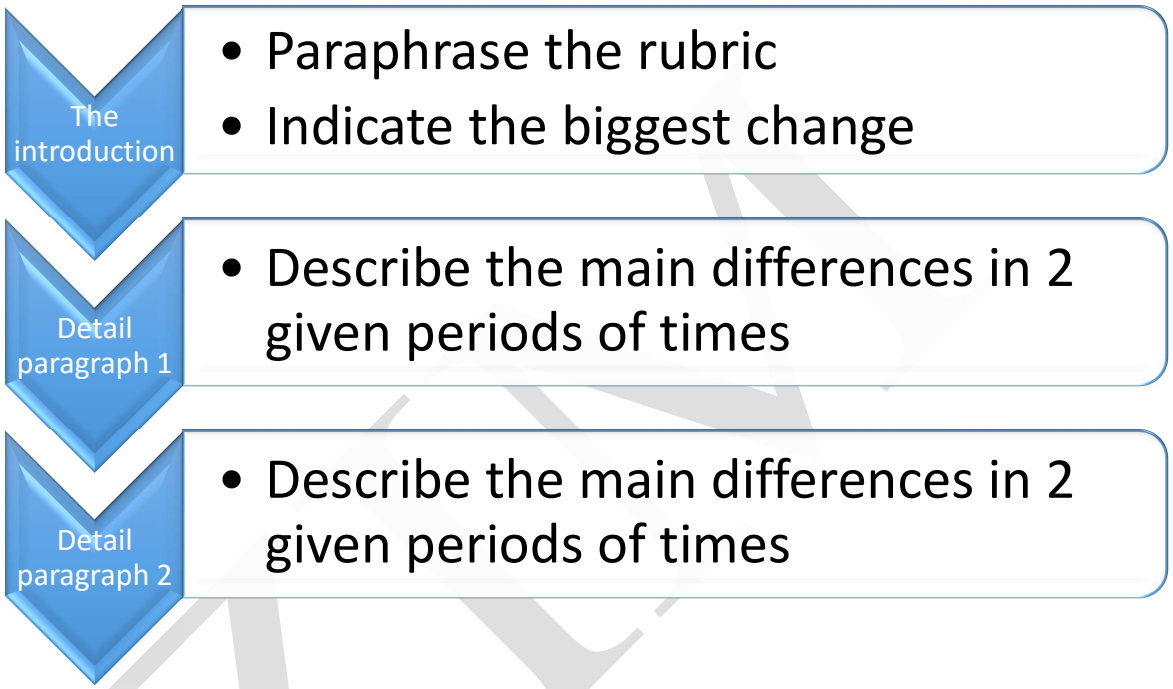
V. Mixed

Some students find this mixed type (usually 2 different graphs or charts) difficult to describe. However, this particular type of info graphic is quite easy. The structure of the report would be as follows:



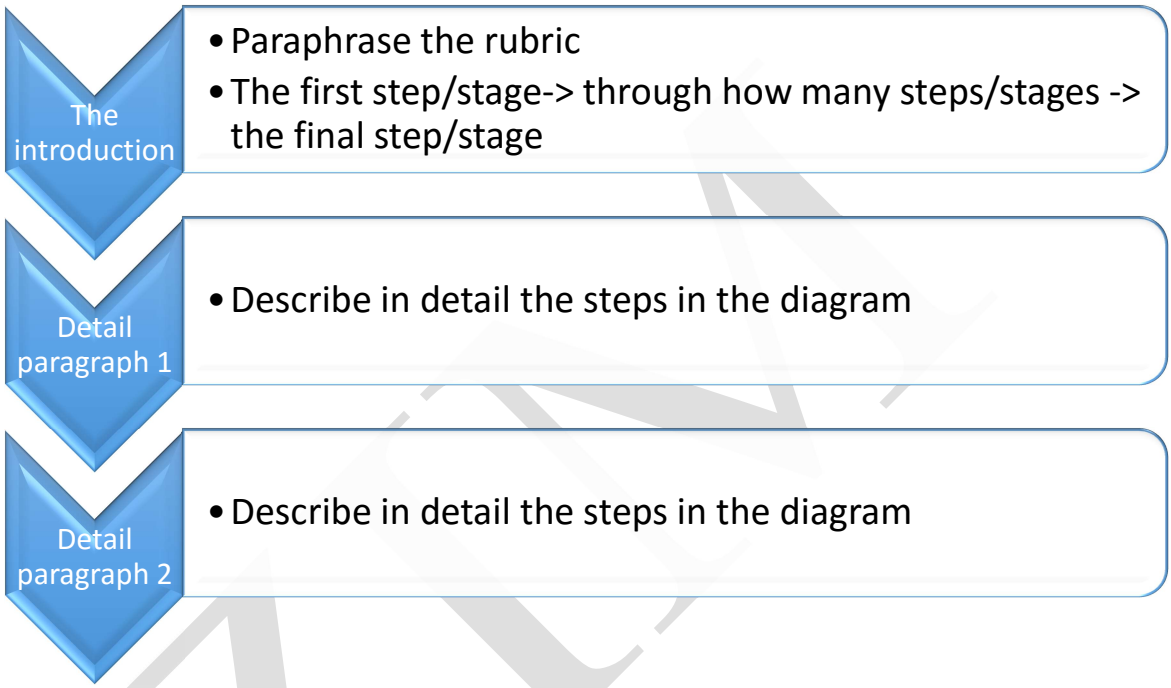
VI. Maps

A map usually show changes of some given place in 2 different periods of time (a village, a city, a building …)



VII. Process

There are 2 common types of processes: ***How something is made*** and ***life cycle***. Both of these types can be written in the following structure:



- ***Note:***

- ***In paragraphs 2 and 3, describe the process step by step, including the first and final step/stage mentioned in the summary sentence but in more detail.***
- ***Describe all the steps/stages illustrated in the diagram***
- ***Use language of sequence to describe steps/stages: First/Second, The first step/stage is…, next, then, after that etc.***
- ***Use the present simple tense.***
- ***When describing how something is made, use the passive voice.***

IELTS WRITING TASK 2

CHAPTER 1

What you need to know about the IELTS writing task 2

ZIM

6. General introduction

- This is the second part of the writing section. It requires you to produce an academic essay with the minimum length of 250 words within a suggested period of 40 minutes.
- There is no obligation of the maximum length.
- This part takes up 2/3 the overall score of the writing section.

7. Assessment criteria

An IELTS essay is marked in accordance with 4 different criteria, each of which shares an equal proportion in the overall band score (25% each)

TR *Task Response (25%)*	**CC** *Coherence & Cohesion (25%)*
This criterion assesses your answer to the question mentioned in the topic. The examiner will check your response in the introduction, relevant ideas and supporting details (including examples and explanations) in the body. Also of importance is the length of the essay.	- Coherence means that your essay is easy to read and understand, which goes with handwriting and language used in the essay. - Cohesion means your essay stays on-topic and does not provide any irrelevant and redundant ideas or details.
LR *Lexical Resource (25%)*	**GRA** *Grammatical Range & Accuracy (25%)*
This criterion assesses how effectively and accurately you can use your vocabulary to develop your ideas. Big words and phrases might lead to your essay becoming forced and unnatural.	This criterion assesses your flexibility and accuracy in using grammatical structures.

8. IELTS writing task 2 band descriptors

- TR: Task response

Band	Requirements
9.0	- Fully addresses all parts of the task - Present a fully developed position in answer to the question with relevant, fully extended and well supported ideas.
8.0	- Sufficiently addresses all parts of the task - Presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.
7.0	- Addresses all parts of the task - Presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to overgeneralize and/or supporting ideas may lack focus
6.0	- Addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others - Presents a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive - Presents relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear
5.0	- Addresses the task only partially; the format may be inappropriate in places - Expresses a position but the development is not always clear and there may be no conclusions drawn - Presents some main ideas but these are limited and not sufficiently developed; there may be irrelevant detail

4.0	- Responds to the task only in a minimal way or the answer is tangential; the format may be inappropriate - Presents a position but this is unclear - Presents some main ideas but these are difficult to identify and may be repetitive, irrelevant or not well supported
3.0	- Does not adequately address any part of the task - Does not express a clear position - Presents few ideas, which are largely undeveloped or irrelevant
2.0	- Barely responds to the task - Does not express a position - May attempt to present one or two ideas but there is no development
1.0	- Answer is completely unrelated to the task
0	Does not attend Does not attempt the task in any way Writes a totally memorized response

- CC: Coherence & Cohesion

Band	**Requirements**
9.0	- Uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention - Skillfully manages paragraphing
8.0	- Sequences information and ideas logically - Manages all aspects of cohesion well - Uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately
7.0	- Logically organizes information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout

	- Uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-/over-use - Presents a clear central topic within each paragraph
6.0	- Arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression - uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical - May not always use referencing clearly or appropriately - Uses paragraphing, but not always logically
5.0	- Presents information with some organization but there may be a lack of overall progression - Makes inadequate, inaccurate or over use of cohesive devices - May be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution - May not write in paragraphs, or paragraphing may be inadequate
4.0	- Presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response - Uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive - May not write in paragraphs or their use may be confusing
3.0	- Does not organize ideas logically - May use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas
2.0	- Has very little control of organizational features
1.0	- Fails to communicate any message
0	Does not attend

	Does not attempt the task in any way Writes a totally memorized response

- LR: Lexical Resource

Band	**Requirements**
9.0	- Uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8.0	- Uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings - Skillfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation - Produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation
7.0	- Uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision - Uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation - May produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation
6.0	- Uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task - Attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy - Makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication
5.0	- Uses limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task - May make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation

	that may cause some difficulty for the reader
4.0	- Uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task - Has limited control of word formation and/or spelling; errors may cause strain for the reader
3.0	- Uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/or spelling - Errors may severely distort the message
2.0	- Uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling
1.0	- Can only use a few isolated words
0	Does not attend Does not attempt the task in any way Writes a totally memorized response

- GRA: Grammatical Range & Accuracy

Band	**Requirements**
9.0	- Uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8.0	- Uses a wide range of structures - The majority of sentences are error-free - Makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
7.0	- Uses a variety of complex structures - Produces frequent error-free sentences - Has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors

6.0	- Uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms - Makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication
5.0	- Uses only a limited range of structures - Attempts complex sentences but the these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences - May make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader
4.0	- Uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses - Some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty
3.0	- Attempts sentences forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning
2.0	- Cannot use sentence forms except in memorized phrases
1.0	- Cannot use sentence forms at all
0	Does not attend Does not attempt the task in any way Writes a totally memorized response

9. Common essay types

- Opinion essays (40%)
- Discussion essays (20%)
- Advantage & Disadvantage essays (10%)
- Cause & solution essays (15%)

- Direct-question essays (some might refer to “Two-part question”) (15%)

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10. When to give your opinion

In many cases, you are asked to give your opinion in your essay. However, you will lose marks if you present your personal point of view in an essay that does not require an opinion.

Let's take a look at some possible questions that might appear in the task:

- **To what extent do you agree or disagree/Do you agree or disagree?**
- **Discuss both views and give your opinion**
- **Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?**
- **Is this a positive or negative development?**

These are the questions that ask for your opinion.

And the following questions are those that DO NOT require personal views.

- **Discuss the advantages and disadvantages**
- **What are the benefits and drawbacks/What are the advantages and disadvantages?**
- **What are the causes? What are the solutions?**

11. Important notes:

- *Contractions are not allowed (he's, she's, can't, won't)*
- *No "you"!*
- *Don't raise a question*
- *Don't use informal language*
- *Always use paraphrase when possible*
- *Never copy the topic*
- *Never use plagiarism or memorized items.*
- *The 4-paragraph format is recommended for IELTS task 2*
- *No idioms. (except a few typical idioms used in writing such as "do more harm than good")*
- *Don't use "so on", "…" and "etc."*
- *You are writing for an educated non-specialist audience. Therefore, your language does not need to be as formal as that of university essays.*
- *You are, in most cases, are expected to give your opinion. You may also have to include your life experience and relevant examples to support your opinion.*
- *The topics of the IELTS writing questions will be of general interest, no specialist knowledge is required. For example, topics and include travel, accommodation, current affairs, shops and services, health and welfare, health and safety, recreation, social issues, environmental problems …*
- *Do not copy whole sentences or long phrases from the question. The examiner will recognize them, and they will not count towards your minimum number of words you must write.*

CHAPTER 2

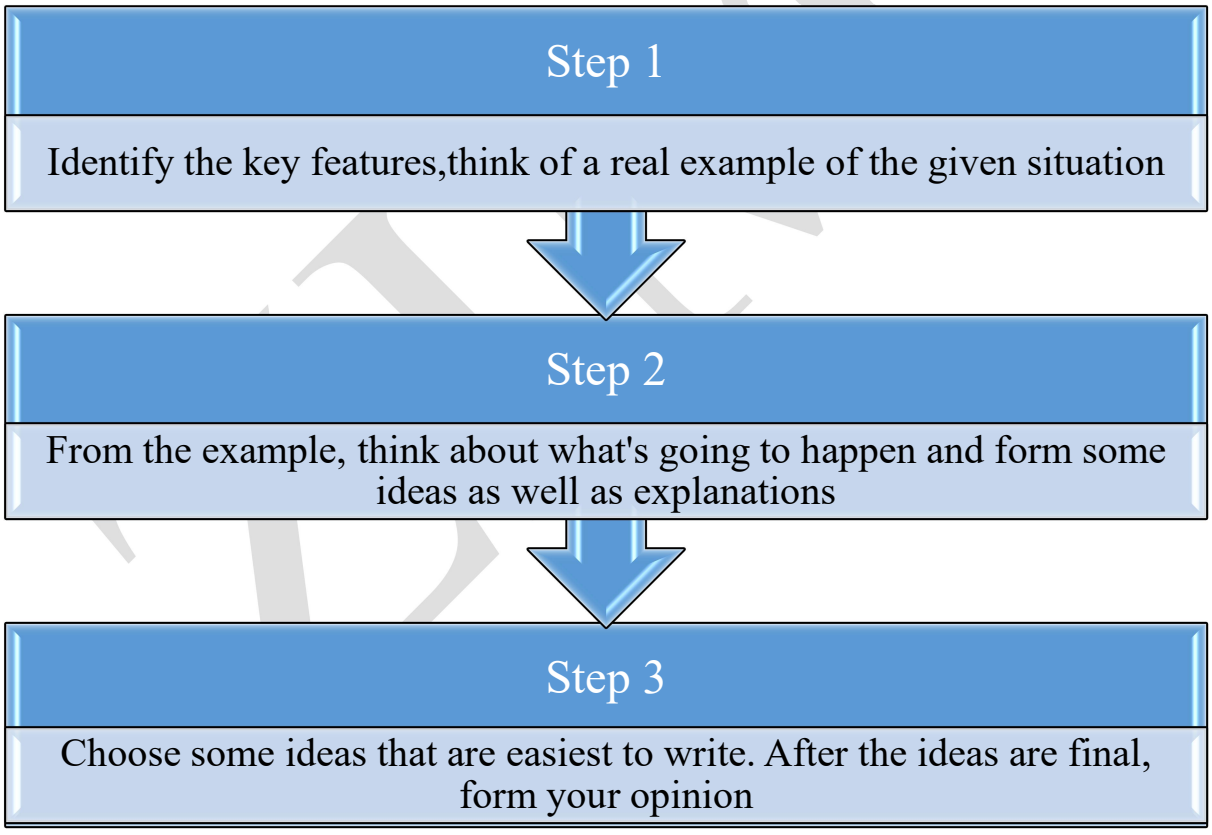
Sharpening your writing skills

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I. There are 3 skills that are the most important factors in writing an IELTS essay, namely **brainstorming, paraphrasing** and **sentence building skills.**

- **Brainstorming skills**: The ability to come up with good ideas and to organize those ideas logically within the paragraph

The sequence of brainstorming would be as follows:



Let's take a look at this topic:

It is more important for schoolchildren to learn about local history than world history.

Do you agree or disagree?

STEP 1: Identifying the key words and thinking of a specific example of local history and world history.	**Key words:** more, history, schoolchildren **Examples:** - *Local history*: the Vietnam War, the fight against the North Empire, how making Chung cake became a tradition during Tet holiday - *World history*: The world war, the feminism protest, foreign cultures
STEP 2: Forming ideas and explanations	- The Vietnam War, the fight against the North Empire -> Schoolchildren will be prouder of their country -> patriotism. - How making Chung cake became a tradition during Tet holiday -> Schoolchildren will understand traditional values of their hometown. - The world war, the feminism protest -> Schoolchildren can expand their horizons. - Foreign cultures -> Schoolchildren will have an advantage in their future occupation
STEP 3: Forming an opinion	For me, it is easier to write about local history with the ideas that I have noted down earlier. Therefore, my opinion would be "I completely agree that learning about local history is more important."

This is what a real outline of an IELTS essay would look like:

Local history	**World history**
- Patriotism • The Vietnam War, the fight against the North Empire • Children will take pride in their history - Traditional values • How making Chung cake became a tradition during Tet holiday • History conveys the culture of a country	- Expanding children's horizons • The world war, the feminism protest • Different aspects of the world -> become more well-rounded citizens - Future career • Foreign cultures • In the age of globalization, it is valuable to understand the cultural differences between foreign partners

Under the real test condition, you only need to write down the underlined phrases, the rest is what you think during the brainstorming process.

- **Paraphrasing skills**: The ability to express the same idea in different words, sentences and structures. There is no need for you to replace all the words and phrases in the original sentence.

Example:

Both governments and individuals should be responsible for protecting wild animals as human activities are destroying their habitats.

- **Tip 1**: ***Active – Passive structure***

Human activities are destroying their habitats.

➔ *Their habitats are being destroyed by human activities*

- **Tip 2: *Word forms (Usually nouns -> verbs and verbs -> nouns)***

Both governments and individuals should be responsible for protecting wild animals

➔ *Both governments and individuals should take responsibility for the protection of wild animals.*

- **Tip 3: *Dummy – Subjects (it & there)***

Both governments and individuals should be responsible for protecting wild animals

➔ *It is both governments' and individuals' responsibility to protect wild animals*

When combining these tips, you have the final paraphrased sentence as follows (without using any synonyms)

It is both governments' and individuals' responsibility to protect wild animals as their habitats are being destroyed by human activities.

- **Sentence building skills**: The ability to construct complex, yet clear sentences.

A good and informative sentence is created by a **complex structure**, **vocabulary** and **specific details**.

Example:

Sentence 1: Traffic congestion is a serious problem.

This sentence is too general and simple in terms of vocabulary and sentence structure.

Sentence 2: In many big cities, traffic congestion remains one of the biggest concerns among people.

In this sentence, the information is given more specifically (in big cities)

Sentence 3: In many major cities like Hanoi, people suffer from several severe consequences of traffic congestion caused by a high volume of transport and poorly executed construction plans.

This sentence is written in a complex style, yet an understandable message is still reached. The information is given in a very **SPECIFIC** way with a flexible use of vocabulary.

Note: It is NOT recommended that every sentence in an essay has to be written in a complex style like the third sentence. The flexible change of sentence length would make an essay more understandable and natural.*

II. The differences between a band 5.0, 6.0 and 8.0 paragraph

Band 5.0	**Band 6.0-6.5**
(1) *In my opinion, playing video games helps people relax after their hard-working hours.* ***(2)*** *In the modern time, people usually suffer from stress.* ***(3)*** *It is because they have to work and study all the time.* ***(4)*** *For example, students in many countries around the world have to go to school 5 to 6 days a week.* ***(5)*** *In addition, they have to take many kinds of examinations during their semesters.* ***(6)*** *Therefore, the amount of stress from studying is very huge.* ***(7)*** *Playing video games is a good way of entertainment, and students will have time to relax and enjoy themselves.* ***(8)*** *In conclusion, I believe video games are very entertaining to players.*	***(1)*** *In my opinion, playing video games is a useful tool for people to relax after hard-working hours.* ***(2)*** *In the modern time, people usually suffer from stress because they have to work and study all the time.* ***(3)*** *Especially students in many countries around the world, along with constant examinations, the time they spend at school is at least 5 days a week, which leads to a huge amount of stress.* ***(4)*** *Playing video games, such as Flappy Bird or Mario, is a good way of entertainment, and students will have time to relax and enjoy themselves.* ***(5)*** *In conclusion, I believe video games are very entertaining to players.*

- In the first paragraph, despite the accuracy in grammar rules, sentences structures are used in a simple way (most of the sentences in this paragraph are simple sentences).

- In the second paragraph, most of the sentences are complex. Vocabulary is more flexible and there are less repetitions in comparison with the first paragraph.

In the modern time, people usually suffer from stress because they have to work and study all the time. => ***Complex sentence***

Especially students in many countries around the world, along with constant examinations, the time they spend at school is at least 5 days a week, which leads to a huge amount of stress. => ***Complex sentence***

Playing video games, such as Flappy Bird or Mario, is a good way of entertainment, and students will have time to relax and enjoy themselves. => ***Compound sentence***

- Phrases to avoid repetitions:

To help people relax after their hard-working hours=> ***To be a useful tool for people to relax after hard-working hours***

To take many kinds of examinations during their semesters => ***along with constant examinations***

Have to go to school 5 to 6 days a week=> ***the time they spend at school is at least 5 days a week***

Band 7.5-8.0
(1)*In my opinion, playing video games is among the most powerful tools of relaxation for hard-working individuals.* ***(2)*** *In the modern time, the daily amount of stress people have to suffer from is enormous, which emphasizes the need for recreation.* ***(3)*** *Students, for example, spend almost all of their time at school attending classes, not to mention the excessive load of assignments to finish at home and constant examinations.* ***(4)*** *Therefore, video games, such as Flappy Bird or Mario, act as an effective way of entertainment to alleviate studying pressure.* ***(5)*** *In conclusion, I suppose that players can enjoy themselves through the means of video games.*

In this final paragraph, grammar rules and sentence structures are used accurately and flexibly.

Some useful expressions from the paragraph:

To be a useful tool for people to relax after hard-working hours

➔ ***Is among the most powerful tools of relaxation for hard-working individuals***

Along with constant examinations, the time they spend at school is at least 5 days a week, which leads to a huge amount of stress

➔ ***To spend almost all of their time at school attending classes, not to mention the excessive load of assignments to finish at home and constant examinations***

To be a good way of entertainment, and students will have time to relax and enjoy themselves

➔ ***To act as an effective way of entertainment to alleviate studying pressure.***

Huge

➔ ***Enormous***

Relaxation

➔ ***Recreation***

The huge amount of

➔ ***The excessive load of***

To be a good way

➔ ***To act as an effective way***

III. Extending your sentences

- Using relative clauses

For example, students in many countries around the world have to go to school 5 to 6 days a week. In addition, they have to take many kinds of examinations during their semesters. Therefore, the amount of stress from studying is very huge.

The second sentence is an extended example of the first sentence and you can use "which" to connect the first two sentences with the last one as follows:

➔ ***Especially students in many countries around the world, along with constant examinations, the time they spend at school is at least 5 days a week, WHICH leads to a huge amount of stress.***

- Giving an example

Playing video games is a good way of entertainment, and students will have time to relax and enjoy themselves.

You can extend this sentence by giving specific examples of video games:

➔ ***Playing video games, such as Flappy Bird or Mario, is a good way of entertainment, and students will have time to relax and enjoy themselves.***

- Using clauses of results

In the modern time, the daily amount of stress people have to suffer from is enormous.

To extend this sentence, you can use clauses of results. In this case, the result of people suffering from stress is their demand for leisure. So the sentence can be rewritten as follows:

➔ ***In the modern time, the daily amount of stress people have to suffer from is enormous, which emphasizes the need for recreation.***

- Using clauses of purpose

Therefore, video games, such as Flappy Bird or Mario, act as an effective way of entertainment.

You can use a clause of purpose to extend this sentence as follows:

➔ ***Therefore, video games, such as Flappy Bird or Mario, act as an effective way of entertainment to alleviate the studying pressure.***

- Using clauses of reasons

In the modern time, people usually suffer from stress. It is because they have to work and study all the time.

These 2 sentences are quite simple and can be combined by a clause of reasons:

➔ ***In the modern time, people usually suffer from stress because they have to work and study all the time.***

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CHAPTER 3

General structure

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This 4-paragraph structure can be applied to write most of the IELTS task 2 essays. A few exceptions may occur when the task specifically requires more than 2 body paragraphs.

THE INTRODUCTION *(2 sentences)*

- Sentence 1: Giving background information by paraphrasing the topic
- Sentence 2: Giving a clear answer to the question

THE BODY *(2 paragraphs with 4-6 sentences in each)*

- The first body paragraph

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence

✓ Sentence 2-4/6: Supporting sentences (explanations & examples)

- The second body paragraph

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence

✓ Sentence 2-4/6: Supporting sentences (explanations & examples)

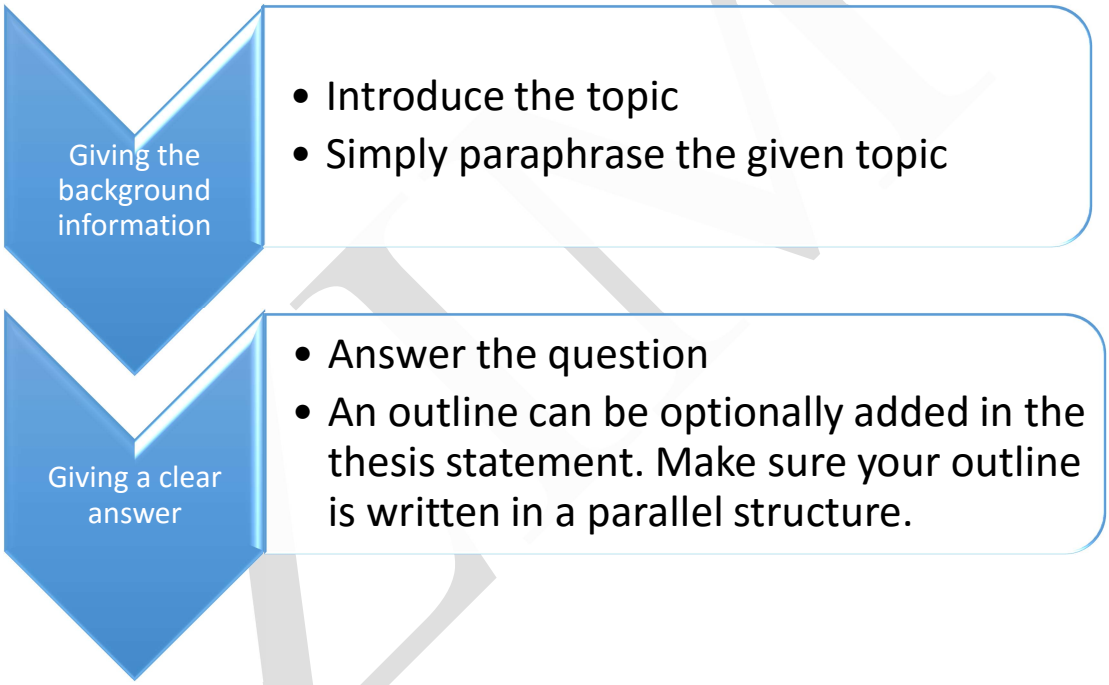
THE CONCLUSION *(1 sentence)*

- The restatement: repeat your answer to the question

I. How to write a good introduction?

- Introduce the topic
- Answer the question

These are the two requirements of a good introduction. For each requirement, you only need 1 sentence.



The introduction is approximately 35-50 words long. It is unnecessary for you to write a long introduction because it is the body that you need to focus on.

Example:

Topic: The Internet has caused people to be isolated from their real lives. Do you agree or disagree?

Model answer

It is generally believed by many people that the Internet is the root of people's seclusion from their society (GIVING BACKGROUND INFORMATION). From my perspective, this idea is completely flawed owing to the benefits in terms of communication and knowledge acquisition that the Internet offers (GIVING A CLEAR ANSWER).

Let's analyze my answer:

➢ My first sentence is the narrow background statement which simply is a paraphrase of the topic. Let's see how I did it: "***It is generally believed by many people that the Internet is the root of people's seclusion from their society***". The topic is: "***The Internet has caused people to be isolated from their real lives",*** so instead of saying "The Internet has caused" I wrote "The Internet is the root of". The phrase "to be isolated from their real lives" was replaced by "people's seclusion from their society". It is necessary that you use paraphrased words and phrases in this sentence because it shows that you understand the given topic.

➢ The second sentence of my introduction is the thesis statement which is very direct and clear: "***From my perspective, this idea is completely flawed"***. You do not need complex structure or advanced vocabulary to write the thesis because it might cause confusion to the examiner. At the beginning, I used a phrase: "***From my perspective***" as a linker to signal my opinion, you can use a lot of other words and phrases to express your opinion. It only plays a role of telling the examiner that

you are going to present your opinion, so it does not matter what words or phrases you use. Note that I also added an outline for my essay: "***owing to the benefits in terms of communication and knowledge acquisition that the Internet offers"***. I listed my 2 main ideas using a parallel structure: "***communication***" and "***knowledge acquisition***", very general, do not provide any specific details in the outline. Remember that an outline is only optional.

II. How to write a body paragraph?

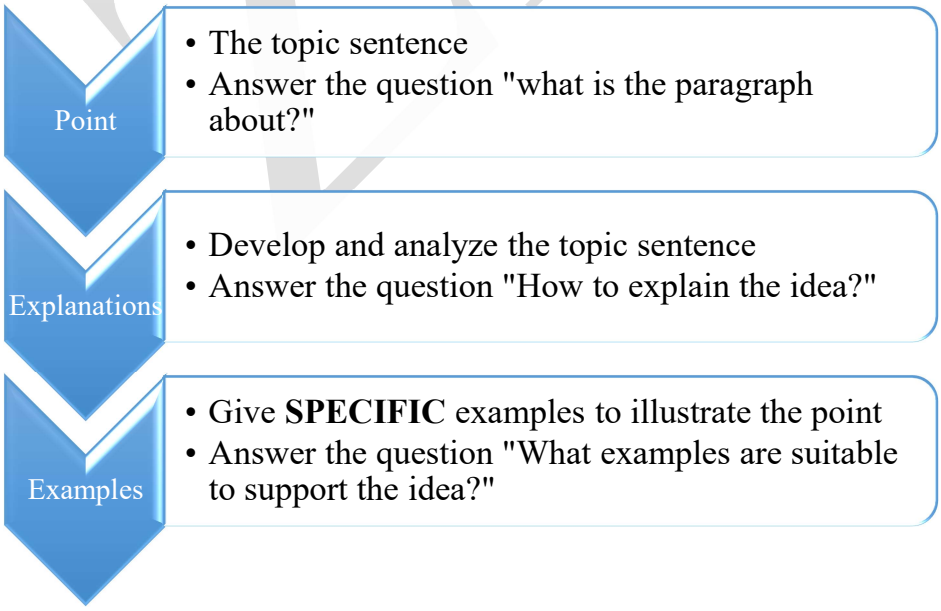
A well-written and well-discussed body paragraph should answer these 3 following questions:

What is the paragraph about?

How to explain the idea?

What examples are suitable to support the stated idea?

In order to answer those questions, a body paragraph should include 3 key features (the P.E.E rule) in correlation with the 3 questions:



For a fully-developed body paragraph, 5-6 sentences are enough. Remember, examples are greatly important as they help your essay more convincing.

On writing the body, keep asking yourself the question "**why**" in order to produce an in-depth analysis to support the essay.

Topic: The Internet has caused people to be isolated from their real lives. Do you agree or disagree?

Model answer

Firstly, I would argue that the Internet is one of the most powerful facilitators in communication (POINT). At the moment, numerous websites such as Facebook or Yahoo offer much faster and more convenient services for users to keep in touch with their friends and relatives regardless of geographic distance (SPECIFIC EXAMPLE). These websites create an online network which connects everyone within their users' social circle and enables them to send instant messages or to make video calls in a few seconds no matter where they are. People, therefore, can enjoy both the convenience and the swiftness that those services provide (EXPLANATION).

Secondly, I believe the Internet has empowered people to acquire more knowledge about their society than ever before (POINT). As a matter of fact, it is able to bring every aspect of life to people, which I think is valuable because people will have a closer look at how their society really is (EXPLANATION). Latest news about sports, education or criminals for example is updated constantly in many online sources that are open to everyone (SPECIFIC EXAMPLE). This easy accessibility equips people with sufficient information, in other words, they are more aware of the problems lying within their society (EXPLANATION).

Writing tip: To begin each paragraph, just go for a simple linker. More complicated transitional words are unnecessary and you will not get more marks.

Let's analyze my answer:

➢ I always start my paragraph with a simple linking word (firstly, secondly) and a short and clear topic sentence which presents very general information about what I am going to write in the paragraph: "***Firstly, I would argue that the Internet is one of the most powerful facilitators in communication"*** and "***Secondly, I believe the Internet has empowered people to acquire more knowledge about their society than ever before".***

➢ Take a look at my first paragraph. After my topic sentence I gave an example of the two online websites to support my point: "***At the moment, numerous websites such as Facebook or Yahoo offer much faster and more convenient services for users to keep in touch with their friends and relatives regardless of geographic distance***". It is important that your examples are specific. After that I explain how these 2 websites facilitate communication between people, which would prove my point that the Internet helps people to keep in touch conveniently with others.

➢ And the second paragraph, I did not provide any detailed examples. Instead, I analyzed and developed the topic sentence to convince the examiner of my point of view.

➢ A concluding sentence is not needed in each body paragraph.

III. How to write a good conclusion?

- Summarize the main ideas (Optional)
- Restate the thesis statement

A conclusion should only be 1-2 sentences long. You can paraphrase your thesis statement either with or without the outline (summary).

Take a look at my sample for the topic about the Internet above:

In conclusion, as the two analyzed reasons above, I strongly disagree with the idea that Internet users are drifting away from their lives because of the online service. (THE RESTATEMENT)

- In my conclusion, I only restate my thesis statement in a different way.

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Let's see a complete essay about the Internet

The Internet has caused people to be isolated from their real lives.

Do you agree or disagree?

Answer

It is generally believed by many people that the Internet is the root of people's seclusion from their society. **From my perspective, this idea is completely flawed owing to the benefits in terms of communication and knowledge acquisition that the Internet offers.**

Firstly, I would argue that the Internet is one of the most powerful facilitators in communication. At the moment, numerous websites such as Facebook or Yahoo offer much faster and more convenient services for users to keep in touch with their friends and relatives regardless of geographic distance. These websites create an online network which connects everyone within their users' social circle and enables them to send instant messages or to make video calls in a few seconds no matter where they are. People, therefore, can enjoy both the convenience and the swiftness that those services provide.

Secondly, I believe the Internet has empowered people to acquire more knowledge about their society than ever before. As a matter of fact, it is able to bring every aspect of life to people, which I think is valuable because people will have a closer look at how their society really is. Latest news about sports, education or criminals for example is updated constantly in many online sources that are open to everyone. This easy accessibility equips people with sufficient information, in other words, they are more aware of the problems lying within their society.

In conclusion, as the two analyzed reasons above, I strongly disagree with the idea that Internet users are drifting away from their lives because of the online service.

CHAPTER 4

How to write all types of IELTS writing task 2

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I. Opinion essay

General information

- An opinion essay is a formal academic essay which requires you to state your opinion (usually “agree or disagree”) on a given topic.
- You need to provide reasons and supporting details to convince the examiner of your answer.
- There are 2 common approaches to write an opinion essay: 1-sided and balanced.

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One-sided approach

✓ A one-sided essay is an essay where your opinion is completely inclined to only one side of the argument, which means you either **completely agree** or **completely disagree** with the issue given in the topic.

✓ Always give 2 reasons to support your opinion, each of which must be analyzed and supported by specific details in each of the two paragraphs in the body.

✓ There are 2 places where you have to give your opinion very clearly and directly: **the thesis statement in the introduction** and **the restatement in the conclusion**.

Let's see the complete structure of a one-sided opinion essay:

The introduction:

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: State whether you **completely agree** or **completely disagree** with the issue.

The body:

- The first paragraph:

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence (your 1st idea)

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples or explanations to support the idea

- The second paragraph:

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence (your 2nd idea)

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples or explanations to support the idea

The conclusion:

Restate your opinion that **completely agree** or **completely disagree** with the

issue given in the topic.

Let's take a look again at my essay about the Internet:

Topic: The Internet has caused people to be isolated from their real lives. Do you agree or disagree?

First, let's see the way I do my brainstorming:

Agree	**Disagree**
- Highly addictive + Appealing apps + People enjoy making online friends -> forget their real lives - Some people prefer the virtual world + The find tranquility in something not real + They can freely express themselves	- A powerful means of communication + Facebook & Yahoo + Long distance messaging & calling -> bring people together - Expand social circles + Make friends easily - Bring knowledge to people + Many sources of infor -> know more about society

Writing tip: Spend more time planning your essay, a good plan equals a good essay (5-7 minutes for brainstorming). When you are brainstorming, find as many ideas as possible for both sides, after that you can choose 2 ideas that you think are the easiest to write. Always think of supporting details and examples to write in your body during your planning time.

I have listed a few ideas of both sides, for me the "against" side seems easier to write so I will write an essay that DISAGREES with the given statement. Out of the 3 ideas I presented above, I would choose the first and the third one to write which are: "a powerful means of communication" and "bring knowledge to people". Remember, you don't need to include everything in your essay, just pick 2 ideas and some typical supporting details.

Now that we have the outline, let's see what I did!

It is generally believed by many people that the Internet is the root of people's seclusion from their society. **From my perspective, this idea is completely flawed owing to the benefits in terms of communication and knowledge acquisition that the Internet offers. =>** ***This is my opinion about the issue, I wrote "This idea is completely flawed", which means "I completely disagree with the idea". This is a very short, clear and direct answer.***

Firstly, I would argue that the Internet is one of the most powerful facilitators in communication. At the moment, numerous websites such as Facebook or Yahoo offer much faster and more convenient services for users to keep in touch with their friends and relatives regardless of geographic distance. These websites create an online network which connects everyone within their users' social circle and enables them to send instant messages or to make video calls in a few seconds no matter where they are. People, therefore, can enjoy both the convenience and the swiftness that those services provide. => ***My first body paragraph only developed the first reason.***

Secondly, I believe the Internet has empowered people to acquire more knowledge about their society than ever before. As a matter of fact, it is able to bring every aspect of life to people, which I think is valuable because people will have a closer look at how their society really is. Latest news about

sports, education or criminals for example is updated constantly in many online sources that are open to everyone. This easy accessibility equips people with sufficient information, in other words, they are more aware of the problems lying within their society.=> ***My second body paragraph only developed the second reason.***

In conclusion, as the two analyzed reasons above, I strongly disagree with the idea that Internet users are drifting away from their lives because of the online service. => ***I also restate my opinion here in the conclusion.***

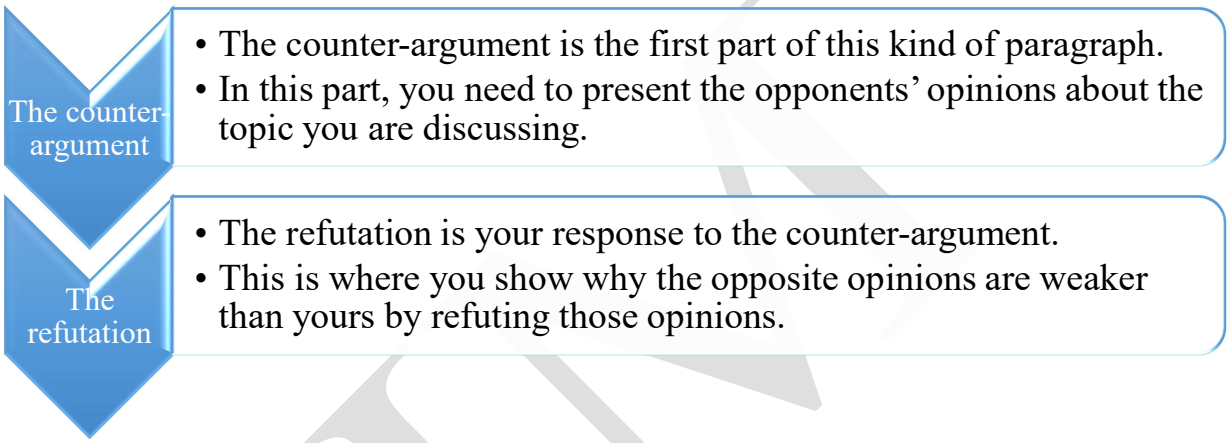
✓ It is important to keep in mind that this is the one-sided approach, you only have to convince the examiner of your opinion that you completely agree or completely disagree, and therefore, it would be unnecessary to present the other side of the argument.

✓ Always remember that you have to state your opinion in the thesis and in the conclusion. Missing one of the two would cost some mark penalties.

✓ The 4-paragraph format is recommended: **1 introductory paragraph**, **2 body paragraphs**, each of which develops only 1 reason and **1 concluding paragraph**

Counter-argument & Refutation

In order to make your argument stronger, you can write a paragraph in which you present the opposite opinions from other people and deny it with your reasons. This paragraph contains 2 parts: **the counter-argument** and **the refutation** and it usually is the last one in your body.



Therefore, your essays would be structured as follows:

The introduction:

- The background statement
- The thesis statement

The body:

- The first paragraph: 2 reasons to support your opinion
- **The second paragraph: The counter-argument & refutation**

The conclusion:

The restatement

Look at the example below

Topic: Trial marriage is becoming more and more popular among college students. Many people believe this trend has a negative impact on students' lives.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this idea?

I am going to **DISAGREE** with trial marriage so my counter-argument and refutation paragraph must include opinions that **AGREE** with this living arrangement.

Advocates of this idea might think that living together during early age of adulthood acts as a test of the couple's compatibility, hence avoiding the risk of future divorce. They also think that the couple who choose this premarital relationship can support each other with their studies. However, I think those thoughts are rather ill-founded as the fact might be the opposite. Going through a long intimate relationship like trial marriage, young couples, paradoxically, might be less understanding and sympathetic, which might lead to the early end of their marriage. Furthermore, reality has shown that many university students become more neglectful of their studies while living under the same roof with their partner on account of the most of their time devoted to each other.

The counter-argument (Usually 2 opposing views are presented in this part)

The refutation

(Denying each opposing view respectively)

Let's see the complete essay about this topic:

Topic: Trial marriage is becoming more and more popular among college students. Many people believe this trend has a negative impact on students' lives.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this idea?

Sample

Premature life with partners has gained enormous popularity as students reach their adulthood. ***In my opinion, cohabitation is more of a deleterious impact on their life.***

There are several severe problems that this living arrangement would cause. The first and also the biggest concern relates to the possibility of unexpected pregnancy. If the couple who have this premarital experience is poorly equipped with sufficient knowledge about a safe sexual life, the chance of the female partner's being pregnant might be relatively high. Another drawback is the deterioration in social interactions. As college couples spend almost all their time to take care of their partners because they live in the same place, they hardly have time to hang out with their friends or look for a job. Therefore, their social relationships and skills would suffer.

Advocates of this idea might think that living together during early age of adulthood acts as a test of the couple's compatibility, hence avoiding the risk of future divorce. They also think that the couple who choose this premarital relationship can support each other with their studies. However, I think those thoughts are rather ill-founded as the fact might be the opposite. Going through a long intimate relationship like trial marriage, young couples, paradoxically, might be less understanding and sympathetic, which might lead to the early end of their marriage. Furthermore, reality has shown that many university students become more neglectful of their

studies while living under the same roof with their partner on account of the most of their time devoted to each other.

In conclusion, despite the existence of some opinions in favor of this early decision, I do believe students' lives would be adversely affected.

(282 words)

Essay analysis:

The introduction:

- The first sentence is the paraphrase of the topic which is about cohabitation among college students
- The second sentence is the thesis statement, short and direct as usual

The body:

- The first paragraph presents 2 reasons to support my opinion:

✓ The possibility of unexpected pregnancy.

✓ The deterioration of social interactions

- The second paragraph is the counter-argument & refutation

The counter-argument	***The refutation***
Trial marriage helps couples avoid the risk of divorce.	***After a long time in close relationship, young couples might get bored, leading to less sympathy and higher chance of divorce.***
Couples can help each other with their studies.	***Students often get sidetracked when living with their lovers.***

The conclusion:

Restate my opinion.

Useful vocabulary & expressions:

1. **Premature life with partners:** Cuộc sống sớm với bạn đời
2. **To gain enormous popularity:** Giành được nhiều sự yêu thích
3. **To reach their adulthood:** Đến thời kì trưởng thành
4. **Cohabitation:** Sống thử
5. **To have a deleterious impact on sth:** Có ảnh hưởng nguy hại tới cái gì
6. **Unexpected pregnancy:** Mang thai ngoài ý muốn
7. **Premarital experience:** Trải nghiệm trước hôn nhân
8. **Social interactions:** Các mối quan hệ xã hội
9. **To suffer:** Phải chịu đựng hậu quả
10. **To act as sth:** Coi như là
11. **Compatibility:** Sự tương thích
12. **To be ill-founded:** Vô căn cứ
13. **Paradoxically:** Trớ trêu thay
14. **To be neglectful of sth:** Sao nhãng
15. **To be in favor of:** Thiên về cái gì

ZIM

Balanced approach

✓ A balanced essay is an essay where you are inclined to one side of the argument but you do not deny the other side, which means you **partly agree or partly disagree** with the issue given in the topic. Never sit on the fence, you accept that there are 2 sides of the argument but you still need to choose which one you would agree more.

✓ You need to analyze both sides of the issue and state which side you are in favor of at the same time.

✓ The first body paragraph is used to talk about the weaker side and the stronger side (the side that you are inclined to) is presented in the second body paragraph.

✓ Always find 2 reasons for each side of the argument.

✓ There are 3 places where you need to give you opinion: **the thesis statement**, **the topic sentence of the second body paragraph** and **the restatement.**

Therefore, your balanced essays would be structured as follows:

The introduction

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: State your **balanced opinion** (you accept the opposing views, but your points are stronger)

The body

- The first paragraph: The weaker argument (2 ideas)

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence: introduce the opposing views

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples and explanations to support those opposing views

- The second paragraph: The stronger argument (2 ideas)

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence: introduce your favorable side of the argument

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples and explanations to support your ideas

The conclusion

The restatement: restate your **balanced opinion**

Let's take a look at my essay about the Internet, written in a more balanced way:

Topic: It is thought by many people that the Internet has caused people to become more isolated from society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Now, I did the brainstorming for this topic above, let's take a look again at my sketch:

Agree	**Disagree**
- Highly addictive + Appealing apps + People enjoy making online friends -> forget their real lives - Some people prefer the virtual world + The find tranquility in something not real + They can freely express themselves	- A powerful means of communication + Facebook & Yahoo + Long distance messaging & calling -> bring people together - Expand social circles + Make friends easily - Bring knowledge to people + Many sources of infor -> know more about society

This is a balanced essay so I have to write about both sides, using the ideas I listed here, let's see how I did it!

Answer

The recent upsurge in the use of the Internet has provoked critical controversy over the possible damage it may inflict upon its users' personal lives. **In my opinion, despite several benefits as a modern communication facilitator, the Internet is truly the root of people's drifting away from their society.**

On the one hand, the Internet has undoubtedly been offering a tremendous assistance to its users in terms of communication. To start with, the Internet is the most powerful tool in keeping in touch with friends or family members regardless of geographic distance. Compared to the past when almost all means of long distant communication was by writing letters or make phone calls, people now can save time and money with the help of numerous social websites like Facebook or Instagram. Furthermore, people can make new friends with ease through the online network provided by the Internet service, which not only expands their circle of social acquaintances but brings people closer together as well.

On the other hand, beneficial as it is, the Internet, from my standpoint, still presents more detrimental consequences concerning with users' lives. The Internet, initially, is highly addictive and people sometimes may abuse the online service. In particular, youngsters are often tempted by the very idea of being befriended on the online space such as Facebook or Yahoo, hence their negligence on real relationships. Furthermore, those people find tranquility by freely expressing themselves in their virtual world and no longer feel the need for real life interactions anymore.

In conclusion, although the positive impacts the Internet has made upon society across communication spectrum, I am still convinced that people are being separated from their communities.

✓ Unlike a one-sided essay, a balanced essay requires you to give your opinion in 3 different places. Let's see what I did: "**In my opinion, despite several benefits as a modern communication facilitator, the Internet is truly the root of people's drifting away from their society.**"; "**On the other hand, beneficial as it is, the Internet, from my standpoint, still presents more detrimental consequences concerning with users' lives**" and "**In conclusion, although the positive impacts the Internet has made upon society across communication spectrum, I am still convinced that people are being separated from their communities".** In all three sentences I always write 2 clauses, the first one is always used to concede and to accept that the opposing points are reasonable to some level, the second clause is used to state my favorable side of the argument.

✓ The first body paragraph I always write about the weaker side of the argument with 2 reasons. The second body paragraph I use to analyze the side I am in favor of, also with 2 reasons. It is important that you provide 2 reasons for each side of the argument, whether it is the weaker or the stronger one.

One-sided v.s Balanced

Is it always possible to write a balanced essay?

The answer is no! Sometimes it would be inappropriate to say that you partly agree or disagree with the topic. In some certain cases, you can still write about both sides, but your opinion can only be “agree” or “disagree”.

For example:

Prison is the common way in most countries to solve the problem of crime. However, a more effective solution is to provide people a better education.

Do you agree or disagree?

There are a few options you can take to write about this topic:

1: You think education is more effective -> you **agree** with the topic

2: You think education is less effective -> you **disagree** with the topic

3: You think education and prison are equally effective -> you **disagree** with the topic

There is no proper way to write a balanced essay in this case. But still, you can write about both prison and education in your body if you disagree with the topic because you think prison and education are equally effective.

Let's see how it is done:

Despite the popularity of prison sentences as the way to control illegalities, improvements on education have gained social endorsement as a means to eliminate the problem from its root. ***In my opinion, I disagree that education is the better one as it is rather impossible to compare these two methods' effectiveness owing to their distinct impacts.***

On the one hand, the reasons why prisons are of indispensable necessity for social security are varied. They are the place to keep people who have broken the law contained, ensuring the safety of other citizens. Especially, dangerous criminals such as murderers or rapists have to be imprisoned for their heinous actions. Furthermore, severe prison sentences act as a deterrent against crimes. Knowing there might be a chance of getting caught and condemned to jail, which also means losing freedom and living a miserable life in a cell, ones who are having the intention of committing illegalities would reconsider going down the path.

On the other hand, education serves as a remedy for the origin of crimes. Education contributes greatly to heighten people's intellect and to form a civilized society. With access to better educational services, citizens would be well-informed about the damage that committing crimes would cause to their community and themselves, which eventually leads to the decline in crime rates. Additionally, the possession of certain qualifications through fundamental education like vocational training could secure a person's stable life, which would dispel any ideas of committing crimes.

In conclusion, I believe there is no absolute way to deduce whether imprisonment policies or better education would take the dominant role in dealing with crimes as they both tackle the problem just in different ways.

(280 words)

Useful vocabulary & expressions:

1. **Illegality:** Hành động bất hợp pháp
2. **Social endorsement:** Sự ủng hộ từ xã hội
3. **Eliminate the problem from its root:** Loại bỏ nguồn góc của vấn đề
4. **To be of indispensable necessity:** Là một sự cần thiết không thể thiếu (nhấn mạnh)
5. **Social security:** An ninh xã hội
6. **To be imprisoned:** Bị bỏ tù
7. **Heinous actions:** Hành động tội ác
8. **To be a deterrent against sth:** Là một rào cản chống lại cái gì đó
9. **To be condemned to jail:** Bị tống vào tù
10. **To serve as a remedy for the origin of crimes:** Như là một liều thuốc cho nguồn gốc của tội phạm
11. **To heighten people's intellect:** Nâng cao dân trí
12. **A civilized society:** Một xã hội văn minh
13. **Vocational training:** Học nghề
14. **To dispel any ideas of committing crimes:** Loại bỏ bất kì ý định muốn phạm tội

II. Discussion essay

General information

- ..... A discussion essay is a formal academic essay where you are asked to discuss 2 sides of a given argument.
- ..... The task may or may not ask for your opinion on the issue, only give your opinion if the task requires so.
- ..... Try to find 2 ideas for each side of the argument.
- ..... There are many ways to write a discussion essay; in this book I will only show you one possible approach using the 4-paragraph format.
- ..... In a discussion essay using the 4-paragraph format, the term "**give your opinion**" can be interpreted as "**which side of the argument do you agree with?**". Therefore, the way to write this particular type of essay is rather similar to that of a balanced opinion essay. The only difference is the language used in each type, which will be shown later on.

Let's see the complete structure of a discussion essay:

The introduction

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: State your opinion (which side you are inclined to)

The body

- The first paragraph: the first side of the argument

✓ Sentence 1: the topic sentence

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: Give 2 reasons and use SPECIFIC examples and explanations to support those reasons

- The second paragraph: Your favorable side of the argument

✓ Sentence 1: the topic sentence (restate your opinion here)

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: give 2 reasons and use SPECIFIC examples and explanations to support those reasons

The conclusion

The restatement: restate your opinion

Let's take a look at my sample of a discussion essay:

Topic: These days there are a lot of TV channels available to view. Some people think it is good to have a range of options but others argue that it affects the quality of programs.

Discuss both sides and give your opinion as well.

The task requires a discussion about both sides of the argument, so we need to sketch down some ideas for each side.

1st side

- **More channels = more choices**
  + Viewers' preferences are varied
  + Comparison with the past
- **Closer look at the world**
  + Domestic
  + Global

2nd side

- **Confusion**
  + Too many sources
    -> lower quality
- **Credibility**
  + Gain more viewership -> more deceiving programs
  + People will have difficult time choosing trustworthy channels

SAMPLE ANSWER

The nonstop progress of the modern TV industry has provided people with permanent access to numerous choices of channels, depending on viewers' interests. This broad availability instigates many public debates over how the number of TV programs and their quality interrelate. **From my perspective, it is true that more and more channels have been launched recently with deteriorating quality in terms of both display and content.**

On the one hand, the reasons why people enjoy more choices on TV are varied. Firstly, people believe the upsurge in the number of programs can satisfy viewers of different preferences. Compared to the limitation of TV content in the past, contemporary technology has unfolded the possibility to bring every aspect of life such as sports, science and education to people. Secondly, people now can have a more integral approach upon not only their society but also other countries around the world through TV telecasts. In fact, both domestic and foreign issues are updated daily on various sources, which equips viewers with more intimate perception on global matters.

On the other hand, I believe as the number of TV channels grows, their quality suffers in comparison. In fact, people are being bombarded with all kinds of sources of information. Unfortunately, many publishers are trying to increase their viewership which generates greater profit by deliberately producing programs with low-quality interface or even fraudulent content. This, coupled with the acceleration in numbers, can engender bewilderment amongst viewers since they will have a difficult time differentiating which channels they can trust from the deceiving ones.

In conclusion, although it is undeniable that the wider range of selections has some certain benefits to people**, I think the followed shortcomings**

associated with their quality are the worrying topic that people should pay heed to.

➢ ..... As we see, there are 3 different places where I give my opinion: **the thesis statement, the topic sentence of the second body paragraph** and **the restatement.** When the task asks for your opinion, just choose one side of the argument like a balanced opinion essay and state your opinion at the same places as you do with a balanced opinion essay. But remember, these are the only 3 sentences that you can write what you think, even in the 2nd body paragraph whose topic sentence is where you give your opinion, you have to discuss others' opinion and you agree with them. Always remember, the discussion is about what OTHER PEOPLE THINK OF THE GIVEN ISSUE, NOT WHAT YOU THINK. You cannot write "I think", "I believe" etc in any other sentences rather than the 3 places I just showed you.

➢ .....

➢ .....

the first paragraph is about the first side of the argument, and the second one – the one you agree with- is about the other side, it is recommended that you find 2 ideas for each side.

*** IMPORTANT NOTE: a discussion essay** v.s **a balanced opinion essay**

A lot of people have a difficult time differentiating between these 2 particular types of essay since both of them require students to present 2 sides of the given argument with the same way of writing. However, the difference is that in a balanced opinion essay, you have to write about WHAT YOU THINK, whereas, in a discussion essay you have to write about WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK. This means there is a difference in the proper language you can use in each type.

A balanced opinion essay	**A discussion essay**
- You can use phrases to express your own opinion like "I think", "I believe", "I agree" … wherever you want.	- You can use the typical language for a discussion to express other people's opinion such as "people think", "people believe", "it is believed/considered"… * If the task asks for your opinion, there are only 3 sentences you can use "I think", "I believe" or "I would argue", in any other places, you have to use the language for a discussion essay as shown above.
- You can give examples of your own knowledge or experiences such as your family, your friends or a particular event you participated in to support your ideas	- You can NOT give examples of your own knowledge or experiences.

Let's see an example of a part of a body paragraph to see the difference between these types:

Some people believe that video games are bad, while others think playing these games is beneficial. **What is your opinion?**	Some people believe that video games are bad, while others think playing these games is beneficial. **Discuss both views and give your opinion**
On the one hand, **I agree** that video games have some undeniable benefits. Firstly, **I would argue** that playing video games is a way to relax after hard-working hours. For example, **my brother** has to go to school on every weekday and to do a lot of assignments at home, which is very stressful. Therefore, playing video games during his free time can help reduce the stress from his studies.	On the one hand, **it is agreed** that video games have some undeniable benefits. Firstly, **many people argue** that playing video games is a way to relax after hard-working hours. For example, **many students** have to go to school on every weekday and to do a lot of assignments at home, which is very stressful. Therefore, playing video games during their free time can help reduce the stress from their studies.

III. Advantage & Disadvantage essays

General information

Basically, an advantage/disadvantage essay is a discussion essay that asks you to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a given issue, for example the advantages and disadvantages of using public transport. **DO NOT** give any opinions if you are not asked to.

Divide your body into 2 separate paragraphs, each of which develops either the advantages or disadvantages of the given issue.

Your advantages and disadvantages essays would be structured as follows:

The introduction

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: Answer the question

The body

- The first paragraph:

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence (advantages or disadvantages)

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: 2 advantages or disadvantages

- The second paragraph:

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence (advantages or disadvantages)

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: 2 advantages or disadvantages

The conclusion

The restatement: Restate your answer

Notes: If the task asks for your opinion or your favorable side (advantages or disadvantages), write your essay just like a discussion essay.

WITHOUT PERSONAL OPINION

Let's see a complete advantages and disadvantages essay:

Topic: It is becoming increasingly popular to have a year off between finishing school and going to university.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

Taking a gap year before attending college has recently gained enormous popularity amongst high school graduates. My essay below will analyze both the benefits and the drawbacks of the phenomenon.

Having a year off after high school graduation is advantageous in some certain aspects. First, students can utilize this period of time to travel to acquire knowledge of various fields such as foreign languages and cultures. This would be more difficult during their years at university owing to their intense studying schedules. Second, many high school graduates benefit from taking a temporary job before starting their college life. Due to the inadequate provision of career orientation in high school, sparing another 12 months looking for a job or signing up for a vocational course is considered a remedy for students to figure out their future path.

From an opposite angle, the disadvantages of a gap year before college are varied. Initially, compared to the students having a year off, those who go straight to university after high school are more likely to have a permanent job early. They finish their academic studies one year in advance, hence better opportunities to get a job with stable incomes. More importantly, high school seniors might lose their studying habits as well as discipline. In other words, one year spent on travelling or working can demotivate them from following tertiary education.

In conclusion, despite some benefits in terms of traveling and working, taking a year off before college life might both jeopardize students' occupational opportunities and result in studying discouragement.

(257 words)

Useful vocabulary & expressions:

1. **A gap year:** Một năm cách giữa trung học và đại học
2. **To gain enormous popularity amongst high school gradutates:** Có được sự yêu thích lớn từ các học sinh trung học đã tốt nghiệp
3. **To acquire knowledge of sth:** Lấy kiến thức về cái gì
4. **A temporary job:** Nghề tạm thời
5. **Career orientation:** Định hướng nghề nghiệp
6. **Vocationl course:** Khóa học
7. **A permanent job:** Nghề lâu dài
8. **Stable incomes:** Thu nhập ổn định
9. **Studying habits:** Thói quen học tập
10. **Discipline:** Kỷ luật
11. **Demotivate:** Làm nản lòng
12. **Tertiary education:** Giáo dục đại học

WITH PERSONAL OPINION

Topic: Some people regard video games as harmless fun, or even as a useful educational tool. Others, however, believe that videos games are having an adverse effect on the people who play them.

In your opinion, do the drawbacks of video games outweigh the benefits?

Model answer

There have been endless arguments over the possible impact of video games upon players. Much as the dispute in favor of the significance of the advantages of those games is legitimate, personally I believe they are still outweighed by the disadvantages.

On the one hand, some certain benefits of video games are undeniable. Firstly, they are functioning as a source of harmless entertainment. In modern time, daily performances always go along with a huge amount of stress from studying and working, hence the higher demand for relaxation. As a matter of fact, the world is seeing an increasing number of not only youngsters but also adults who play video games to alleviate the intensity of their academic studies or hard-working occupations. Secondly, it is also proved that playing games can enhance logical thinking and problems solving skills since players are forced to use their brain to complete the game.

On the other hand, I would argue that those video games present more disadvantages. Video games are highly addictive, and that players are constantly given more stages in these games leads to their negligence on other important activities since the temptation of clearing those stages is sometimes irresistible. If time is spent excessively on games, players' daily routine, studying or working for instance, will suffer. More dangerously,

many crime cases have been reported recently with the motive of getting money to play video games. Especially young people are more likely to get involved in robbery or even murder as their addiction to games cannot be sufficed by their current budget.

In conclusion, although video games' entertaining and educational benefits are widely recognized, I still think that the drawbacks are more significant.

(280 words)

Useful vocabulary & expressions:

1. ***Legitimate:*** hợp lý
2. ***Occupation:*** nghề nghiệp
3. ***Excessively****:* quá nhiều
4. ***Motive****:* động cơ

ZIM

IV. Cause & Effect/Solution essays

General information

A causes and Effect/Solution essay is an essay that asks you to discuss the causes and solutions/effects of a given issue, for example the causes and solutions/effects of overpopulation. **DO NOT** give any opinions if you are not asked to.

Your cause & effect/solution essays would be structured as follows:

The introduction

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: Answer the question

There are 2 possible ways to write your answer:

✓ Directly: Give a general outline of the main causes & effects/solutions

✓ Indirectly: Inform the examiner what the essay is going to discuss.

The body

- The first paragraph:

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence (the causes of the given issue)

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: Explain in detail 2 causes

- The second paragraph:

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence (the effects or solutions of the given issue)

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: Explain in detail 2 effects/solutions

The conclusion

The restatement: Restate your answer

Let's take a look at an example:

Topic: Nowadays, children play less with others and this has an impact on their development.

What are the reasons for this?

Does it have a good or bad effect on children?

Model answer

The decreasing amount of time spent for socialization has become more and more common among children, which is believed by many to have an influence on their early development. The causes of this phenomenon are varied, and in my opinion this is adversely affecting the young generation as a whole.

Two main reasons are identified as children's present academic pressure and the appeal of high technology applications. Firstly, children are too occupied with their current studies along with stress and responsibility. Parents always hope their sons and daughters to be successful and, in some cases, compel them to overwork, which may result in the excessive deduction of their time on social interactions. Secondly, the rapid technological modernization which engenders many attractive sources of entertainment, videos games and social network like Facebook for example, is deemed the second root of the phenomenon. Children may get addicted to those virtual means with ease, hence the negligence on real life relationships establishment.

This trend, as a matter of fact, is having severe influences on the overall development of children. In terms of their social life, not only their circle of acquaintances but their soft skills such as communication and interpersonal skills are highly limited, which would hinder their future career paths. More importantly, some mental illnesses may be the cost of their seclusion from

other people. That they use their time mostly for studying purposes renders them unable to leave their desk to associate with others, leading to a deteriorating sedentary lifestyle or even autism, for instance.

In conclusion, the effects of this trend can be seen as negative concerning with children's social lives deterioration and other diseases. Understanding that the origins of the problem mainly come from studying strain and tempting modern applications, parents should take immediate remedial steps to resolve such problems.

(303 words)

Useful expressions:

1. ..... ***C***

ompel: bắt buộc

2. ..... ***E***

ngender: Làm cho cái gì xảy ra/xuất hiện

3. ..... ***D***

***eem*:** coi là

4. ..... ***S***

eclusion: Sự xa lánh

5. ..... ***R***

ender: Làm cho ai/cái gì bị làm sao

V. Direct-question essays

General information

A direct-question essay is an essay that asks you to answer some specific questions (usually 2 questions), for example "Is money is important when considering a job? What are other factors that contribute to job's satisfaction?".

Your direct-question essays would be structured as follows:

The introduction

- Sentence 1: Paraphrase the background information given in the topic
- Sentence 2: Answer the question

The body

- The first paragraph:

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence (answer the first question)

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples and explanations to support your answer

- The second paragraph:

✓ Sentence 1: The topic sentence (answer the second question)

✓ Sentence 2-5/6: Give SPECIFIC examples and explanations to support your answer

The conclusion

The restatement: Restate your answer

Let's take a look at an example:

Topic: There are many different types of music in the world today.

Why do we need music?

Is the traditional music of a country more important than the international music that is heard everywhere nowadays?

Model answer

Other than writing and painting, music is another prevalent form of art, using the artistic rhythm of sounds. Music is of great essence to us for various reasons, and I believe traditional music is more important than the common international music.

Music teaches us many things about life. As children, we live in the sweet lullabies about family that our mothers sing to us at night until we fall asleep. Later in life, we are able to understand more profoundly about love and passion and other virtues through many songs. Music is also for relaxation because we listen to music when we are stressful or sad. Its soothing melodies can drive away all the pressure and frustration that we have to face every day. And for many people, music is a form of escapism from the suffocation of their lives since they can find serenity in music.

From my perspective, traditional music should be more valued than international music which has gained so much popularity all over the world. International music is merely catchy and appealing, but its lyrics have no virtuous or meaningful messages. Especially this kind of music has recently been used for commercial purposes to promote reputation of a business in the global market, so it has no values at all. Traditional music, on the other hand, conveys the culture and history of a country which will last for eternity.

It not only connects the past to the present but also represents the identity of people who live in that country.

In conclusion, music is undoubtedly necessary for human beings, and I always believe that the role of traditional music should be more recognized than that of international music.

(282 words)

Useful words:

1. ..... ***E scapism**:* Lối thoát

2. ..... ***M erely**:* Chỉ là

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CHAPTER 5

Top 10 frequently asked questions

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1: Do I need to find unique and interesting ideas in order to get a high score?

No! The examiner is NOT looking for ideas that are interesting or unique. In order to get a high score, you need ideas that are logical and, most importantly, you can support them easily. The examiner will only look at how convincing your ideas are and how you analyze them.

2: Does a long essay mean more marks?

No! An essay longer than 300 words sometimes may result in losing marks. Keep your essay concise and clear! You should write about 260-280 words on average.

3: My teacher said that the introduction is the most important part in an essay. Therefore, it is compulsory that I have to write an interesting introduction to intrigue the examiner by writing a hook. Is that true?

No! Every part of an essay is important, but the most important one should be the body where you present your points. You do not need a hook in your introduction because it is really difficult to write a hook, it would take away a lot of time for the body. Besides, the examiner will not look at how interesting your introduction is, so writing a hook would be unnecessary.

4: Is it true that I always need to write a balanced essay to get a high score?

No! It is indeed recommended candidates with advanced writing skills write a balanced essay. But it does not mean that writing a one-sided essay would lead to a low mark. If you write a one-sided essay logically and coherently, you are likely to get a good score.

5: Do I need a concluding sentence for each body paragraph?

No! You do not need a concluding sentence because a conclusion paragraph is enough to round off an essay.

6: Is grammar important?

Yes! The examiner will check your grammatical mistakes.

7: Do I need to use uncommon words to have a high band in the LR criterion?

No! Using too many strange words may cause your essay to be unnatural and there are chances of word misuses. I recommend you focus on the accuracy of your vocabulary.

8: Should I use templates? My teacher gave me a lot of memorized phrases to use when writing an IELTS task 2.

Personally I do not like templates, because it is not your language. And chances are other candidates may use those templates too, the examiner will not appreciate those papers using the same language.

9: Do I need to use advanced linking devices?

In my opinion there are no advanced or beginner's linking devices. Which linkers you use do not reflect your level of writing, therefore I recommend you focus on the coherence of your ideas and supporting details rather than some linking words.

10: Should I write every day? How fast can I improve if I write a lot of essays every week?

From my experience, you do not need to do writing every day. I usually recommend my students write about 2-3 essays a week and focus more on the quality of their work.

It does not matter how many essays you write a week. What really matters is how intensive and how focused you are when you do your writing exercises. You can write 100 essays before the test but can receive a lower score than the person who only write 10 essays but with greater intensity. What intensity here means is that

you can spend 2 days reading and writing only about 1 topic and produce the best work. Concentrate more on the quality.

ZIM

CHAPTER 6

High band score essays

ZIM

1.

It is more important for schoolchildren to learn about local history than world history.

To what extent to you agree or disagree?

Answer

Many people have valued the role of local history to schoolchildren over that of world history. In my opinion, I disagree with those people as both of them are equally essential for young learners.

Studying the history of their hometown is for sure an indispensable part of school's curriculum during students' early education. I believe having thorough insights into what happened in the past at one's locality develops his patriotism. For example, children of primary and secondary schools in my village are taught about how their ancestors defended their land against outside intruders and reclaimed sovereignty. Therefore, those young children would take pride in their origin and treasure the life they know as it is today. Additionally, I think it is not only students' privilege but also their responsibility to know about their own history to understand their hometown's traditional values and identity.

From another angle, learning about world history shares equal importance just as local one. Acquiring knowledge about the world's past events equips students with a more well-rounded perspective of life. Lessons about the World War or Feminism protest against women's abuse and discrimination would help those learners enhance their understanding about various aspects of the world. Furthermore, I think that being taught about the other

countries' historical backgrounds would benefit young learners in their future career. Students who accumulate knowledge of this particular field at an early age would possess a golden selling point to work for foreign enterprises, especially those who highly value company culture like Japan.

In conclusion, I believe the significance of domestic and international history cannot be brought into comparison to see which one is more necessary because they have distinctively equal meanings to children.

(282 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **Thorough insights into:** Hiểu biết cặn kẽ về cái gì.
- **Patriotism:** Lòng yêu nước.
- **Sovereignty:** Chủ quyền.
- **Take pride in their origin:** Tự hào về lòng yêu nước.
- **Traditional values and identity:** Những giá trị truyền thống và con người.
- **Well-rounded perspective of life:** Một cái nhìn quan điểm toàn diện hơn về cuộc sống.
- **Historical backgrounds:** Bối cảnh lịch sử.
- **Company culture:** Văn hóa doanh nghiệp

2.

Although more and more people read the news on the Internet, newspaper will remain the most important source of news for the majority of people. Do you agree or disagree?

Answer

Some people believe that despite the spreading popularity of the online media, traditional newspaper will still hold the most vital position among news readers. In my opinion, this idea is rather absurd as the Internet has become increasingly dominant due to the benefits it offers.

The first thing that attracts people to reading news on the online sources is their easy access. With the presence of the Internet around almost every corner of the world, people with a portable device such as a mobile phone can access huge storage of news. In fact, latest events, for example IS Terrorist attacks, would be updated immediately on CNN or New York Times. By contrast, with prolonging procedures including editing and printing, traditional newspaper might not be able to compete with the Internet in terms of the updating speed.

Another benefit with which the Internet can, from my point of view, take over the position of printed newspaper is the new experience it brings to readers. One limitation of newspaper is that it cannot convey visual messages to the people who read news on a regular basis. Meanwhile, non-stop progress of the technology industry has unfolded the possibility to upload videos and voice records on various online websites. For instance, soccer fans these days can rewatch their favorite matches anytime they want with only a laptop connected to the Internet, which a mere paper cannot do.

In conclusion, I disagree that printed newspaper would continue to be the most crucial source of information because more and more people will be drawn to use the Internet.

(262 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **To hold the most vital position**: Giữ vai trò thiết yếu
- **To access huge storage of news**: Tiếp cận trữ lượng thông tin lớn
- **To take over the position of printed newspaper**: Chiếm lấy vị trí của báo in
- **To unfold the possibility to upload videos and voice records**: Mở ra khả năng đăng tải video và băng ghi âm
- **The most crucial source of information**: Nguồn thông tin quan trọng nhất

3.

Prison is the common way in most countries to solve the problem of crime. However, a more effective solution is to provide people a better education. Do you agree or disagree?

Answer

Despite the popularity of prison sentences as the way to control illegalities, improvements on education have gained social endorsement as a means to eliminate the problem from its root. In my opinion, I disagree that education is the better one as it is rather impossible to compare these two methods' effectiveness owing to their distinct impacts.

On the one hand, the reasons why prisons are of necessity for social security are varied. They are the place to keep people who have broken the law contained, ensuring the safety of other citizens. Especially, dangerous criminals such as murderers or rapists have to be imprisoned for their heinous actions. Furthermore, severe prison sentences act as a deterrent against crimes. Knowing there might be a chance of getting caught and condemned to jail, which also means losing freedom and living a miserable life in a cell, ones who are having the intention of committing illegalities would reconsider going down the path.

On the other hand, education serves as a remedy for the origin of crimes. Education contributes greatly to heighten people's intellect and to form a civilized society. With access to better educational services, citizens would be well-informed about the damage that committing crimes would cause to their community and themselves, which eventually leads to the decline in crime rates. Additionally, the possession of certain qualifications

through fundamental education like vocational training could secure a person's stable life, which would dispel any ideas of committing crimes.

In conclusion, I believe there is no absolute way to deduce whether imprisonment policies or better education would take the dominant role in dealing with crimes as they both tackle the problem just in different ways.

(280 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **Illegality**: Hành động bất hợp pháp
- **Social endorsement**: Sự ủng hộ từ xã hội
- **Eliminate the problem from its root**: Loại bỏ nguồn góc của vấn đề
- **To be of necessity**: Là một sự cần thiết không thể thiếu (nhấn mạnh)
- **Social security**: An ninh xã hội
- **To be imprisoned**: Bị bỏ tù
- **Heinous actions**: Hành động tội ác
- **To be a deterrent against sth**: Là một rào cản chống lại cái gì đó
- **To be condemned to jail**: Bị tống vào tù
- **To serve as a remedy for the origin of crimes**: Như là một liều thuốc cho nguồn gốc của tội phạm
- **To heighten people's intellect**: Nâng cao dân trí
- **A civilized society**: Một xã hội văn minh
- **Vocational training:** Học nghề
- **To dispel any ideas of committing crimes:** Loại bỏ bất kì ý định muốn phạm tội

4.

In recent years, the structure of a family and the role of its members are gradually changing.

What kinds of changes can occur?

Do you think these changes are positive and negative?

Answer

In the past few decades, the patterns of a family have greatly diversified. There are some changes regarding its organization and members' role; and in my opinion, these changes can be seen as a progress.

Families at present have undergone two main differences compared to the past. First, the structure of a nuclear family now can have more than one breadwinner, who normally is the father. This is because in the modern world, only a few jobs could secure the stability of single-earner families, which forces both parents to be the financial supporters. Second, the trend that parents exchange their roles has become more common. As the result of women's protest for their rights, mothers now have equal opportunities for education and work, which allows the other spouse to assume responsibility as a stay-at-home parent to take care of the children and the housework.

From my perspective, those changes in the family's structure and parental roles are positive for a number of reasons. That both parents can become the breadwinners would ensure the stable finance of a family, which not only directly eases the burden that the father have to bear in order to support the whole family but also enables the mother to pursue her dream job. From another angle, it is an upward step that people are at liberty to do what they

like and what they are good at. Women can follow their dream and stabilize her family financial status if they are better at work than their husbands.

In conclusion, I think the changes occurring to a family's hierarchy and members' responsibilities are a positive step toward a better world.

(274 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **Nuclear family**: gia đình cơ bản gồm có bố mẹ và con cái
- **Breadwinner**: trụ cột gia đình
- **Single-earner family**: gia đình chỉ có một trụ cột
- **Spouse**: người chồng hoặc vợ
- **A stay-at-home parent**: bố hoặc mẹ ở nhà để chăm sóc con cái và làm việc nhà
- **At liberty to do sth**: có thể tự do làm gì đó

12.

Some believe that it is good for a country's culture to import films and TV programmes, while others think it is better for a country to have their own films and TV programmes.
Discuss both views and give your own opinion

Answer

There has been a difference of opinion regarding the merits of foreign movies and TV channels to the culture of a country as people believe domestic products would be better. From my perspective, both of those categories are equally important.

On the one hand, people usually believe foreign films and TV telecasts can contribute to the cultural diversity of a nation. Fascinating social norms and practices, such as public hugging which is common in the US, can follow the wave to other nations as Hollywood blockbusters are becoming more popular. This phenomenon is believed to benefit the richness of the host country's traditional backgrounds. Moreover, the import of international movies and TV shows could perfect the flaws of the country's sets of beliefs. In Vietnam, for example, the ceremony of funerals is often perpetuated with ongoing depraved customs such as gambling and drinking. Since the arrival of TV shows from more developed nations, which triggers a new and civilized way of thinking, such practices have been gradually aborted.

On the other hand, it appears to me that producing local movies and TV programs has the same importance. Citizens of a country would be able to acquire knowledge about their own culture. Apparently, profound insights of traditional values can be vividly conveyed in cinemas and on the media if

the content is made by local people. The second point to be considered is that this way can relieve the worry of cultural assimilation which has emerged as a detriment to the existence of a country's traditional beliefs and customs. In fact, if exotic practices are absorbed thoughtlessly, it might lead to the oblivion of long-standing ethics, which emphasizes the necessity for domestic products.

In conclusion, I would argue that both types of films and TV telecasts play an equal role in a country's culture.

(304 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- ***TV telecasts***: Chương trình TV
- ***Cultural diversity***: sự đa dạng văn hóa
- ***Depraved customs***: hủ tục
- ***Cultural assimilation***: sự hòa tan văn hóa
- ***Exotic practices***: tục lệ xa lạ
- ***Long-standing ethics***: chuẩn mực đạo đức lâu đời

13.

People in community now could buy cheaper consumer goods.

Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Answer

At the contemporary market, buyers have a wider range of choices for more affordable commodities. Although some benefits can be seen from the phenomenon, the drawbacks are more significant

The provision of cheaper goods presents several advantages. Regarding individual economical merits, customers now can enjoy inexpensive purchases of diverse types of goods, which is particularly favorable for the households with limited incomes. On the societal level, the affordability of consumer products promotes people's purchasing power, which contributes to the development of the economy. It is common knowledge that the market's demand for products increases when commodities' exorbitant prices are reduced. Therefore, people will be attracted to buying these products on a large scale, fostering the general prosperity of a country's economy

However, those advantages above still cannot overshadow the disadvantages. As the goods' prices are inexpensive and the quantity is huge to satisfy the market's need, yet businesses still have to balance their capital and generate more profit, the quality of commodities might be taken for granted. In the long term, without quality products, customers will gradually lose their trust in those products' manufacturers, which directly jeopardizes the economy. Another repercussion worth mentioning is that the environment may suffer. In order to meet the enormous demand from buyers, companies have to expand their factories and accelerate their

production process, which causes much harm to the surrounding due to their toxic waste and exhaust.

In conclusion, the benefits of cheapening modern goods should not be overrated as the disadvantages are greater.

(250 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **The contemporary market:** thị trường đương đại
- **Affordable commodities**: mặt hàng giá rẻ
- **Purchasing power**: sức mua
- **The market's demand**: nhu cầu của thị trường
- **Commodities' exorbitant price**: giá cả đắt đỏ của hàng hóa
- **Quality products**: hàng chất lượng
- **Toxic waste and exhaust**: chất khí thải độc hại

14.

It is impossible to help all people in the world, so governments should focus on people in their own countries.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Answer

The question whether governments should provide aids internationally or domestically has drawn much attention from the public. Although I understand why helping everyone in the world is unachievable, I strongly disagree that governmental support should solely be concentrated on satisfying local needs.

On the one hand, I suppose the world's leaders' hesitation over the provision of international aids to deprived regions is legitimate. Firstly, it is unfeasible for governments' support to reach all of the underprivileged as their number is enormous in many separated places around the globe and the type of support they need also varies. For example, developed nations may encounter numerous obstacles in terms of transportation upon sending food and medicines to poor regions scattering around Africa where people are facing the threat of famine or contagions. Secondly, I believe leaders of a country should prioritize the well-being of their citizens and stabilize their economy and politics before carrying out any acts of global assistance.

On the other hand, I still believe governments should help as many people as they can regardless of the fragile odds for worldwide comprehensive support for all people. To begin with, in many underdeveloped countries, their leaders are unable to bear the burden of eradicating domestic poverty or crises due to, for example, terrorism, which calls for the involvement from other affluent nations. Also of great significance is that this

national act of charity could have a huge impact upon individuals living in prosperous areas. If the government take actions to help people overseas, citizens of that country will idolize the idea of self-devotion toward a better world.

In conclusion, I truly believe the world leaders should lend their neighbors a hand to offer help to people in need on their doorstep.

(290 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **International aids to deprived regions**: Hỗ trợ quốc tế đến những vùng nghèo khó
- **The underprivileged**: Người nghèo, người bất hạnh
- **The well-being of their citizens**: Sự sung túc của công dân
- **Any acts of global assistance**: Bất kì hành động trợ giúp quốc tế nào
- **Underdeveloped countries**: Những nước kém phát triển
- **Domestic poverty**: Đói nghèo trong nước
- **Affluent nations**: Những nước giàu có

15.

In the future, it seems more difficult to live on the Earth. Some people think more money should be spent on researching other planet to live, such as Mars.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Answer

Many people believe more financial resources should be allocated to universe study in order to discover a new habitable environment for humans due to the increasingly harsh living condition on the Earth. In my opinion, this idea is completely justifiable.

The population explosion is the first urgent matter urging results from space study which currently are in need of more money to afford facilities and modern machinery. The world is facing the threat from the lack of land and accommodation for the ever-increasing rate of birth. Especially in densely populated cities like Hanoi, it is a common picture of people struggling to find an apartment. This forces humans to resort to alternatives of changing living places to other planets. Such an idea would not be actualized without enough money, emphasizing the demand for sponsorships.

Another thing which justifies the budget spent on discovering a new suitable home for human beings is the depletion of natural resources, such as fuel and water. Unfortunately, fossil fuel and water reservoir are being over-exploited for short-term benefits. In the long term, the essential elements for life sustainability will be used up, and human life will be put at stake since there is no fuel to maintain production or transportation. Therefore, if there is even a fragile hope to discover a new environment, people should value

the opportunity and invest money in researches on the space to ensure the survival of human race.

In conclusion, I strongly suppose that financial investments on discovering another planet as a new home replacing the Earth are reasonable. *(259 words)*

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **Universe study**: nghiên cứu vũ trụ
- **A new habitable environment**: môi trường có thể sinh sống
- **The increasingly harsh living condition**: điều kiện sống ngày càng khắc nghiệt
- **The population explosion**: Bùng nổ dân số
- **Space study**: Nghiên cứu không gian
- **The lack of land and accommodation**: thiếu hụt đất đai và chỗ ở
- **Rate of birth**: tỉ lệ sinh
- **Densely populated cities**: thành phố mật độ dân số cao
- **Depletion of natural resources**: cạn kiệt tài nguyên thiên nhiên
- **Fossil fuel and water reservoir**: bể chứa nước và nguyên liệu hóa thạch
- **Over-exploited**: khai thác quá đà
- **Life sustainability**: duy trì sự sống
- **The survival of human race**: sự sống còn của loài người

16.

Some people choose to have their first child at an older age.

What are the reasons?

Do advantages outweigh disadvantages?

Answer

There is a growing proportion of the world's population who decide to have children later in life. The underlying reasons for this trend are varied, and I suppose that the merits would eclipse the downsides.

There are two main factors leading to the decision of delaying childbirth. The first one is because people have the propensity for prioritizing their careers over taking parental roles. Especially in the US and other developed countries, not only men but also women want to stabilize their finance before becoming parents so as to provide their kids with sufficient living condition for their future development. Another explanation for this is that many modern individuals have adopted a fear of taking unwanted custody due to the recent alarming rate of divorce. It is because premature marriages have become common, which usually goes with many couples' doubt of their marital harmony, deterring their early desire for raising a child. There would be, consequently, fewer kids growing up without fatherhood or motherhood.

However, the drawbacks should not be overlooked. That too many couples following such a trend might exert adverse effects on the population structure, which potentially results in the future aging workforce and hinders social development in the long term. Additionally, it could both heighten the possibility of infertility among mothers at their old age and risk the new-born babies' mental and physical health. Down syndrome could be a typical example of the problems that those kids might have to suffer from.

In conclusion, the occupational prioritization and the hesitation over the likelihood of single-parent responsibility could be seen as the root of late childbirth, and I am convinced that the advantages are of more significance.

(279 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **To delay childbirth**: Trì hoãn sinh con
- **The propensity for prioritizing their careers over taking parental roles**: xu hướng coi trọng nghề nghiệp trước khi có con
- **Adopted a fear of taking unwanted custody**: Có nỗi sợ phải nuôi con không mong muốn sau khi li hôn
- **Marital harmony**: Sự hòa thuận trong hôn nhân
- **The possibility of infertility**: Khả năng vô sinh
- **The occupational prioritization and the hesitation over the likelihood of single-parent responsibility**: Sự coi trọng nghề nghiệp và sự đắn đo trước khả năng phải nhận trách nhiệm của bố/mẹ độc thân

17.

Nowadays young people are admiring media and sports stars, even though they do not set a good example.

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Answer

The younger generation are having great admiration for media and sport celebrities although they are not perfect role models to follow. In my view, this could be seen as detrimental

From one standpoint, emulating famous entertainment stars might spark changing patterns of fashion and behavior among young adults who are not mature enough to judge what is suitable within their society. As matter of fact, they show a propensity for copying what those stars say or do on TV, even if their actions go against the cultural value of some localities. Regarding fashion, the way Dam Vinh Hung, who is a renowned Vietnamese singer, dresses would be the onset of a modern yet rather unacceptable trend of fashion with exposed skin. Unfortunately, the young have yet to understand the long-term shortcomings of such a trend to traditional way of dressing which values the beauty and elegance of clothes such as the Ao Dai.

Additionally, such reverence for celebrities in the field of entertainment would possibly cause a detriment to social security under certain circumstances. A typical example of this is the chaos during and after Korean singers and musical bands' show in Vietnam a few years ago when the crowd of fans went uncontrollable, which caused irritation for the locals and also danger to the fans themselves. Furthermore, if their idols were criticized due to their scandals, they would try to sugar-coat the

situation or even trigger arguments. This would be really challenging for authorities to maintain security.

In conclusion, I suppose the phenomenon that young people idolize media and sport celebrated individuals who are notorious in some aspects is negative.

(270 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **Media and sport celebrities**: Người nổi tiếng trên truyền hình hoặc thể thao
- **Role models**: Hình tượng (tạm dịch)
- **Famous entertainment stars**: Những ngôi sao nổi tiếng trong ngành giải trí
- **Changing patterns of fashion and behavior**: Thay đổi cách ăn mặc và cư xử
- **Show a propensity for**: Có xu hướng cho cái gì
- **Value the beauty and elegance of clothes**: Trân trọng vẻ đẹp và sự lịch lãm của trang phục
- **Reverence for celebrities in the field of entertainment**: Sự hâm hộ những người nổi tiếng trong ngành giải trí
- **Cause irritation for the locals**: Gây nên sự khó chịu cho người địa phương
- **Sugar-coat**: Nói giảm
- **Idolize media and sport celebrated individuals**: Hâm mộ những cá nhân nổi tiếng trên truyền hình và thể thao

18.

It is suggested that everyone should have a car, a TV and a fridge. Do the advantages of this development for society outweigh the disadvantages?

Answer

Some people believe that it is necessary for each person to possess an item of some fundamental needs for travelling, entertainment and food storage. Although some clear benefits of such development could be seen, they are, in my view, eclipsed by the considerable drawbacks

There are several advantages of having a private car, TV and fridge. First of all, people who need to travel on a daily basis, especially those who live far away from workplace, could stay active all the time thanks to the availability of their personal vehicle. Secondly, having a TV could be a perfect choice of recreation because it offers a variety of channels, such as Cartoon Network or HBO, to satisfy viewers' personal preferences. Finally, when in possession of a fridge, people would save a significant amount of time supposedly spent on shopping for food

However, the disadvantages of those personal possessions are much greater regarding both environmental and individual levels. To start with, hypothetically if everyone had his own private form of transport, particularly cars, the emission of harmful exhaust which would be too difficult to measure would do grave harm to the environment. From an individual perspective, it would cost a legacy if every person insisted on purchasing his own fridge and TV. This is because property prices would certainly accelerate owing to the growth in customers' demand for those commodities. Also of

great concern is the payment of expensive electric bills as fridges have to be plugged in all the time.

In conclusion, despite a few beneficial aspects of having a car, a TV and a fridge, the demerits are of greater significance from both individual and environmental angles.

(273 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **An item of some fundamental needs**: Vật dụng đáp ứng nhu cầu cơ bản
- **The availability of their personal vehicle**: Sự sẵn có của phương tiện cá nhân
- **A perfect choice of recreation**: Lựa chọn giải trí hoàn hảo
- **In possession of a fridge**: Sở hữu một tủ lạnh
- **Private form of transport**: Loại hình di chuyển cả nhân
- **The growth in customers' demand**: Sự gia tăng của nhu cầu khách hang

19.

Cycling is more environmentally friendly than other forms of transport. Why is it not popular in many places? And how to increase its popularity?

Answer

The unpopularity of using bicycle in numerous places has been brought into question although there is little doubt about its friendly effects on the environment compared to cars or airplanes. The reasons for this are varied and several feasible solutions would be proposed in the essay below.

There are two main underlying explanations for the uncommon use of bicycles. Firstly, it would consume a considerable amount of time to travel by this means of transport, which, according to many, justifies the price of potential environmental damage caused by other types of vehicles. This is because it fails to benefit dwellers of major cities in particular when their pace of working life would eclipse the values of using bicycles to the environment. Secondly, modern people are becoming less concerned about the negative impact that their daily use of cars and public transportation would inflict on their surroundings. Therefore, it is rather impractical to expect cycling in cities, or even the countryside.

The government play a vital role in encouraging the use of this environmentally friendly vehicle. They could conduct monthly green days that by law require citizens to cycle to work to get people involved in protecting their environment. In the long term, such an initiative would help to gradually form a habit of cycling among occupied individuals. More importantly, propagation via various means of media along with optional

courses about the advantages of cycling to the environment at schools seem imperative to heighten social awareness of this matter.

In conclusion, cycling, regardless of its positive influences on the environment, has become a rare picture in the modern world for a number of reasons; and the government should take immediate actions to improve this situation.

(*284 words)*

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **The uncommon use of bicycles**: Sự sử dụng không phổ biến của xe đạp
- **To fail to benefit major city dwellers in particular**: Không có lợi ích với những người sống ở thành phố lớn
- **To eclipse the values of using bicycles to the environment**: Che lấp những giá trị của việc sử dụng xe đạp đối với môi trường
- **To be rather impractical to expect cycling**: Khá là phi thực tế để hi vọng mọi người sẽ dùng xe đạp
- **The use of this environmentally friendly vehicle**: Việc sử dụng phương tiện thân thiện với môi trường
- **Monthly green days**: Những ngày vì môi trường hàng tháng
- **Form a habit of cycling**: Tạo thói quen dùng xe đạp

20.

In many countries, government spent a large amount of money on improving internet access.

Why is it happening and do you think it is the most appropriate use of government money?

Answer

A huge proportion of national budget is allocated to providing people with easier access to the Internet. There are several reasons for such spending and, in my view, this is not the most suitable way to use state money.

The government understand how the Internet benefits the lives of their citizens and also the limitation of access to the network in a number of places across their countries. The Internet has proven powerful in dispensing educational services and general knowledge about all aspects of life, not to mention the fact that it could facilitate communication between even continents. There is no arguing why governments pay much heed to the development of the network, just as to boost the overall quality of life for their people. Additionally, perhaps the inaccessibility of the Internet in many areas, especially disadvantaged ones for which mountainous villages in Vietnam could be brought up as a prime example, has the government draw a conclusion to pour their money into improving the Internet.

Much as those analyzed points above, I still believe large financial spending on such a field could, sometimes, be seen as unproductive or even counter-productive. In fact, only half of the world population has Internet connection; and even if the government were able to expand the network, it would be, I believe, hardly reachable for the rest of the world for the time being. The result would not be equivalent to the enormous amount of governmental

funding. Instead, there are some other areas that authorities could invest in as a pre-requisite complement before supplying a widespread network. Constructing schools and deploying qualified teachers to areas that are used to the absence of the Internet and are unaware of the benefits it might offer could be more promising.

In conclusion, there are two main explanations for governments' special attention to improving the Internet access; and I think this is not the most optimal way to spend money.

(322 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **A huge proportion of national budget**: Một phần lớn ngân sách nhà nước
- **To dispense educational services and general knowledge about all aspects of life**: đem đến những dịch vụ giáo dục và kiến thức chung về tất cả các khía cạnh của cuộc sống
- **To pour their money into improving the Internet**: Đổ tiền vào nâng cấp Internet
- **To be equivalent to the enormous amount of governmental funding**: Cân xứng với khối lượng kinh phí khổng lồ từ chính phủ
- **To be used to the absence of the Internet**: Quen với việc không có Internet

21.

Many people say the gap between rich and poor people is wider, as rich people become richer and poor people grow poorer. What problems could this situation cause and what measures can be done to address those problems?

Answer

As the world progresses, the gap between the two classes of society is widened because the rich become wealthier while the poor are living on the breadline. Such income inequality could lead to several problems, and some suggestions to improve this situation will be analyzed in the following essay.

Wealth concentration within a handful of individuals and institutions might result in two major issues. Firstly, the rich-poor gap could be the breeding ground for social unrest and political instability. The poor might perceive that the rich is the principal force of hindrance to their occupational and service opportunities. This might be the precursor to discontentment, which potentially is the onset of social anarchy. Secondly, as poverty restricts the capacity of the underprivileged to access services and other life-sustaining matters such as education, employment and medicine, they might resort to violence and opt for the life of criminals.

There are several initiatives to reduce economic inequality, including progressive taxation and minimum salary legislation. Higher taxes should be levied on the rich, which could reduce the amount of income inequality in society. On the other hand, governments could use this money to supply free goods and services for those who struggle to make a living. Also of great importance is the increase in the minimum earnings of the poorest workers. Although it cannot be denied that the current system places much

importance on individual competence to determine the amount of money one might earn, unskilled workforce who usually are from the lower class should be, still, provided enough to live sufficiently.

In conclusion, chaos and the acceleration of crime rates are the two severe repercussions of the unequal distribution of wealth; and governments could impose heavy taxes on the rich and heighten the minimum amount of salary for the disadvantaged.

(298 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **The two classes of society**: 2 tầng lớp xã hội
- **To live on the breadline**: Sống nghèo đói
- **Income inequality**: Bất bình đẳng thu nhập
- **The breeding ground for social unrest and political instability**: Là nơi sản sinh ra rối loạn xã hội và bất ổn chính trị
- **The onset of social anarchy**: Sự bắt đầu của sự hỗn độn trong xã hội
- **To resort to violence and opt for the life of criminals**: Tìm đến bạo lực và lựa chọn con đường tội phạm
- **To reduce the amount of income inequality in society**: Giảm lượng bất bình đẳng thu nhập trong xã hội
- **To place much importance on individual competence to determine the amount of money one might earn**: Nhấn mạnh vào khả năng cá nhân để quyết định số tiền mà một người sẽ nhận

22.

Some people say taxes should be spent on healthcare, others think more priorities should be invested in.

Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Answer

Many people suggest governments should allocate their financial budget from taxes to healthcare services while others believe some other important fields should be more well-funded. In my opinion, every aspect of a society shares an equal role in the general prosperity of its economy and needs to be financed properly.

On the one hand, healthcare is of significant essence for the well-being of people in a country as a whole. In fact, greater influx of governments' funding in improving the medical utilities would ensure the safety of the citizens of that country in the event of traffic accidents or natural calamities. Furthermore, the threat from fatal contagions, Ebola for example, puts huge strain on the medical systems. An enormous amount of national resources, therefore, is required for research as well as experiments facilities establishment to find curative medicines for those diseases.

On the other hand, other sectors such as education and technology are also factored in boosting the economy nationwide. Firstly, education is the key to secure a better future generation. With more state money for classroom modernization and teacher training, public school and institutions can provide practical knowledge to young people who will contribute back to the affluence of their country. Secondly, governments should focus their investments on technological innovation as well. It is apparent that modern

technology is indispensable in the industrialized world since human labor is incomparable with that of machinery in term of efficiency. Thus, an emphasis should be placed on this area to benefit the overall growth of the economy.

In conclusion, I would argue that not only healthcare but also other determinants like education and technology should simultaneously receive the same governmental sponsorships.

(279 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **Financial budget**: ngân khố tài chính
- **Governments' funding**: Tài trợ vốn từ chính phủ
- **National resources**: tài nguyên quốc gia
- **State money**: Tiền từ chính phủ
- **Governmental sponsorships**: Các nguồn tài trợ chính phủ

ZIM

23.

People should follow the customs and traditions when people start to live in a new country.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Answer

Upon commencing a new life in a foreign country, people often face a dilemma of whether they should stick to their cultural values or adhere to the local lifestyle. Although living up to the standards of one's cultural background is legitimate on a certain level, I still believe that adaptation to the host country's traditional practices is sorely essential to immigrants.

On the one hand, I agree that under various circumstances the adoption of new ways of living seems to be a headache, especially when it comes to long-standing values and religious matters. For example, an Asian family who has moved to the US would find public kissing highly inappropriate as they were taught how to express their emotions differently during their early phase of childhood. Such a standard has been profoundly imprinted on their minds and can hardly be compromised. Additionally, the existence of unique cultural beauty within immigrants' communities would be put at stake. When people are exposed to foreign lifestyles every day, there is a chance of complete cultural assimilation which potentially leads to the disappearance of traditional beliefs and behaviors among certain groups of expatriates.

On the other hand, I am inclined to the idea of immigrants' adjustment to their way of living in order to fit in the local community. The first point worthy of note is that such adaptation would help those people integrate more quickly into the new setting. Obviously if a person leads a bizarre life, he will not be able to get on well with his

neighbors. Compliance with the host nation's social norms and conventions can also eradicate the worry of social conflicts. Expatriates who are unwilling to adhere to the new cultural ideas and behaviors might have to face the hostility from the locals and suffer from a sense of isolation from society.

In the light of both possible responses to such the matter of cultural adherence from immigrants as analyzed above, it seems to me that expatriates should learn to adapt themselves to live in harmony in the exotic community by complying with its traditional conventions.

(348 words)

Useful vocabulary & expressions:

- **To commence sth**: Bắt đầu cái gì đó
- **To face a dilemma**: Đối mặt với tình huống khó xử
- **To adhere to**: Tuân theo cái gì
- **To live up to the standards**: Sống theo chuẩn mực nào đó
- **Adaptation to the host country's traditional practices**: Sự thích ứng với những tục lệ truyền thống của quốc gia mới
- **Long-standing values and religious matters**: Những giá trị lâu đời và những vấn đề tôn giáo
- **To be imprinted in/on**: Hằn sâu vào tâm lý ai đó
- **To be put at stake**: Trong tình hình nguy hiểm
- **To be exposed to foreign lifestyles**: Tiếp xúc với lối sống nước ngoài
- **Cultural assimilation**: Sự hòa nhập văn hóa
- **Expatriate:** Người di cư
- **Adjustment**: Sự điều chỉnh
- **To integrate into**: Hòa nhập vào cộng đồng

- **To lead a bizarre life**: Có cuộc sống kì lạ
- **To get on well with**: Hòa đồng với ai đó
- **Compliance with**: Sự tuân theo cái gì
- **Social norms and conventions**: Những ý niệm
- **Hostility**: Sự hằn học
- **A sense of isolation**: Cảm giác bị cô lập
- **To live in harmony**: Sống hòa hợp
- **To comply with**: Tuân theo cái gì

ZIM

24.

Explain some of the ways in which humans are damaging the environment. What can governments do to address these problems? What can individual people do?

Answer

The environment is suffering from the consequences from many human activities on an alarming level. In order to preserve the nature, it requires not only the immediate involvement from governments but individuals' collaboration as well

Pollution is the first problem that industrial activities are causing, especially the air and water pollution. Along with the global industrialization, factories and transporting vehicles are contaminating the air by their emission of harmful fumes. Besides, toxic exhaust is being poured down carelessly on water streams, causing those waters to be polluted. Deforestation is the second worrying repercussion of human activities. Forests are being exceedingly exploited for their wood. Moreover, many wild species of animals are on the brink of extinction due to illegal hunting and the loss of natural habitats.

Governments can have a huge influence on the preservation of the environment. Firstly, they can monitor the exhaust purification process of large factories so that dangerous exhaust is not directly dumped into water streams or emitted into the atmosphere. Secondly, stricter enforcement of regulations involving serious prison sentences against forest exploitation and poaching can help saving the natural habitats and endangered species.

Individuals should also take responsibility for the protection of their surroundings. They can recycle glass and plastic products to reduce the amount of industrial waste which can do much harm to the environment if they are not disposed of properly. Additionally, people can donate money to organizations which are in charge of the maintenance as well as the conservation of the natural setting.

In conclusion, the environment is being direly devastated by human activities, and both governments and individuals should work hand in hand to protect the Earth.

(276 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **Industrial activities:** Hoạt động công nghiệp
- **The air and water pollution**: Ô nhiễm nguồn nước và không khí
- **The global industrialization**: Công nghiệp hóa toàn cầu
- **Emission of harmful fumes**: Sự thải ra những khí độc hại
- **Toxic exhaust**: Khí độc
- **Deforestation**: Chặt phá rừng
- **Illegal hunting**: Săn bắn trái phép
- **The loss of natural habitat**: Sự mất đi hệ sinh thái
- **Preservation**: Sự bảo tồn
- **Forest exploitation**: Sự khai thác rừng
- **Endangered species**: Động vật đang có nguy cơ tuyệt chủng

25.

Many people believe that university students should pay tuition fees in full themselves, because they gain education for their own benefit and not for society.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Answer

There is a common belief that it is students' responsibility to take care of their own tuition fees since they study for themselves, not for the good of society. In my opinion, this idea is completely absurd from every perspective.

From one standpoint, I believe that undergraduates should not have to pay the full cost of education. This would be too expensive, especially in the UK or the US, hence deterring many young people from pursuing tertiary education. It is because many talented students are the victims of their families' financial predicament, which prevents them from furthering their study. Furthermore, the provision of exemptions and scholarships for high achievers would motivate competent individuals to work hard during their college time. If there were no encouragement in terms of finance, they would feel unappreciated and demotivated.

In addition, I think society does gain benefits from university undergraduates; therefore, it is reasonable to offer financial aids to those students. Apparently, they dictate the future of a country since they would become the main workforce after graduation. Without them, the entire economy would be destabilized owing to the lack of skilled labor. On top of that, university graduates make tremendous contributions to the prosperity of their community by paying taxes when they work. Because of this, society could not deny its obligation to party assist students with their education

cost.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose the idea that society gains nothing from college students and that they should settle their own study fees at university.

(252 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **Tuition fees**: Học phí
- **Tertiary education**: Giáo dục đại học
- **Financial predicament**: Khó khan về mặt tài chính
- **Exemptions and scholarships**: Miễn giảm học phí và học bổng
- **High achievers**: Người đạt thành tích cao
- **Skilled labor**: Lao động có tay nghề
- **The prosperity of their community**: Sự thịnh vượng của cộng đồng

26.

Some people think that international collaboration is necessary to put an end to the problem of terrorism.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Answer

A raging storm of disturbing news about terrorism has become headlines of both the local and global press, leading to a belief that an international alliance formed by multiple countries across different continents could put an end to terrorism. I completely agree with this view.

There are ample evidences which prove the necessity of international cooperation against certain extreme groups of terrorists. There is no denying that the world has experienced great suffering from the devastation of terrorism, which could be seen from the recent IS attacks on Paris and Nice in France. Governments from all over the globe need to work hand in hand in order to relieve the grief which even seems to be inconsolable and to prevent further incidents. Furthermore, the countries such as Syria where those terrorism organizations originate and commit rampant crimes without doubt are powerless to maintain order and safety. Therefore, the involvement of more powerful nations would be vital.

On the other hand, opponents of international collaboration have their points based on what they have witnessed. They suppose the heinous attacks on the two cities in France are the outcome of the government's attempt to eradicate terrorism. They also think this is the matter of the countries which are home to those terrorism organizations. However, I must admit that those thoughts are somewhat groundless. Sooner or later, terrorists would point their guns to every other country and plague people with fear and insecurity,

proving the inevitability of going down the step of a modern war. Additionally, the people in Syria, for example, are being slaughtered for no reasons; this is no other than a massacre of the innocent. If other countries were afraid to act although fully aware of the helplessness of Syrian governments, the country would fall into anarchy, leading to possible genocide.

In conclusion, I truly believe leaders of different countries in the world should collaborate to end the current killing caused by terrorists.

(324 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **An international alliance formed by multiple countries across different continents**: Đồng minh quốc tế được thành lập bởi nhiều quốc gia trên nhiều châu lục khác nhau
- **International cooperation**: Sự hợp tác quốc tế
- **Prevent further incidents**: Ngăn chặn những tai nạn khác
- **Maintain order and safety**: Giữ gìn trật tự và an toàn
- **To be home to those terrorism organizations**: Là nhà của những tổ chức khủng bố
- **To plague people with fear and insecurity**: Gây nên nỗi sợ hãi và sự bất an
- **A massacre**: Cuộc giết người hang loạt

27.

In recent years, there has been growing interest in the relationship between equality and personal achievement. Some people believe that individuals can achieve more in egalitarian societies. Others believe that high levels of personal achievement are possible only if individuals are free to succeed or fail according to their individual merits.

What is your view of the relationship between equality and personal success?

Answer

Whether equality amongst all members of a society can encourage individual achievements has drawn much attention and the answer to such an argument has yet to be reached. Although opinions diverge greatly on the matter, I am inclined to a fair society where everyone is offered equal opportunities.

Psychologically speaking, people who suffer from offensive treatment are mentally hampered in their effort to be successful in any aspects. Those people often believe that their accomplishments always would be disparaged by others owing to social discrimination. Once they know there would be absolutely no acknowledgement for what they do, any attempts to achieve something seem meaningless to them. In some cases, this may lead to resentment within the group of discriminated individuals, which might eventually trigger civil unrest or even public protests.

Looking at the matter from another angle, we can see clearly that when all people have the same opportunities to education and other public utilities, they are more likely to succeed. Years ago when prejudices against black people still widely existed, the black in Western countries were mistreated

and led a life of destitution and servitude. However, the international amendments against racism were proposed and governments were unanimous that black people had the right to stand equally among other people. And many of them are successful in the modern world due to the provision of education and medical services.

Indeed, individuals can thrive in an unbiased and unprejudiced society since equality and personal success interrelate closely as analyzed above. I believe we should head for a world of fairness and any manifestations of discrimination should not be condoned.

(270 words)

Useful vocabulary and expressions:

- **Offensive treatment**: Cách đối xử làm người khác tổn thương
- **Social discrimination**: Phân biệt xã hội
- **The same opportunities for education and other public utilities**: Những cơ hội như nhau về giáo dục và những phúc lợi xã hội khác
- **A life of destitution and servitude**: Một cuộc sống nghèo khó và phục dịch

CHAPTER 7

Essay topics to practice at home

ZIM

1: In some cultures the old age is more valued, while in some cultures youth is more valued.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

2: Some people believe that the government spends too much money on developing space exploration technology. There are many others financial needs that the government should address instead.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

3. Some people think children should obey the rules their parents and teachers set and listen to them, but others think less control will help children to deal with their future adult life.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion?

4. Some people argue that teaching children of different abilities together benefits all of them. Others believe that intelligent children should be taught separately and given special treatment.

Discuss both views and how do you think about it?

5. Many people believe that teachers should take the responsibility for the students to judge what is right and wrong and behave well, others feel that teachers should only teach academic subjects.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

6. Some people have great ambitions in life, others don't.

Do you think ambition is important to succeed in life?

Is it a positive or a negative quality to have?

7. Many people believe that the world's most urgent problems can only be solved by international collaboration.

Do you agree or disagree?

8. Some people believe that some unpaid community service should be a compulsory part of high school programmes (e.g. working in a charity, improving the relationship of neighbourhood or teaching sports to children)

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

9. Some people think the best way of reducing crime is to give longer prison sentences. Others, however, think there are other better ways to reduce crime.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

10. University students always focus on one specialist subject, but some people think universities should encourage their students to study a range of subjects in addition to their own subject.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

11. Some people think that robots are very important to human's future development. Others think that they are dangerous and have negative effects on society.

Discuss both opinions and give your personal view.

12. Happiness is considered very important in life.

Why is it difficult to define?

What factors are important in achieving happiness?

13. We have entered a throw-away society and fill the environment with rubbish.

What are the causes and what are your solutions?

14. People continue to commit crimes even after being punished for it.

Why do you think this happens?

How can crime be stopped?

15. Some people say that governments should spend money on measures to save languages that are used by few speakers, while others believe it's a waste of financial resources.

Discuss both views and give your opinion?

16. The number of people who watch foreign films is much more than people who watch local films.

Describe the reasons and should the government provide financial support to the local film industries?

17. Television has had a significant influence on the culture of many societies.

To what extent do you think it has positively or negatively affected cultural development?

18. Most of the schools are planning to replace sports and exercise classes with more academic sessions.

What is your opinion on this change?

How will this change affect children’s life in your view?

19. Some people think zoos are cruel and all the zoos should be closed. However, some people think zoos are useful to protect the rare animals.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion?

20. Many people believe that university students should pay tuition fees in full themselves, because they gain education for their own benefit and not for the society.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

21. Detailed description of crimes on newspaper and TV can have bad consequences on society, so this kind of information should be restricted on media.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

22. Some people think planning future is a waste of time and people should focus on the present.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

23. Some people believe that governments should make investment in building public libraries in every town, while others think it is a waste of money because we have access to information via Internet.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

24. Some people think the main benefit of international cooperation is in protection of the environment, while others think that the main benefit is in the world business.

Discuss both views and give your opinion?

25. Professional workers like doctors, nurses and teachers make a greater contribution to society and so should be paid more than sports and entertainment personalities.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

26. Some people think that politicians have the greatest influence on the world. Other people, however, believe that scientists have the greatest influence.

Discuss both of views and give your opinion.

27. Individual greed and selfishness has been the basis of the modern society. Some people think that we must return to the older and more traditional values of respect for the family and the local community in order to create a better world to live in.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

28. The increase in food production owes much to fertilizers and better machinery, but some people think that it has a negative impact on human health and community.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

29. In today's world of advanced science and technology, we still greatly value our artists such as musicians, painters and writers.

What can arts tell us about life that science and technology cannot?

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

Discuss both views and give your opinion

31. Some countries and individuals try to deal with the problem of animal extinction. Others think it is more important to deal with problems of human beings.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

32. Nowadays many parents are sending their kids abroad to acquire good education. Discuss the advantages and the disadvantages of this trend.

Give your own opinion.

33. In some countries boarding schools are getting more popular.

Is it a positive or negative development?

What are the reasons behind it?

34. Sports help to a greater extent to build peace in world.

Do you agree or disagree?

35. Nowadays, children play less with others and this has an impact on their development.

What are the reasons for this?

Does it have a good or a bad effect on children?

36. Consumers are faced with increasing numbers of advertisements from competing companies.

To what extent do you think are consumers influenced by advertisements?

What measures can be taken to protect them.

37. There are an increasing number of anti-social behaviors in recent years; People generally believe that the society is to blame.

What do you think the causes are and who is responsible for this?

38. Some people claim that public museums and art galleries will not be needed because people can see historical objects and works of art by using a computer.

Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

39. Some people think it is necessary to use animals for testing medicines intended for human use. Others, however, think it is cruel to do that.

Discuss both of these views and give you own opinion.

40. News media are important in modern society.

Why are they so important?

Are their influences generally positive or negative?

Final words

This book is written in appreciation for the non-stop support from many IELTS Learners across the country and also as a thank-you gift for those who cannot afford IELTS offline courses for financial or geographic issues. I do hope that this small gift would bring great help to my students, friends and people who wish to get a high score in the IELTS exam.

Should you have any questions regarding the content of this book and/or any materials related to IELTS preparation, please do not hesitate to contact me via email: toanzim@gmail.com or send me a message on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/anhtoan122

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