

## IELTS ESSAYS

- The types of tasks tested in Writing module (general and Academic)
- Types of questions to be answered in task 2 of general training and academic writing module
- The strategies to answer the questions
- Organization of the essay
- Criteria for marking

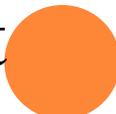


# I. The types of tasks tested in Writing Module

## A. General training writing:

1. Writing a letter in 20 minutes using at least 150 words
2. Writing an essay in 40 minutes using at least 250 words

## B. Academic writing:

1. Describing information in tables, charts, graphs, etc in 20 minutes using at least 150 words
  2. Writing an essay in 20 minutes using at least 250 words
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## II. Topics of questions:

Friendship, mass media, travel, accommodation, transportation, shops and services, health and welfare, health and safety, recreation, social and physical environment, marriage, money issues, overseas students, smoking, drinks, traffic jams, pollution, global warming, modes of communication



III. Types of questions to be answered in task 2 of general training and academic writing module

A. The age of information technology has taken a lot of people by surprise. While it has become a way of life for some, others know very little about it and may be unlikely to learn. Eventually we will have a polarized society and this will lead to serious social problems.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?



B. Every year thousands of students go overseas to study. Although many benefit from the experience, others go home disappointed.

What are the benefits and drawbacks of studying in another country?

C. In many countries, traffic jams in city centers are a major problem. Governments around the world have tried many methods to cope with these difficulties.

What are the causes of traffic jams? Suggest some methods of controlling traffic.



D. Some people prefer to work in groups on projects while other people prefer to work alone. What are the advantages of each and which do you prefer? Use details and examples to support your response.

E. Compare yourself today and yourself five years ago.

In what ways are you the same or different? Use specific examples to support your response.



## IV. Structure of the IELTS essays

### A. Introduction:

1. A general introduction to the topic
2. A thesis statement briefly expressing your views

### B. Main body:

1. Your ideas
2. Evidence and examples supporting these ideas

### C. Conclusion:

1. Mention the main point of your essay again
2. Give your opinion strongly
3. Talk about the future effects or consequences
4. Make any other comment that you think is relevant



- v. The strategies to answer the questions
  - 1. Analyze the question
  - 2. Make notes of ideas that might be included in the essay
  - 3. Make a plan by selecting the best ideas and organizing them
  - 4. Write the essay
  - 5. Check for mistakes and correct them



- Analyze the question

The question: Television is now widespread in all communities. Almost everyone has access to this medium on a daily basis. However, the effects of television are not always positive.

What are some of the negative effects of television? What can be done to minimize these bad effects?

Give reasons for your answers.



A. Constituent parts of the question: topic paragraph + question paragraph

Topic paragraph: Television is now widespread in all communities. Almost everyone has access to this medium on a daily basis. However, the effects of television are not always positive.

Question paragraph: What are some of the negative effects of television? What can be done to minimize these bad effects?



B. The topic of the question:

Television is now widespread in all communities. Almost everyone has access to this medium on a daily basis. However, the effects of television are not always positive.

C. The purpose or the task of the question:

What are some of the negative effects of television? What can be done to minimize these bad effects?



- Make notes of ideas
  - A. The possible negative effects of television
    1. Expensive for the community
    2. Destroys local customs
    3. People (especially children) waste time
    4. Bad influence of advertising
    5. People become lazy
    6. Destroys family life
    7. Can be used for bad political purposes
    8. Bad for the eyes
    9. Spreads Western (especially American) culture



## B. Ways of minimizing these effects

1. Control TV content
2. Control advertising
3. Explain effects to people
4. Encourage alternative entertainment
5. Limit broadcasting hours



- Make a plan
  - A. Effects on individuals
    - 1. Wasting people's time
    - 2. Making people lazy
    - 3. Bad influence of advertising
  - B. Effects on family and society
    - 1. Destroying family life
    - 2. Spreading Western culture
    - 3. Destroying culture
  - C. Ways of minimizing these effects
    - 1. Controlling TV content
    - 2. Explaining effects to people



- Write the essay
- Check for mistakes



# A SAMPLE IELTS ESSAY

## Introduction

With modern telecommunications, even people who live in very remote areas have access to television. However, even though television is clearly very popular, the effects on people watching television are often negative.



## Main body

Individuals can be negatively affected in three main ways. Many people, both children and adults, waste a lot of time sitting in front of a TV watching poor quality programmes. Secondly, watching too much TV can make people lazy and unhealthy because they do not get enough exercise. Thirdly, the advertisements on television can make people feel unhappy with the things they have and can influence them to spend money on new things.



TV has various negative effects on families and society. Because of TVs, families communicate less with each other and do less family activities together. Small societies may begin to lose their local customs if most television programmes come from another part of the country. Many of the TV programmes in my country come from overseas, especially the United States of America. This will affect the national culture by encouraging the spread of Western customs and values.



There are two key ways to minimize the negative effects described above. Firstly, governments should exercise more control over the content of TV programmes.

Programmes which are not educational or many influence people in a negative way should be limited or restricted. Secondly, governments should educate people about the possible negative effects of TV. People can then regulate themselves and their children.



## Conclusion

In conclusion, I think that something should be done as soon as possible to protect the community from the negative effects of television. If the situation is left to continue as it is, many new problems for individuals and society will arise in the future.



## VI. Criteria for marking

1. Language—accurate, precise, and varied
2. Organization—well organized, highly supported, and logically interconnected
3. Content—appropriate vocabulary and frequent collocations, and relevant ideas



## VII. What to do to raise more marks

- A. Address all the points in the question
- B. Write the required number of words
- C. Never copy long parts from the question
- D. Use a variety of structures

