

IELTS Made Easy Task 2 Worksheets

UNIT 2: Understanding IELTS Essay Questions

Exercise 1 – Identifying the Parts of an Essay Question

Look at the following essay questions. Identify what the task is and whether there are any facts or opinions or write 'none' if there are no facts or opinions. There will always be a task as this is the part that tells you what you need to do.

1. **In many countries the proportion of older people is increasing.
Could this have more positive or negative effects on society?**

Facts	
Opinions	
Task/s	

2. **The best way to help developing countries is to give them financial aid.
Write an essay either agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.
Suggest alternatives to this policy.**

Facts	
Opinions	
Task/s	

3.

Smoking is a habit that claims many lives and is a great drain on health services. One way to combat smoking would be to make it illegal.

What are the pros and cons of such a government policy?

What alternative strategies can you suggest to combat smoking?

Facts	
Opinions	
Task	

4.

Air transport is increasingly used to transport fruit and vegetables to other countries where they cannot be grown or are out of season. Some people say this is good but others believe the use of air transport for this purpose is not justified.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Facts	
Opinions	
Task	

5. **The crime rate among teenagers has increased dramatically in many countries.**
Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions.

Facts	
Opinions	
Task	

6. **In many countries children are engaged in some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong while others consider it as valuable work experience.**
Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Facts	
Opinions	
Task	

UNIT 3: Brainstorming

Exercise 1 – Analysing essay questions and developing focus questions

1.

The best way to help developing countries is to give them financial aid.

Write an essay either agreeing or disagreeing with this statement.

Suggest alternatives to this policy.

Topic:

Other detail / narrowing down of topic:

The task:

Focus Questions:

Is giving....

What are...

2.

The crime rate among teenagers has increased dramatically in many countries.

Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions.

Topic:

Other detail / narrowing down of topic:

The task:

Focus Questions:

Why...

What...

3.

Air transport is increasingly used to transport fruit and vegetables to other countries where they cannot be grown or are out of season. Some people say this is good but others believe the use of air transport for this purpose is not justified.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Topic:

Other detail / narrowing down of topic:

The task:

Focus Questions:

What...

What...

4.

Smoking is a habit that claims many lives and is a great drain on health services. One way to combat smoking would be to make it illegal.

What are the pros and cons of such a government policy?
What alternative strategies can you suggest to combat smoking?

Topic:

Other detail / narrowing down of topic:

The task:

Focus Questions:

What...

What...

5.

In many countries children are engaged in some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong while others consider it as valuable work experience.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Topic:

Other detail / narrowing down of topic:

The task:

Focus Questions:



UNIT 5: Introductions & Conclusions

Exercise 1

Now it's your turn. Have a practice with the following questions:

1.

As global trade increases, many goods, including those we use on a daily basis, are produced in other countries and have to be transported long distances.

Do the benefits of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?

Your Introduction:

.....

.....

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.....

.....

2.

In many countries, children are engaged in some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong while others consider it as valuable work experience.

Discuss both opinions and give your opinion.

Your Introduction:

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.....

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.....

.....

3.

Unpaid community service should be a compulsory part of high school programs (for example, working for a charity, improving the neighbourhood, or teaching sports to younger children).

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Your Introduction:

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.....

.....

Exercise 2

Using the same questions for the introductions, have a practice at writing your own conclusions.

1.

As global trade increases, many goods, including those we use on a daily basis, are produced in other countries and have to be transported long distances.

Do the benefits of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?

Your Conclusion:

.....

.....

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.....

.....

2.

In many countries, children are engaged in some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong while others consider it as valuable work experience.

Discuss both opinions and give your opinion.

Your Conclusion:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3.

Unpaid community service should be a compulsory part of high school programs (for example, working for a charity, improving the neighbourhood, or teaching sports to younger children).

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Your Conclusion:

.....

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.....

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.....

UNIT 6: Developing strong paragraphs quickly

Practice

Now it's your turn. You are going to write two paragraphs *opposing* the idea that advances in technology have improved people's lives. So you need to think of some ways that technology has made people's lives *worse*.

For the first paragraph, you can practice the '*one idea paragraph*', and in the next the '*multiple idea paragraph*'. The exercises are on the next pages.

Write a plan for the second paragraph in the box, and then write the second paragraph.

One Idea Paragraph

Paragraph Plan:

Idea:

Reason:

Example:

Result:

Conclusion:

The main benefit of modern technology is that people's lives are much more convenient. This is because we are able to do many things without having to stay at the office or home, something which is extremely important given the busy lifestyles of today. For example, most people now have a mobile phone or laptop computer, and Wi-Fi is available in virtually every place. As a result, people are able to do their work, liaise with colleagues or friends, and check their emails anywhere they choose such as in coffee shops or while travelling on a train or bus. There is no doubt that this has improved people's lives in many ways and this would not have been possible without improved technology.

However, _____

[illegible]

Paragraph Plan:

Idea:

SI:

Exp:

SI:

Exp:

SI:

Exp:

Conclusion (optional):

There is no doubt that modern technology has improved people's lives in many ways. Firstly, people's lives are much more convenient because we have devices such as mobile phones, meaning that people can communicate when and where they like, not just in the office or home. In addition, people are living much longer lives due to the advances in medical technology, with doctors now able to carry out complicated heart surgery and other operations that were not possible many years ago. People's lives have also improved around the home. Evidence of this can be seen with all the devices that are now readily available to people that save time such as microwaves, washing machines, and dish washers. None of this would have been possible without advances in technology.

UNIT 7: Fully-developed Examples

Practice

Have a go at developing some specific examples of your own to discuss the negative and positive aspects of the internet.

You have been given the first sentence focused around this topic stating a reason why access to the internet is positive or negative. You then need to develop a specific example to support the reason. Remember to use the methods explained above.

The spread of the internet is a positive development because everyone has easy access to an abundance of information. A good example of this is _____

However, there are also drawbacks because of the easy access to dangerous sites. For instance, _____

UNIT 8: Essay Types

Practice

Take a look at the following essay questions and write below which kind of essay type they are (refer to the table). The first one has been done for you. A few won't fit exactly as you see in the box so look at them all carefully.

Do the dangers derived from the use of chemicals in food production and preservation outweigh the advantages?

1. Essay Type...**Advantages and Disadvantages**.....

Individuals can do nothing to improve the environment. Only Large companies and businesses can make a difference.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

2. Essay Type.....

Fresh water has always been a limited resource in some parts of the world. Today, however, growing worldwide demand has made this a global problem.

What are the causes of the increased demand and what measures could governments and individuals take to respond to this problem?

3. Essay Type.....

Air transport is increasingly used to export fruit and vegetables to countries where they cannot be grown or are out of season. Some people think this is a positive development, but others believe the use of air transport for this purpose is not justified.

Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

4. Essay Type.....

As global trade increases, many goods including those we use on a daily basis are produced in other countries and have to be transported long distances.

Do the benefits of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?

5. Essay Type.....

Because many problems we face today affect our whole planet, good relationships between different countries are becoming more important than ever before.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

6. Essay Type.....

Many people depend on their cars for everyday domestic, social and working needs. However, unlimited use of cars causes a number of problems.

What are some of these problems?

What can be done to reduce the use of cars?

7. Essay Type.....

Some businesses find that when new employees join them after finishing their education, they lack basic interpersonal skills such as the ability to work with their colleagues as part of a team.

What do you think are the causes of this problem and what measures could be taken to solve it?

8. Essay Type.....

Nowadays, families are not as close as in the past and a lot of people have become used to this.

Explain the reasons for this and discuss any possible effects it may have on society.

9. Essay Type.....

Some people think that computers are more of a hindrance than a help in today's society. Others believe that they are such indispensable tools that they would not be able to live or work without them.

Discuss both opinions and give your opinion.

10. Essay Type.....

Nowadays many people have access to computers on a wide basis and a large number of children play computer games.

What are the negative and positive impacts of playing computer games and what can be done to minimize the bad effects?

11. Essay Type.....

How important is it for individual countries to think about the future rather than focusing on the present?

12. Essay Type.....

Happiness is considered very important in life.

Why is it difficult to define?

What factors are important in achieving happiness?

13. Essay Type.....

The percentage of overweight children in western society has increased by almost 20% in the last ten years.

Discuss the causes and effects of this disturbing trend.

14. Essay Type.....

Developed countries have created many environmental problems in the World, particularly in their contribution to global warming.

What can be done to reduce the dangers of global warming?

15. Essay Type.....

There is an increasing trend around the world to have a small family rather than a large family.

What are some of the benefits and drawback of having a small family rather than a large family?

16. Essay Type.....

Global warming is one of the most serious issues that the world is facing today.

What are the causes of global warming and what measures can governments and individuals take to tackle the issue?

17. Essay Type.....

Genetic engineering is an important issue in modern society. Some people think that it will improve people's lives in many ways. Others feel that it may be a threat to life on earth.

Discuss both opinions and give your opinion?

18. Essay Type.....

UNIT 10: Coherence and Cohesion

Exercise 1

Now take a look at the following paragraph. The referent pronouns have been highlighted / underlined. In the space below, identify which nouns they refer back to.

There are several reasons for the increase in youth crime. The first reason is connected with the family. In order for a child to grow up in a balanced way, it is very important that he or she is nurtured well by his or her parents. However, these days, it is often the case that children are neglected. This may be because of the fact that many parents in cities now both have to work so they are often not around to give their children support when needed. Another factor is the increasing levels of poverty around the world. We have seen with globalization the rich get richer and the poor get poorer, and this inevitably means that those who are poorer will have to resort to illegal means to get what others have. Of course, this will include the children in the poorer families.

1. he or she
2. his or her
3. This
4. they
5. their
6. this
7. those
8. this

Exercise 2

Have a look at the following sentences and identify which phrase or synonym is used to replace the words in red / underlined in the following sentence. Write it in the space below.

1. Taking drug companies as an example, governments usually require rigorous trials for new medicines that can take many years.

.....

2. *The arts such as theatre and dance need a lot of **money** to operate. If they don't have the necessary funds, they may have to close.*

.....

3. *Traffic congestion in many cities around the world is severe. **One possible solution** to this problem is to impose heavy taxes on car drivers and use this money to make public transport better. This essay will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of such a measure.*

.....

4. *I believe that it is very important to protect and preserve old buildings as we can **learn about our history** as can others from other countries. Such knowledge can also help us to understand how to modernize our countries in the best way.*

.....

Exercise 4

1. Having a smaller family is now common in many countries, some cultures still view a larger family as more viable. (*however / yet / although*)
2. Single parent households are now commonplace in the West., they are much more unusual in Asian countries. (*On the other hand / But / Though*)
3. the age that people can legally drink alcohol has increased to 18, the age that people can smoke has remained the same. (*Although / Nevertheless / But*)

Practice

Go through and highlight the (1) *transitions* (2) *conjunctions* (*subordinating and coordinating*) (2) *pronouns* and (3) *synonyms*.

When you have done this, look at the essay and examine how the whole essay has coherency in terms of an *introduction*, *body paragraphs*, *topic sentences*, and a *conclusion*.

Essay

Medical studies have shown that smoking not only leads to health problems for the smoker, but also for people close by. As a result of this, many believe that smoking should not be allowed in public places. Although there are arguments on both sides, I strongly agree that a ban is the most appropriate course of action.

Opponents of such a ban argue against it for several reasons. Firstly, they say that passive smokers make the choice to breathe in other people's smoke by going to places where it is allowed. If they would prefer not to smoke passively, then they do not need to visit places where smoking is permitted. In addition, critics believe a ban would possibly drive many bars and pubs out of business as smokers would not go there anymore. They also argue it is a matter of freedom of choice. Smoking is not against the law, so individuals should have the liberty to smoke where they wish.

However, there are more convincing arguments in favour of a ban. First and foremost, it has been proven that tobacco consists of carcinogenic compounds which cause serious harm to a person's health, not only the smoker. Anyone around them can develop cancers of the lungs, mouth and throat, and other sites in the body. It is simply not fair to impose this upon another person. It is also the case that people's health is more important than businesses. In any case, pubs and restaurants could adapt to a ban by, for example, allowing smoking areas.

In conclusion, it is clear that it should be made illegal to smoke in public places. This would improve the health of thousands of people, and that is most definitely a positive development.