

# Master IELTS Writing Task 2

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## IELTS Writing Task 2

### Different question types



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {IELTS}

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## Opinion questions

With the increased global demand for oil and gas, undiscovered and unspoilt areas of the world should be opened up to get more natural resources. **To what extent do you agree?**

Many of the world's major cities face a housing crisis because there is not enough free land to build new houses on. Some local governments want to close public parks and use the land for housing. They argue that this would be a better use of this land. **To what extent do you agree?**

The restoration of old buildings in major cities in the world involves a lot of government expenditures. This money should be used in new housing and road development. **To what extent do you agree?**

The key to solving the environmental problems is for the present generation to sacrifice their easy lifestyle for the sake of the future generations. **To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

People living in the 21<sup>st</sup> century enjoy a better quality of life than those who lived in previous centuries. **To what extent do you agree?**

## Opinion questions

Some psychologists think that the best way to overcome the stress of everyday life is to spend a part of each day doing absolutely nothing. **To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

Some governments use an identity card scheme. Each citizen has to carry an electronic card with a great deal of personal information on it. Many people do not like this idea. They say individual human rights are threatened. **What do you think?**

The world has become a safer place since the development of nuclear weapons. Major wars in which millions are killed are actually less likely now than they were before the invention of the atomic bomb. **Do you agree?**

There are many elderly people in the world. It is unfair that their families should be expected to look after them. This is the job of the state. **Do you agree?**

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## Opinion questions

Television news and current affairs programmes have a duty to inform us but it is unnecessary to show images which will disturb viewers. **What is your opinion?**

Some people believe that when children have free time, they should do things which are educational. Others believe that this is a bad idea. **What is your opinion?**

Some people say that a person's success is as a result of the way he has been brought up by his parents. **Do you agree or disagree?**

some people consider price as the most important thing to consider when buying goods and services such as smartphones and medical treatment. **Do you agree or disagree?**

Countries should restrict foreign companies from opening offices and factories in order to protect local businesses. **Do you agree or disagree?**

Today, most people get married and give birth in their thirties rather than when they are younger. **Is this a positive or negative development?**

## Opinion questions

The position of women in society has changed markedly in the last twenty years. Many of the problems young people now experience, such as juvenile delinquency, arise from the fact that many married women now work and are not at home to care for their children. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?**

These days a lot of movies and music are free to download online. **Is this a positive or negative development?**

Film stars and celebrities often share their views on public matters that have little to do with their profession. **Is this a positive or negative development?**

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

## Opinion questions

When a country develops its technology, traditional skills and ways of life die out. **To what extent should a country try to safeguard its culture and traditions in our modern, developed world?**

Travelling abroad has become increasingly popular. Now, many countries open their doors to foreign visitors. **Is international tourism a good thing or a bad thing?**

Some governments say how many children a family can have in their country. They may control the number of children someone has through taxes. **It is sometimes necessary and right for a government to control the population in this way?**

In most countries, people who commit serious crimes are sent to prison. **Is prison an effective way to deal with criminals?**

## Opinion questions

More and more people are opting for ready-made food instead of freshly cooked food. **Does this development have more advantages than disadvantages?**

The world should have only one government rather than a national government for each country. **Would the advantages of this system outweigh the disadvantages?**

The rise of convenience food has helped people to keep up with the speed of the modern world. **Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?**

## Discussion + opinion questions

Some people believe that cigarettes and alcohol should be illegal because they are harmful to health. Others say that everyone has the right to decide whether to smoke or drink. **Discuss both of these possibilities and give your opinion.**

Some people say that higher taxes should be collected from industries and companies causing higher levels of pollution. Others argue that there are better ways to deal with this problem? **Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

Some people believe that robots will play a positive role in our future. Others argue that robots might have negative effects on society. **Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

Many jobs require ongoing training and research to stay competitive in a world with rapidly evolving information and technology. Some believe that it is the responsibility of businesses to pay for this training for their staff while others feel it is up to the individual. **Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

## Discussion + opinion questions

Many people believe that the use of new technology improves the lives of employees. Others think it is a disadvantage for them.

**Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

Science will soon make people live up to 100 or even 200 years.

Some believe this is a good thing while others disagree. **Discuss both views and give your own opinion.**

Some cultures encourage teenagers to have part-time jobs and see this as a good thing, while others disagree. **Explain both views and give your opinion.**

Some people believe that governments should tax unhealthy food, whilst others think that imposing a 'fat tax' would be unfair and unnecessary. **Discuss both sides of the argument and give your opinion.**

Some people argue that the fittest, strongest individuals and teams can achieve the greatest success in sports. Other people think that success is as much related to mental attitude as physical strength. **Discuss both views and give your opinion.**

## Discussion + opinion questions

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

Some people say that anyone who wants to get a good job and enjoy a satisfying career needs to go to university. Others think that starting work at a young age and getting experience is a better idea. **Discuss both alternatives and give your view.**

Some people say that when learning a foreign language, having a teacher whose first language is the same as the students' is the most effective approach. Others think that it is better to be taught by someone who is a native-speaker of the language which is being learnt. **Discuss both of these possibilities and give your opinion.**

Research in new medicines and treatment is essential. **Who do you think should fund these types of research: individuals or government?**

## Explanation + opinion questions

There are different methods which businesses use to increase their sales. **What are the different ways companies use to increase sales? Which one is the most effective?**

Many people around the world give money to charities which support older or weaker members of society. **Why do people choose to give money to charities? Would it be better if governments increased taxes to pay for the elderly and vulnerable instead of relying on charities?**

Successful companies use advertising to make more sales. **What can make an advertisement very effective? Do you think this is a bad thing or a good thing for the society?**

Nowadays, more and more people want to get things done instantly. **Why is this? Do you think this is a positive or a negative development?**

## Explanation + opinion questions

The media is increasing interest in famous people who have ordinary backgrounds. **Why do you think people are interested in the lives of famous people? Do you think this is a good thing?**

In education and employment, some people work harder than others. **Why do some people work harder? Is it always a good thing to work hard?**

In most parts of the world people are living longer. **What are the possible causes of this situation? Is this a positive or negative development?**

Increasing number of people are choosing cosmetic surgery to improve their appearance. **What are the reasons? Is it a positive or a negative development?**

In society today, more and more people are choosing to live on their own. **What are the reasons behind this? Is it a positive or negative trend?**

**Other two-part questions (opinion; explanation; suggestions; solutions)**

It is important for children to learn the difference between right and wrong at an early age. Punishment is necessary to help them learn this distinction. **To what extent do you agree or disagree with this option? What sort of punishment should parents and teachers be allowed to use to teach good behavior to children?**

Some people think that the only way to judge someone's success in business is by the amount of money they make. **Is this a true indicator of the success of a business, and in what other ways could success in a business be measured?**

A lot of people believe that the amount of violence shown on TV and in the cinema affects the actions of our young people and therefore increases the amount of violence in our society today. **Do you agree or disagree with this statement? What can be done to reduce violence in our society today?**

Some parents buy their children whatever they ask for, and let them do whatever they want. **Is this a good way to raise children? What consequences could this style of parenting have for children?**

**Other two-part questions (opinion; explanation; suggestions; solutions)**

Scientists believe that in order to protect the environment, people must use less energy in their daily lives. However, most people have not changed the way they live. **Why do you think many people have not taken individual action? What could be done to encourage them to take action?**

For many, being allowed to say what you want without fear of punishment is a basic human right. **Why do people believe in the freedom of speech? Will the huge technological changes affecting us make it easier or more difficult for citizens to enjoy freedom of speech?**

It is sometimes said that computer games are bad for a child's health. **In what ways might computer games be dangerous for children? Should computer games be banned?**

**Other two-part questions (opinion; explanation; suggestions; solutions)**

Around the world, many people watch news and current affairs programmes. **Why is news so important to people? Why do TV channels and websites show so much bad news and have so few positive stories?**

Success is often measured by wealth and material possessions. **Do you think wealth is the best measure of success? What makes a successful person?**

Although it is widely accepted that global warming is a serious threat, many people still do not take it seriously. **Should we be more worried about global warming? What could be done to make people see global warming as more of a problem?**

Many people believe that a rich person is a successful person. **Is wealth a good indicator of success? What other measures should we use to assess whether a person is successful in life?**

We all search for happiness in life. **Why is it so difficult to explain what happiness is? How can we become happy?**

**Direct  
Questions  
(explanation;  
solutions)**

Technology is already having a major effect on our working lives. **How will technology affect the world of work in the future?**

As the number of private cars has increased, so too has the level of pollution in many cities. **What can be done to tackle this increasingly common problem?**

Nowadays many countries have very cosmopolitan cities with people from all over the world. **How can the government ensure that all these people can live together harmoniously?**

Countries such as China, India and Japan have unsustainable population growths. In fact many experts are of the opinion that the population 'explosion' is the most serious threat to life on this planet. **Give some suggestions to address this problem.**

## Advantages + disadvantages questions

In some parts of the world, the number of people who get married is falling. Fewer and fewer people believe in the idea of having a husband or wife for the rest of their life. **What are the advantages and disadvantages of marriage?**

In many parts of the world, citizens are allowed to vote in elections at the age of eighteen or even twenty-one. A few countries have lowered the age at which people can vote to sixteen. **What are the advantages and disadvantages of giving the vote to those aged 16 and 17?**

Judges often prefer to sentence young offenders to community service. Rather than going to prison, youngsters who commit a crime might be made to pick up litter, do gardening or work in residential homes for the elderly. **What are the benefits and drawbacks of this approach?**

## Advantages + disadvantages questions

Just as the state provides schools for children, it should also provide free nurseries and crèches so that young parents could go back to work. **What would be the benefits and drawbacks of this approach?**

It is believed by some that not letting cars and other vehicles enter city centres would be a good thing. **What would be the positive and negative consequences of such an approach?**

As technology and employment patterns have changed, more people have started working from home. **What are the benefits and drawbacks of working from home?**

Many advanced countries give economic support to poorer regions. Although there may be benefits, some critics say that this policy does more harm than good. **Discuss both sides of this argument.**

The number of multi-national companies and corporations has grown significantly. Some say that these organisations now dominate the world. **Discuss the pros and cons of having so many large international businesses, and give your opinion.**

**(nearly)  
advantages +  
disadvantages  
questions**

Some experts believe that some people should take a yearly driving test in order to ensure safety on the roads, while others do not agree. **Discuss the benefits of both of these options.**

It is often said that physical fitness is the key to good health. However, some believe that mental and emotional health are far more important. **Discuss both arguments.**

In some countries, students are given formal written examinations at the end of each year. In other systems, they have regular and varied assessments during the year. **What are the strengths and weaknesses of these two approaches?**

People have different job expectations for jobs. Some people prefer to do the same job for the same company, whereas others prefer to change jobs frequently. **Write about the advantages and disadvantages of each viewpoint?**

It is often said that physical fitness is the key to good health. However, some believe that mental and emotional health are far more important. **Discuss both arguments.**

## Problems + solutions questions

Most people would agree that it is better to help criminals to reform than to punish them. **Why is it so difficult to turn criminals into people who make a positive contribution to society? How could this be done successfully?**

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

The growth and spread of technology is making it easier for governments and large organisations to collect personal data about us. This could threaten our privacy. **In what ways can the information gathered be misused, and what can be done to minimise this misuse and protect the privacy of the individual?**

## Problems + solutions questions

Many people are involved in sports when they are young but stop once they are adults. **Why do many adults stop doing physical exercise? What can be done about this problem?**

Fewer and fewer young people want to become teachers. **Why do young people not want to become teachers? How could this trend be changed?**

Tourism has led to many beautiful or historically-significant places being damaged beyond repair. **Why does this happen? What should be done to make sure that this does not happen in the future?**

Today more people are overweight than ever before. **What in your opinion are the primary causes of this? What measures can be taken to overcome this epidemic?**

## Problems + solutions questions

People are living in a 'throwaway society', using things for a short time and then throwing them away. **What are the causes of this? What problems does it lead to?**

On the streets of many major cities, violent crimes seems to be on the rise. **What are the causes of violent crime, and what could the authorities do to reduce it?**

People in many countries today have to spend more and more time away from their families. **Why is this? What effects does this have on the people themselves and on their families?**

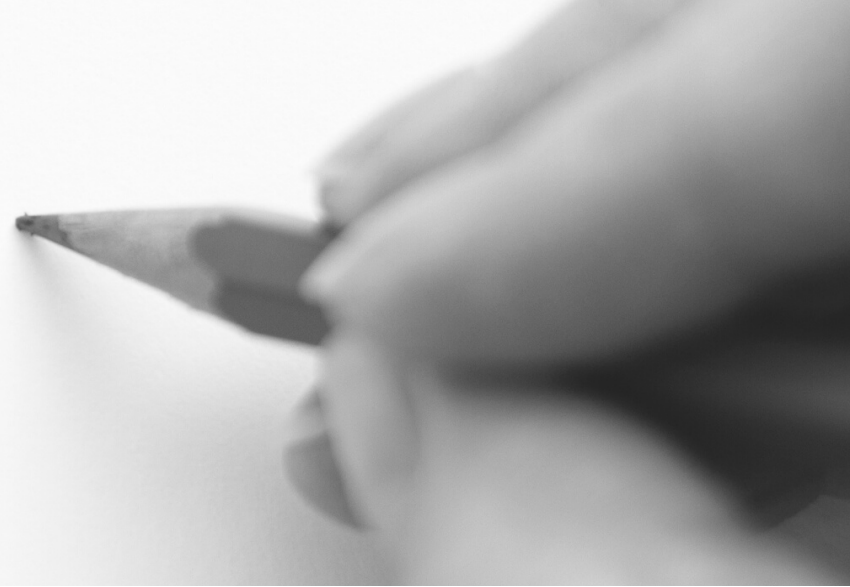
In many developing countries, the standard of living in cities is much higher than in the countryside. **What difficulties might a country face because of this situation? How might these difficulties be solved?**

Around the world, the majority of those without a job are young adults. **Why are so many young adults unemployed, and what could be done to help them?**

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Thanks for watching!



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