

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

IELTS Writing Task 2 Introductions



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {**IELTS**}

CONTENTS

What should you include?

What should your thesis statement include?

Introductions with opinions

Thesis statements with opinions

- **OPINION** essays
- **DISCUSSION + OPINION** essays
- **ADVANTAGES + DISADVANTAGES (with OPINION)** essays
- **EXPLANATION + OPINION** essays

Introductions without opinions

What should your thesis statement include?

- **ADVANTAGES + DISADVANTAGES** essays
- **PROBLEMS + SOLUTIONS** essays
- **EXPLANATION** essays

STRATEGY: paraphrase the question

STRATEGY: make your writing specific to the question

STRATEGY: general statement

**Introductions:
what should
you include?**

Describe the **general situation**

- **compare now with the past;**
- **explain that the situation is universal;**
- **explain that the situation is important:**
- **explain that the situation is contentious**

Paraphrase the question

Include a **thesis statement**

Write 2-4 sentences and 30-50 words

**Introductions:
what should
you include?**

Describe the general situation

- **compare now with the past;**
- **explain that the situation is universal;**
- **explain that the situation affects many people;**
- **explain that the situation is contentious**

Paraphrase the question

Include a **thesis statement**

Write 2-4 sentences and 30-50 words

**Introductions:
what should
your **thesis
statement**
include?**

If the question asks for your opinion (**OPINION; DISCUSSION + OPINION; EXPLANATION + OPINION**), you should usually include it in the **thesis statement**.

You might:

- fully agree with the question statement
- fully disagree with the question statement
- partially agree with the question statement
- partially disagree with the question statement

If the question does not ask for your opinion (**ADVANTAGES + DISADVANTAGES; PROBLEMS + SOLUTIONS**) you should not include an opinion in the **thesis statement**.

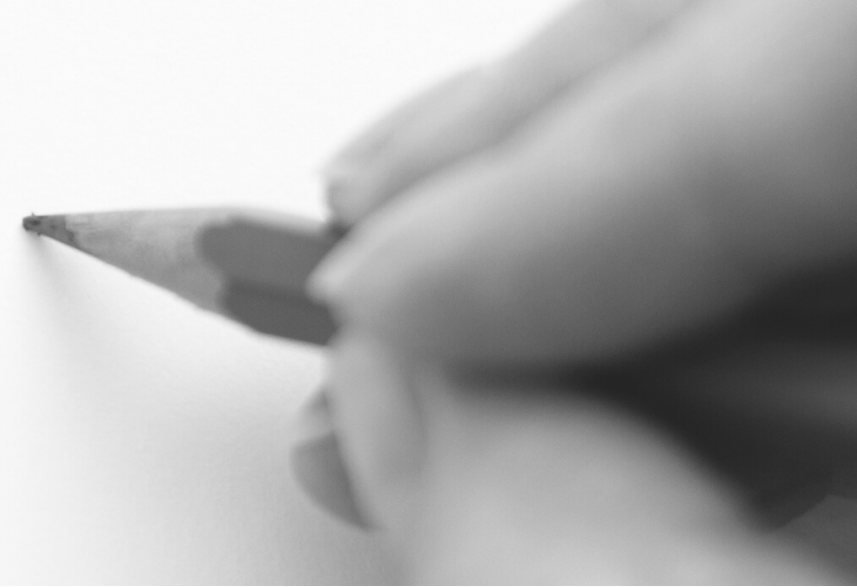
You can:

- Explain your plan
- Explain that the question is important

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

IELTS Writing Task 2

Introductions (essays with **OPINIONS**)



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {**IELTS**}

**Introductions:
what should
your **thesis
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**Thesis
statements
with opinions**

In the paragraphs which follow, I intend to explain why sending petty criminals to prison is always inappropriate.

In the remainder of this essay, I hope to show why everyone should become vegetarian.

I am strongly of the opinion that a radical solution involving a move away from private car ownership **needs to be considered**

I wholeheartedly believe that practically all jobs should be open to everyone.

This essay will seek to demonstrate that the death penalty is wrong in all circumstances.

Although there are some benefits of children wearing uniforms, **I generally oppose this approach.**

Although I have some minor reservations, I believe that giving teenagers practical work-related abilities **is usually preferential to** teaching them general thinking skills.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

OPINION

There are too many cars on our roads. We need to deal with this issue now or we will face terrible problems later. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Over the past few decades, the quantity of motor vehicles on our streets has increased at an unprecedented rate. It is reasonable to suggest that, as we move through the twenty-first century, a crisis in road use is likely to overwhelm us. Some experts in the field of transportation contend that the best strategy would simply be to construct more roads. However, I am strongly of the opinion that a more radical solution, involving a move away from private car ownership, needs to be considered.

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Paraphrase

Opposing opinion

Thesis statement

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General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

OPINION

Men and women are different. Some jobs can only be done well by men and others can only be done well by women. What do you think about this idea?

Over the past few years, the number of jobs open to both males and females has expanded. Nowadays, it is possible to find male nurses and carers, and female fire-fighters and coal-miners. Some experts on employment believe that this is a mistake and that in some areas men or women are simply superior. However, I wholeheartedly believe that practically all jobs should be open to everyone.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

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General situation

Paraphrase

Opposing opinion

Thesis statement

OPINION

Governments should not waste valuable money exploring space. To what extent do you agree?

Since the first journey into space in the early 1960s, the amount of exploration has soared. Nowadays, the question of whether it is worth sending astronauts and scientists to explore our solar system has become increasingly relevant. Many experts, including economists, are sceptical about the value of investing in this form of technology. However, I generally consider space exploration to be vital for our future development.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

OPINION

In order to learn a language well, it is necessary to learn about the country as well as the culture and lifestyle of those who speak it. To what extent do you agree with this opinion?

In our modern, globalised world, being able to speak a second or even third language is highly beneficial. It is likely to lead to better employment prospects and a richer social life. A large proportion of language courses focus principally on aspects of grammar and vocabulary as well as fluency and pronunciation skills. However, I am of the opinion that we cannot fully understand a foreign tongue without knowing about the individuals who use it on a daily basis, their history and society.

General situation

Paraphrase

Opposing opinion

Thesis statement

OPINION

Do you think it would make sense for everyone in the world to learn English?

Over the past few decades, and especially with the rise in the importance of technology, English has become a dominant world language. Nowadays statistics suggest that more than half of the planet's entire population can communicate in this language. Some linguists and specialists in this field worry about the dangers of making English a universal language. Whilst I recognise some of these concerns, I consider that adopting this approach would be generally beneficial to mankind as a whole.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

OPINION

Art educates us and turns us into better people. The government should give money to museums and art galleries so that they do not have to charge people to enter.

Do you believe that members of the public should be able to enter museums and art galleries without paying.

Different countries obviously employ different approaches to the question of whether the state should subsidise the arts and, in particular, whether ordinary individuals should be obliged to pay if they wish to see exhibitions of beautiful paintings and works of art. Whilst enabling ordinary people to experience wonderful artworks sounds appealing, I am not convinced it would always be the best approach.

General situation

Paraphrase

Opposing opinion

Thesis statement

OPINION

These days it has become very easy to obtain a credit card. Banks often give credit cards to younger customers who may struggle to pay back the money they spend. Do you think credit cards should only be given to older people?

In the last couple of decades, there has been a so-called credit boom. Financial institutions have sought to make profits by lending money to customers who want to fund their lavish lifestyles. I generally believe that the younger generation should be entitled to borrow money. However, I also recognise the potential dangers of this approach.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

OPINION

It is wrong to send criminals to prison if they have committed non-violent crimes. To what extent do you agree?

Over the past few years, more prisons have been built and an increasing number of offenders have been given custodial sentences. Nowadays, prison cells are crowded with violent and non-violent inmates. Specialists in criminology often assert the importance of rehabilitation and the need to avoid sending younger or non-violent criminals to jail. However, I wholeheartedly believe that crime needs to be punished and that nobody will obey the law unless they fear the punishment.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

OPINION

Some companies and firms do not recruit young females because they are afraid that these women will soon leave their job to have a baby. Do you think employers should be allowed to discriminate in this way?

For some time, female job-seekers in their twenties and thirties have reported being discriminated against by companies recruiting staff. They claim that they often do not even reach the interview stage of the recruitment process because bosses are unwilling to take on staff who might soon resign or apply for maternity leave due to pregnancy. Although it is not difficult to understand the purely financial motives which drive businesses seeking to employ staff, this approach is short-sighted and detrimental to their companies and to society as a whole.

General situation

Paraphrase

Opposing opinion

Thesis statement

OPINION

Some people feel that women should not be allowed to serve in the police force, army or any other position in which they might need to use violence. Others suggest that men and women should be treated equally in all areas of employment. What is your opinion?

For many decades, there has been a sometimes acrimonious debate about the rights of women in general and employment rights in particular. So-called experts - who are usually men - have often stated that certain professions, especially those requiring the use of physical strength, force or aggression, are not appropriate for female applicants. I find this approach perplexing and worrying, and I hope to expose its weaknesses in the paragraphs which follow.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

OPINION

The role of the government should only be to defend the country and make sure people obey the law. Education, health, welfare, energy, and transport should be in private hands. Do you think this is a good way to run a country?

Over the last few decades, there has been a noticeable trend in many parts of the world to reduce the role of government in society. Nowadays, it is not uncommon to find countries with privatised utilities, road networks and even schools, universities and hospitals. Right-wing politicians, capitalists and businesspeople often welcome this change and are pleased that there is little government interference. However, I strongly feel that the authorities need to be involved in areas like schooling and health to promote justice, equality and fairness.

General situation

Paraphrase

Opposing opinion

Thesis statement

**DISCUSSION +
OPINION**

These days, many children aged two or three are sent to nurseries whilst their parents work. Other children stay at home and are looked after by a relative. Discuss both of these approaches and explain which is the better option?

Experts in child development argue vigorously over the most effective strategies for bringing up children. **Many** hold to the view that infants, toddlers and pre-school children need to be educated at home. **Others, myself** included, are of the opinion that the majority of under-5s benefit from spending at least some of their time in the kindergarten with children of a similar age.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

DISCUSSION +
OPINION

Some people believe that cigarettes and alcohol should be illegal because they are addictive and 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.

For many centuries it has been common for adults to smoke cigarettes and consume alcoholic beverages despite the fact that mounting medical evidence indicates how detrimental to health both are. Those of a more liberal persuasion might hold the opinion that we should all be granted the freedom of choice. In this essay I intend to examine this debate and suggest that these substances should be outlawed.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

DISCUSSION +
OPINION

Some students who complete secondary school go to university. Others take a gap year during which they may travel, do voluntary work or gain experience. Discuss these two options and decide which is the better alternative.

Students who finish schooling these days often have a bewildering range of options. These include the opportunities to go straight to an institution of higher education or to spend a year pursuing other interests. In the remainder of this essay, I hope to analyse the pros and cons of these alternatives and suggest that a student's character and current situation will best determine which decision should be taken.

General situation

Paraphrase

Opposing opinion

Thesis statement

**DISCUSSION +
OPINION**

Who has the greater influence on the world: politicians or scientists?

Especially over the last few centuries, individuals involved in the worlds of politics and science have come to dominate major aspects of our lives. There is little dispute that leading political and scientific figures have an enormous amount of power over the general population. It is interesting to ask which of these two groups actually has the greater control over modern society.

General situation

Paraphrase

Opposing opinion

Thesis statement

**DISCUSSION +
OPINION**

Who has the greater influence on the world: politicians or scientists?

Especially over the last few centuries, individuals involved in the worlds of politics and science have come to dominate major aspects of our lives. There is little dispute that leading political and scientific figures have an enormous amount of power over the general population. This essay will discuss the importance of these two groups, and conclude that while both are important, scientists are absolutely essential to our happiness and progress.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

DISCUSSION +
OPINION

Some believe that environmental problems should be dealt with on a global scale, whilst others think it is better to try to solve them at a national level. Discuss both of these viewpoints and give your opinion.

Almost nobody would deny that our species faces an enormous ecological challenge. All but a handful of climate-change deniers believe that unless urgent measures are taken, the existence of our species could well be in doubt. Whether a worldwide approach could and should be formulated, or whether it makes sense for individual countries to tackle problems is a fundamentally important debate, and one which this essay will address.

General situation

Paraphrase

Opposing opinion

Thesis statement

DISCUSSION +
OPINION

Some see health as purely physical whereas others consider it to include mental, emotional and social aspects. Discuss both sides of this question and give your opinion.

How we define and achieve health is obviously a fundamental question. Medical experts in some regions employ an extremely narrow definition, viewing a person whose body functions normally as healthy. Others include the way we think, feel and interact in their understanding. This essay will examine the strengths and weaknesses of viewing health in a rather simplistic or more complex way, and suggest that a wider definition is more helpful. .

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

DISCUSSION +
OPINION

Many believe that it is better to live in a city than in the countryside. Discuss both of these options and give your own opinion.

Each year millions re-locate from villages to major urban areas. Yet the question of whether life in a densely-populated metropolis is more satisfying than life in a rural area is far from settled. Whilst some extol the virtues of city-life, others maintain that the countryside is superior. In this essay, I will examine both viewpoints and conclude that the answer depends almost entirely upon an individual's character and personal circumstances.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

ADVANTAGES +
DISADVANTAGES
+ OPINION

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

Most leading economists would agree that the last few decades have seen a trend towards larger and more powerful businesses with interests across the globe, at the expense of smaller and more specialised companies. This essay will consider the implications of this change from the perspective of governments, employees and consumers, and attempt to discover whether it has been beneficial.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

ADVANTAGES +
DISADVANTAGES
+ OPINION

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Most leading economists would agree that the last few decades have seen a trend towards larger and more powerful businesses with interests across the globe, at the expense of smaller and more specialised companies. This essay will consider the implications of this change from the perspective of governments, employees and consumers, and suggest that this has been a largely beneficial change.

General situation

Paraphrase

Opposing opinion

Thesis statement

EXPLANATION +
OPINION

Getting married is very popular across the globe. Why do people decide to get married? Should married people be allowed to get divorced?

Marriage is an important institution in every culture on the planet. Although customs, practices and beliefs may vary, the basic notion that two individuals should commit themselves to each other for the remainder of their lives seems central to human existence. Obviously, humans decide to 'tie the knot' for a range of reasons. This essay will seek to explore these and address the question of whether divorce ought to be permitted.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

**EXPLANATION +
OPINION
(or PROBLEMS +
SOLUTIONS)**

Many students struggle in class and do not leave school with good educational qualifications. Why do some pupils struggle? What do you think should be done to help students who find studying difficult?

School is not a positive experience for everyone. Although some youngsters thrive in class, many teenagers are desperate to leave formal education. They may finish secondary school without any recognised qualifications and with few relevant skills. Astonishingly, despite ten or twelve years in the classroom, some adolescents can barely read or write. This essay will discuss this clearly complicated issue which has a wide range of causes and possible solutions.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

EXPLANATION +
OPINION

These days, more and more people seem to care about business and science, and fewer people are interested in art. What are the causes of these changing social attitudes? Do you think these changes should worry us?

Many commentators have pointed out that science and technology, business, finance and economics have begun to dominate our societies. Arts, such as painting, writing, dancing, singing and sculpture have diminished in importance over time. Several key factors have brought about this quite profound change, and it is my belief that this trend should concern us.

General situation
Paraphrase
Opposing opinion
Thesis statement

EXPLANATION +
OPINION

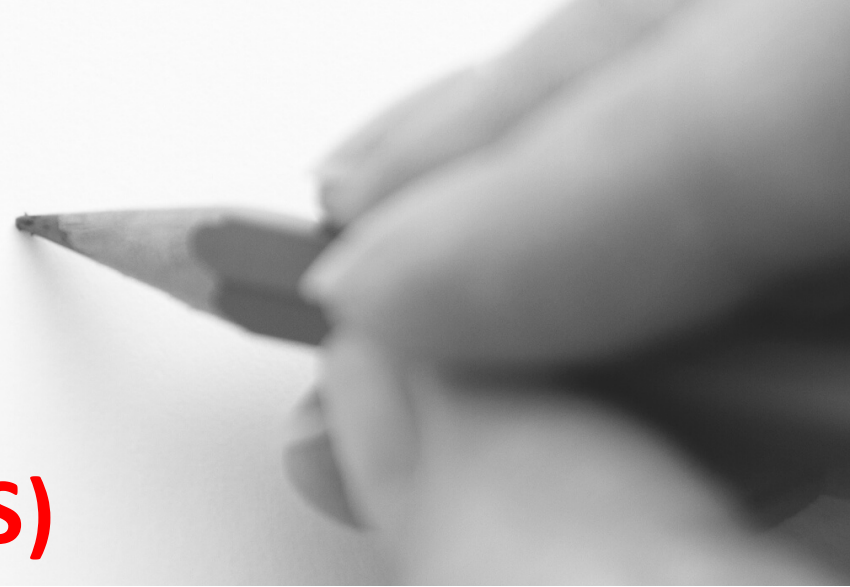
Nearly all of us would like to be successful. Why is success so difficult to define? To what extent is our ability to succeed in life controlled by our genetic make-up?

There is no doubt that the desire to succeed motivates most humans. However, explaining exactly what success is can be notoriously difficult. This essay will aim to explain why this concept is so tricky to explain before going on to consider whether our ability to do well in life is the result of biological or environmental factors.

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

IELTS Writing Task 2

Introductions (essays without OPINIONS)



Iain

Rebecca

FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {IELTS}

**Introductions:
what should
you include?**

Describe the **general situation**

- **compare now with the past;**
- **explain that the situation is universal;**
- **explain that the situation affects many people;**
- **explain that the situation is contentious**

Paraphrase the question

Include a **thesis statement**

Write 2-4 sentences and 30-50 words

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Paraphrase the question

Include a **thesis statement**

Write 2-4 sentences and 30-50 words

**Introductions:
what should
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If the question asks for your opinion (**OPINION; DISCUSSION + OPINION; EXPLANATION + OPINION**), you should usually include it in the **thesis statement**.

You might:

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If the question does not ask for your opinion (**ADVANTAGES + DISADVANTAGES; PROBLEMS + SOLUTIONS**) you should not include an opinion in the **thesis statement**.

You can:

- Explain your plan
- Explain that the question is important

**Introductions:
what should
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If the question does not ask for your opinion (**ADVANTAGES + DISADVANTAGES; PROBLEMS + SOLUTIONS**) you should not include an opinion in the **thesis statement**.

You can:

- Explain your plan
- Explain that the question is important

Strategy:
Thesis
statements
with no
opinions

Both the benefits and drawbacks of using corporal punishment **will** be discussed.

This essay will examine the strengths and weaknesses of paying all employees the same salary.

In this essay I will highlight some reasons **why** buying through a website is beneficial and also some points that **should worry us**.

Both the advantages and disadvantages of having an entirely free press **deserve to be looked at seriously**.

It is essential to understand the merits of students taking both work-based qualifications and more academic courses.

The causes of inner-city crime, **as well as possible strategies for dealing with it, merit investigation**.

It is essential to understand **why** social media is so popular **and** what problems it can bring.

General situation

Paraphrase

Thesis statement

ADVANTAGES +
DISADVANTAGES

Large cities often suffer from high levels of pollution, which is often caused by factories. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of moving factories and their workers from large cities into the countryside?

Air-quality in some urban areas is appalling and it is estimated that literally millions have their lives shortened as a result of contaminated air. Obviously, factories which pump out fumes, chemicals and other pollutants are a major cause of this. The suggestion that industry should be re-located to rural areas has many potential benefits and drawbacks. This essay will consider the potential benefits and drawbacks of relocating factories and their employees to rural areas.

General situation

Paraphrase

Thesis statement

ADVANTAGES +
DISADVANTAGES

In some countries, schoolchildren wear a uniform. In others, they can wear whatever they want at school. What are the advantages and disadvantages of having school uniforms?

It is not uncommon to see pupils in class wearing identical shirts, ties, jackets, trousers or skirts. In many regions of the world, this policy is probably far more popular than it has ever been. Many experts in the world of education wholeheartedly believe in the merits of compelling students to wear specific clothes at primary or secondary school. However, there are critics who see uniforms as detrimental and harmful. This essay will analyse both sides of this debate.

General situation
Paraphrase
Thesis statement

ADVANTAGES +
DISADVANTAGES

Traveling by plane is bad for the environment, and governments should increase taxes on flight tickets. What would be the advantages and disadvantages of this?

There has been an indubitable and unprecedented increase in the number of passengers taking flights and the quantity of business organisations transporting freight by air. Environmental campaigners worry that this huge growth in the quantity of planes taking off and landing will irrevocably damage our world. Their proposals to raise taxes on air travel to create a disincentive for business-travellers and holiday-makers deserve investigation, and this essay will seek to examine them.

General situation

Paraphrase

Thesis statement

ADVANTAGES +
DISADVANTAGES

Online shopping is becoming more and more popular. The number of people who buy goods and services online is massive. What are the advantages and disadvantages of online shopping both for businesses and consumers?

There has been an exponential rise in the number of consumers choosing to make purchases online. Electronic transactions are at an all-time high and are set to continue soaring. Experts in retail and in social trends have sometimes welcomed this development and, at other times, voiced concerns about it. In this essay I will highlight some reasons why buying through a website is beneficial and also some points that should worry us.

General situation

Paraphrase

Thesis statement

ADVANTAGES +
DISADVANTAGES

In some countries, there is a fixed penalty for each crime so that a bank robber, mugger or murderer knows exactly what the punishment for his or her crime will be. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this policy?

Arguments over the rights and wrongs of fixed penalties have raged for generations. These days, at least for more serious crimes, they are comparatively rare. Some experts in law claim that they can be an effective element of a country's judicial system whereas others are implacably opposed to them. This essay will attempt to analyse the effectiveness of introducing fixed punishments for specific offences.

General situation

Paraphrase

Thesis statement

PROBLEMS +
SOLUTIONS

The gap between the level of education in rich countries and in poorer countries is growing according to some estimates. Why is this such a serious problem? What could be done to reduce it?

Politicians, academics and parents have know that it is essential for children to receive an adequate level of education. Several studies carried out by researchers have suggested that although youngsters in the economically-developed world generally benefit from reasonable and improving schooling, those who come from so-called Third World countries are far less likely to enjoy high-quality teaching and learning. Anyone who examines this issue will realise that it is a major dilemma, and that swift action must be taken to reduce this discrepancy.

General situation
Paraphrase
Thesis statement

PROBLEMS +
SOLUTIONS

More and more children now go online with no parental supervision. What are the dangers of children being free to do whatever they want online? How could we deal with these dangers?

The surge in the popularity of the internet has been spectacular. Youngsters in particular have embraced new technology and an increasing number of primary-school pupils and younger teenagers possess smartphones and other electronic devices which enable them to surf the internet without their parents, guardians and caregivers having any idea what they are doing. In this essay, I propose to examine some of the dangers associated with unsupervised internet use, before suggesting ways in which this issue might be tackled.

General situation
Paraphrase
Thesis statement

PROBLEMS +
SOLUTIONS

Many schools have a problem with discipline. Students behave badly when they are in school. What are the causes of this problem? What could be done to reduce it?

Teachers often complain that their pupils behave inappropriately. Some pupils become distracted, stop paying attention and start staring out of the window. Others secretly text under the table or whisper to each other instead of focussing on what they are supposed to be doing. In extreme cases, schoolchildren may throw objects at each other, fight or swear. Clearly, it is practically impossible for teaching and learning to take place under these circumstances. However, before discussing solutions, it is essential for us to understand why some children misbehave in class.

General situation
Paraphrase
Thesis statement

PROBLEMS +
SOLUTIONS

In many parts of the world, violence is associated with sporting occasions, particularly football. Supporters of different teams fight each other in and around the stadiums and injuries are common. What are the possible causes of this violence and what should be done about it?

It is not uncommon to see television images of football fans fighting in the streets, throwing stones and bottles at each other and at law-enforcement officers. Statistics suggest that in some parts of the world the numbers of violence-related injuries and even deaths at football matches and tournaments have gone up. Clearly, it is essential that we understand the reasons for this behaviour so that this issue can be tackled.

General situation

Paraphrase

Thesis statement

PROBLEMS +
SOLUTIONS

Many people suffer from stress at work. What are the causes of stress at work and what could be done to reduce it?

Most experts would agree that workers today generally feel far more pressurised than they might have done just a few decades ago. It is now relatively common for employees to suffer from stress-related illness. This essay will firstly seek to identify the primary causes of this change before going on to suggest ways in which the problem of stress in the workplace can be alleviated.

General situation
Paraphrase
Thesis statement

EXPLANATION

Some people are successful in life whilst others are not.
What do you think are the main reasons for this?

Whether you measure success in terms of wealth, happiness, self-esteem, the number of friends a person has or social status, there appear to be large differences in every society between those who succeed and those who do not. The reasons for this phenomenon have puzzled scientists and researchers over the years. **There are clearly several important factors which should be taken into account.**

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

IELTS Writing Task 2

Introductions (strategies)



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {**IELTS**}

**Strategy:
Paraphrase
the question**

In many parts of the world violence is associated with sporting occasions, particularly football. What are the possible causes of this violence and what should be done about it?

It is true that nowadays, in many parts of the world violence is associated with sporting occasions, particularly football. In my essay I will discuss what the possible causes of it are, and what should be done.

**Strategy:
Paraphrase
the question**

In many parts of the world violence is associated with sporting occasions, particularly football. What are the possible causes of this violence and what should be done about it?

It is certainly the case nowadays that, **in some corners of the globe**, aggressive behaviour tends to be connected with sports events such as soccer matches. In my essay I will discuss the reasons for this fighting and rioting and I will try to suggest some solutions.

**Strategy:
Paraphrase
the question**

In many parts of the world **violence** is associated with sporting occasions, particularly football. What are the possible causes of this violence and what should be done about it?

It is certainly the case nowadays that, in some corners of the globe, **aggressive behaviour** tends to be connected with sports events such as soccer matches. In my essay I will discuss the reasons for this fighting and rioting and I will try to suggest some solutions.

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In many parts of the world violence **is associated with** sporting occasions, particularly football. What are the possible causes of this violence and what should be done about it?

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**Strategy:
Paraphrase
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In many parts of the world violence is associated with **sporting occasions, particularly football**. What are the possible causes of this violence and what should be done about it?

It is certainly the case nowadays that, in some corners of the globe, aggressive behaviour tends to be connected with **sports events such as soccer matches**. In my essay I will discuss the reasons for this fighting and rioting and I will try to suggest some solutions.

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In many parts of the world violence is associated with sporting occasions, particularly football. What are **the possible causes of this violence** and what should be done about it?

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In many parts of the world violence is associated with sporting occasions, particularly football. What are the possible causes of this violence and **what should be done about it?**

It is certainly the case nowadays that, in some corners of the globe, aggressive behaviour tends to be connected with sports events such as soccer matches. In my essay I will discuss the reasons for this fighting and rioting and I will try to suggest **some solutions**.

**Strategy:
Paraphrase
the question**

Governments should not waste valuable money exploring space. To what extent do you agree?

Over the past few decades, **several countries** have launched rockets, sending astronauts into the atmosphere. Some social commentators and even scientists feel that limited national finances could be better employed in other areas. This essay will examine the issues and conclude that gaining a deeper understanding of our solar system is invaluable.

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**Strategy:
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the question**

Students at school and university have to take too many tests and exams. These tests make it harder to teach and harder to learn and put students under unnecessary pressure. Is this a fair comment?

Nowadays, it is often said by experts that **children and undergraduates in the classroom** spend far too much time being tested and assessed. It is claimed that this focus on examining leads to poorer quality education and more worried and nervous students. Whilst recognising the dangers associated with this form of assessment, I broadly support it.

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**Strategy:
Paraphrase
the question**

Figures show that **more and more youngsters** around the world **are obese**. It has been suggested that in order to reduce health problems such as obesity, children under the age of eighteen should not be allowed to enter fast food restaurants like McDonald's. Would this help?

These days, in many developed and economically-developing countries, **the number of overweight children is on the rise**. The idea has been put forward by nutritionists and educators that junk food is a major contributor, and that banning youngsters from fast-food outlets would be beneficial.

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**Strategy:
Make your
writing
specific to the
question**

Raising children is the most important task a person can ever do. The state should pay for mothers or fathers to stay at home permanently with their children until the age of five. To what extent do you agree?

This is a tremendously important topic. In reality, it affects all of us. Over the past few years, many experts have discussed this issue. There are a lot of relevant opinions. In this essay I intend to discuss both the advantages and disadvantages before reaching an informed conclusion.

Strategy:
Make your
writing
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question

Raising children is the most important task a person can ever do. The state should pay for mothers or fathers to stay at home permanently with their children until the age of five. To what extent do you agree?

The issue of **bringing up children** is tremendously important. In reality, **how youngsters are educated and taught** affects all of us. Over the past few years, many experts **on child development** have discussed whether **parents need to stay at home with their off-spring**. In this essay, I intend to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of **mothers or fathers looking after children all the time** and conclude that it is generally a good idea.

Strategy: General statement

Compare now with the past

Over the past few decades, the quantity of motor vehicles on our streets has increased at an unprecedented rate.

In recent years, there has been an exponential rise in the amount of junk food consumed.

Nobody would deny that over the past few decades, the number of cars on our roads has risen.

Explain that the situation is universal

Obesity has become a worldwide crisis, affecting those living in both developed and developing nations.

Many commentators have pointed out that science and technology, business, finance and economics have begun to dominate our societies.

Advertising probably affects every single person living on our planet.

Strategy: General statement

Explain that the situation is important

Road safety is a hugely important issue, with car accidents leading to the deaths of thousands of car-users and pedestrians each year.

The issue of how to define happiness has perplexed and intrigued experts since time immemorial.

It is not uncommon to see television images of football fans fighting in the streets, throwing stones and bottles at each other and at law-enforcement officers.

Explain that the situation is contentious

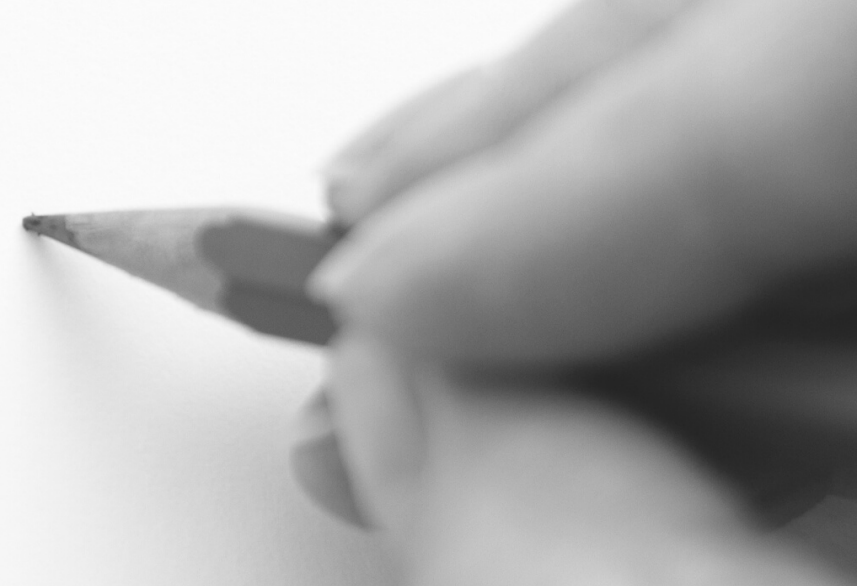
Over the past few decades, several countries have launched rockets, sending astronauts into the atmosphere.

Recently, the question of whether everyone should be taught a single universal language has been much debated.

There has been a long-running debate over the rights and wrongs of private healthcare.

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

Thanks for watching!



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {IELTS}