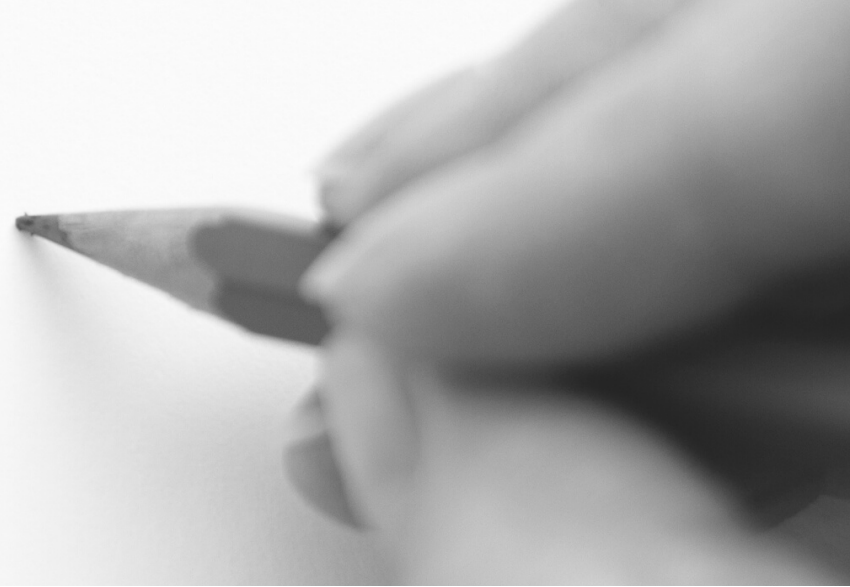


Master IELTS Writing Task 2

IELTS Writing Task 2

Question types: **DISCUSSION + OPINION**



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {**IELTS**}

DISCUSSION + OPINION

Strategy 1:
prefer one
option +
evidence led +
option by
option

INTRODUCTION: Comment on the topic/issue; paraphrase the question/alternatives; include a thesis statement indicating your plan to discuss both alternatives (and not giving your position)

MAIN PARAGRAPH 1: Describe and explain the alternative which you generally disagree with

MAIN PARAGRAPH 2: Describe and explain the alternative which you generally agree with (maybe including weaknesses of the alternative which you generally disagree with)

CONCLUSION: State your opinion, indicating that you prefer one alternative, but not completely disagreeing with the other alternative; support your opinion; express a hope, wish, worry, fear or prediction about the future

COMMENT: This is a good structure for answers in which you want to show that one alternative is better than the other (It is important to indicate that the second option has some merit)

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

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.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

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.**

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

You can start your essay by paraphrasing the alternatives

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.

At the end of their secondary education, school-leavers are sometimes confronted with a tricky choice: they may apply to study for a degree at an institution of higher education, or they could decide to postpone further study - often for a twelve-month period - and embark on an adventure, experience the world of work, or **volunteer for a charity**. These alternatives, which can have long-term and profound implications for a teenager's future, need to be evaluated.

In the thesis statement for an evidence-led essay, you can explain that the issue is important and that it should be discussed

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.

At the end of their secondary education, school-leavers are sometimes confronted with a tricky choice: they may apply to study for a degree at an institution of higher education, or they could decide to postpone further study - often for a twelve-month period - and embark on an adventure, experience the world of work, or volunteer for a charity. **These alternatives, which can have long-term and profound implications for a teenager's future, need to be evaluated.**

If you prefer one alternative, your first main body paragraph can describe the alternative which you do not generally support

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.

In a few cases, there are strong incentives to apply to university and begin an academic course straightaway. For those with a specific career in mind, there is probably little point in delaying. Similarly, for anyone who does not have a burning desire to travel around the globe or volunteer to work with under-privileged children in deprived third world countries, continuing in education makes sense. Some youngsters express the fear that if they take a year out, they may be unwilling to return to a restrictive educational setting or may lose the ability to study effectively when they go back to the classroom.

You should start this paragraph with a clear topic sentence which explains that this alternative has benefits/strengths

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.

In a few cases, there are strong incentives to apply to university and begin an academic course straightaway. For those with a specific career in mind, there is probably little point in delaying. Similarly, for anyone who does not have a burning desire to travel around the globe or volunteer to work with under-privileged children in deprived third world countries, continuing in education makes sense. Some youngsters express the fear that if they take a year out, they may be unwilling to return to a restrictive educational setting or may lose the ability to study effectively when they go back to the classroom.

You can support the topic sentence with arguments

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.

In a few cases, there are strong incentives to apply to university and begin an academic course straightaway. **For those with a specific career in mind, there is probably little point in delaying.** Similarly, for anyone who does not have a burning desire to travel around the globe or volunteer to work with under-privileged children in deprived third world countries, continuing in education makes sense. Some youngsters express the fear that if they take a year out, they may be unwilling to return to a restrictive educational setting or may lose the ability to study effectively when they go back to the classroom.

**You can support
the topic sentence
with arguments**

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.

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It is possible to write less about this alternative than about the alternative you prefer

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.

In a few cases, there are strong incentives to apply to university and begin an academic course straightaway. For those with a specific career in mind, there is probably little point in delaying. Similarly, for anyone who does not have a burning desire to travel around the globe or volunteer to work with under-privileged children in deprived third world countries, continuing in education makes sense. Some youngsters express the fear that if they take a year out, they may be unwilling to return to a restrictive educational setting or may lose the ability to study effectively when they go back to the classroom.

Start the second main body paragraph with a topic sentence showing that the alternative you prefer has benefits

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.

Choosing to temporarily abandon your studies can undoubtedly benefit youngsters. Firstly, experiencing other aspects of life can certainly help an adolescent to mature. In addition, anyone studying at higher education after spending time in the real world is likely to appreciate how lucky they are to have the opportunity simply to learn all day. Finally, most employers would prefer job applicants with broader horizons, and candidates at job interviews who can demonstrate that they have gained non-academic experience are likely to be successful.

**You can support
your topic
sentence with
arguments**

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Choosing to temporarily abandon your studies can undoubtedly benefit youngsters. Firstly, experiencing other aspects of life can certainly help an adolescent to mature. In addition, anyone studying at higher education after spending time in the real world is likely to appreciate how lucky they are to have the opportunity simply to learn all day. **Finally, most employers would prefer job applicants with broader horizons, and candidates at job interviews who can demonstrate that they have gained non-academic experience are likely to be successful.**

**You can add
explanation to
your arguments**

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.

Choosing to temporarily abandon your studies can undoubtedly benefit youngsters. Firstly, experiencing other aspects of life can certainly help an adolescent to mature. In addition, anyone studying at higher education after spending time in the real world is likely to appreciate how lucky they are to have the opportunity simply to learn all day. Finally, most employers would prefer job applicants with broader horizons, and candidates at job interviews who can demonstrate that they have gained non-academic experience are likely to be successful.

You should begin the conclusion by stating your position

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.

Although there may be some individuals for whom going straight to university is the right decision, in the main I would recommend a gap year. Undergraduates who have limited knowledge of the real world tend to be narrow-minded, with a two-dimensional perspective. Their classmates who benefitted from taking time out are generally wiser. I wish all universities would encourage their prospective applicants to seriously consider a gap year before beginning their undergraduate courses.

A sentence with a clause of concession is good here because it lets you refer to both alternatives and indicate which one you prefer

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.

Although there may be some individuals for whom going straight to university is the right decision, in the main I would recommend a gap year. Undergraduates who have limited knowledge of the real world tend to be narrow-minded, with a two-dimensional perspective. Their classmates who benefitted from taking time out are generally wiser. I wish all universities would encourage their prospective applicants to seriously consider a gap year before beginning their undergraduate courses.

You can then make brief comments about both alternatives to support your position

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.

Although there may be some individuals for whom going straight to university is the right decision, in the main I would recommend a gap year. **Undergraduates who have limited knowledge of the real world tend to be narrow-minded, with a two-dimensional perspective.** Their classmates who benefitted from taking time out are generally wiser. I wish all universities would encourage their prospective applicants to seriously consider a gap year before beginning their undergraduate courses.

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Although there may be some individuals for whom going straight to university is the right decision, in the main I would recommend a gap year. Undergraduates who have limited knowledge of the real world tend to be narrow-minded, with a two-dimensional perspective. **Their classmates who benefitted from taking time out are generally wiser.** I wish all universities would encourage their prospective applicants to seriously consider a gap year before beginning their undergraduate courses.

You can finish the essay with a wish which supports your position

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.

Although there may be some individuals for whom going straight to university is the right decision, in the main I would recommend a gap year. Undergraduates who have limited knowledge of the real world tend to be narrow-minded, with a two-dimensional perspective. Their classmates who benefitted from taking time out are generally wiser. I wish all universities would encourage their prospective applicants to seriously consider a gap year before beginning their undergraduate courses.

DISCUSSION + OPINION

Strategy 2:
consensus +
evidence led +
option by
option

INTRODUCTION: Comment on the topic/issue; paraphrase the question/alternatives; include a thesis statement indicating your plan to discuss both alternatives (and not giving your position)

MAIN PARAGRAPH 1: Describe and explain the first alternative (possibly including weaknesses of the second alternative)

MAIN PARAGRAPH 2: Describe and explain the second alternative (possibly including weaknesses of the first alternative)

CONCLUSION: State your opinion that both alternatives are relevant or that combining the alternatives is a sensible strategy; support your position; express a hope, wish, worry, fear or prediction about the future

COMMENT: This is a good structure when you want to give a consensus answer, showing that both alternatives are relevant or right, or showing that a combination of both alternatives is sensible

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. **Discuss these two options and give your opinion.**

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

You can start with a general comment about the situation. This comment can show how important the issue is

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Statistics indicate that the number of road-traffic accidents is climbing steadily year on year and that, tragically, schoolchildren are at the greatest risk. This situation has prompted some experts in road safety to propose reducing the speed limit, whilst others put forward alternative strategies. This essay will examine both approaches.

**You can then
paraphrase the
alternatives**

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Statistics indicate that the number of road-traffic accidents is climbing steadily year on year and that, tragically, schoolchildren are at the greatest risk. This situation has prompted some experts in road safety to propose reducing the speed limit, whilst others put forward alternative strategies. This essay will examine both approaches.

Your thesis statement in an evidence-led essay can indicate that you plan to answer the question, or can indicate that it is important to discuss this issue

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Statistics indicate that the number of road-traffic accidents is climbing steadily year on year and that, tragically, schoolchildren are at the greatest risk. This situation has prompted some experts in road safety to propose reducing the speed limit, whilst others put forward alternative strategies. **This essay will examine both approaches.**

Start your first main paragraph with a clear topic sentence which indicates that you will discuss the first alternative

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Making it illegal to drive above a certain speed could undoubtedly lead to a reduction in fatalities. Accidents would be less serious, and more drivers, passengers, other road-users and pedestrians would survive them. Some experts maintain that this policy would cut car crashes quicker than any other approach. However, such a measure would frustrate those behind the wheel of a car by making journey times longer and potentially increasing the likelihood of traffic jams and congestion.

**You can support
your topic
sentence with
explanation**

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Making it illegal to drive above a certain speed could undoubtedly lead to a reduction in fatalities. Accidents would be less serious, and more drivers, passengers, other road-users and pedestrians would survive them. Some experts maintain that this policy would cut car crashes quicker than any other approach. However, such a measure would frustrate those behind the wheel of a car by making journey times longer and potentially increasing the likelihood of traffic jams and congestion.

You can support the topic sentence with expert opinions

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Making it illegal to drive above a certain speed could undoubtedly lead to a reduction in fatalities. Accidents would be less serious, and more drivers, passengers, other road-users and pedestrians would survive them. **Some experts maintain that this policy would cut car crashes quicker than any other approach.** However, such a measure would frustrate those behind the wheel of a car by making journey times longer and potentially increasing the likelihood of traffic jams and congestion.

You can include a negative evaluation. You should either do this for both alternatives or for neither of them

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Making it illegal to drive above a certain speed could undoubtedly lead to a reduction in fatalities. Accidents would be less serious, and more drivers, passengers, other road-users and pedestrians would survive them. Some experts maintain that this policy would cut car crashes quicker than any other approach. **However, such a measure would frustrate those behind the wheel of a car by making journey times longer and potentially increasing the likelihood of traffic jams and congestion.**

Start your second main body paragraph with a clear topic sentence which indicates that you will discuss the second alternative

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Governments have the power to introduce other life-saving policies. For instance, the wearing of seat-belts could be made compulsory. Car-users might be forced to re-take their driving test on an annual basis. Road surfaces ought to be improved and advertising campaigns which raise awareness of the perils of driving could be launched. Doing this would certainly be cost-effective in the long-run and would probably enjoy public approval. Yet it needs to be admitted that these policies require a level of commitment and investment which some of our political leaders lack.

You can give a set of suggestions to support your topic sentence

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Governments have the power to introduce other life-saving policies. **For instance, the wearing of seat-belts could be made compulsory.** Car-users might be forced to re-take their driving test on an annual basis. Road surfaces ought to be improved and advertising campaigns which raise awareness of the perils of driving could be launched. Doing this would certainly be cost-effective in the long-run and would probably enjoy public approval. Yet it needs to be admitted that these policies require a level of commitment and investment which some of our political leaders lack.

You can give a set of suggestions to support your topic sentence

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Governments have the power to introduce other life-saving policies. For instance, the wearing of seat-belts could be made compulsory. Car-users might be forced to re-take their driving test on an annual basis. Road surfaces ought to be improved and advertising campaigns which raise awareness of the perils of driving could be launched. Doing this would certainly be cost-effective in the long-run and would probably enjoy public approval. Yet it needs to be admitted that these policies require a level of commitment and investment which some of our political leaders lack.

You can give a set of suggestions to support your topic sentence

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Governments have the power to introduce other life-saving policies. For instance, the wearing of seat-belts could be made compulsory. Car-users might be forced to re-take their driving test on an annual basis. **Road surfaces ought to be improved** and advertising campaigns which raise awareness of the perils of driving could be launched. Doing this would certainly be cost-effective in the long-run and would probably enjoy public approval. Yet it needs to be admitted that these policies require a level of commitment and investment which some of our political leaders lack.

You can give a set of suggestions to support your topic sentence

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Governments have the power to introduce other life-saving policies. For instance, the wearing of seat-belts could be made compulsory. Car-users might be forced to re-take their driving test on an annual basis. Road surfaces ought to be improved and advertising campaigns which raise awareness of the perils of driving could be launched. Doing this would certainly be cost-effective in the long-run and would probably enjoy public approval. Yet it needs to be admitted that these policies require a level of commitment and investment which some of our political leaders lack.

You can support some of your suggestions with explanation

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Governments have the power to introduce other life-saving policies. For instance, the wearing of seat-belts could be made compulsory. Car-users might be forced to re-take their driving test on an annual basis. Road surfaces ought to be improved and advertising campaigns which raise awareness of the perils of driving could be launched. Doing this would certainly be cost-effective in the long-run and would probably enjoy public approval. Yet it needs to be admitted that these policies require a level of commitment and investment which some of our political leaders lack.

If you included negative evaluation for the first alternative, it is a good idea to include it for the second alternative

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Governments have the power to introduce other life-saving policies. For instance, the wearing of seat-belts could be made compulsory. Car-users might be forced to re-take their driving test on an annual basis. Road surfaces ought to be improved and advertising campaigns which raise awareness of the perils of driving could be launched. Doing this would certainly be cost-effective in the long-run and would probably enjoy public approval. **Yet it needs to be admitted that these policies require a level of commitment and investment which some of our political leaders lack.**

You can begin your conclusion by stating your consensus position – you need to indicate that a combination of alternatives is a good idea

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Having considered the matter in some depth, I cannot see why a wide range of measures should not be brought in. If policy-makers outlawed excessively high speeds and introduced other strategies mentioned above, our streets would be less dangerous and far fewer lives would be destroyed needlessly. I genuinely hope those in power will take steps to ensure that nobody dies unnecessarily as a result of a car crash.

You can add a comment to support or explain this position

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Having considered the matter in some depth, I cannot see why a wide range of measures should not be brought in. If policy-makers outlawed excessively high speeds and introduced other strategies mentioned above, our streets would be less dangerous and far fewer lives would be destroyed needlessly. I genuinely hope those in power will take steps to ensure that nobody dies unnecessarily as a result of a car crash.

Finishing your essay with a hope connected to your thesis is usually a strength

Some people believe that lowering the speed limit is the best way to improve road safety. Others think that there are other ways to make roads safer. Discuss these two options and give your opinion.

Having considered the matter in some depth, I cannot see why a wide range of measures should not be brought in. If policy-makers outlawed excessively high speeds and introduced other strategies mentioned above, our streets would be less dangerous and far fewer lives would be destroyed needlessly. **I genuinely hope those in power will take steps to ensure that nobody dies unnecessarily as a result of a car crash.**

DISCUSSION + OPINION

Strategy 3:
consensus +
thesis led +
option by
option

INTRODUCTION: Comment on the topic/issue; paraphrase the question/alternatives; include a thesis statement indicating your opinion that both options have merit/benefits/situations when they are right

MAIN PARAGRAPH 1: Describe and explain strengths of the first alternative (possibly including areas/situations where the second alternative is better/stronger)

MAIN PARAGRAPH 2: Describe and explain strengths of the second alternative (possibly including areas/situations where the first alternative is better/stronger)

CONCLUSION: Repeat/recap your position that both alternatives have merit, or that they may be combined; support your opinion; express a hope, wish, worry, fear or prediction about the future

COMMENT: This is a good structure when you want to show that both alternatives have merit and can be combined

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. **Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.**

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

You can start the essay by restating the alternatives, and by indicating that the issue is important. This often involves paraphrasing the question

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

The question of whether genius and exceptional ability are the result of biological or environmental factors has been argued over for generations. The 'nature-nurture' debate has never been fully resolved. It seems almost certain that gifted individuals owe their brilliance both to their upbringing and their genetic make-up.

In a thesis-led essay, you should include your position in the thesis statement

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

The question of whether genius and exceptional ability are the result of biological or environmental factors has been argued over for generations. The 'nature-nurture' debate has never been fully resolved. It seems almost certain that gifted individuals owe their brilliance both to their upbringing and their genetic make-up.

A consensus position brings the two alternatives together, indicating that they both have merit/benefits

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

The question of whether genius and exceptional ability are the result of biological or environmental factors has been argued over for generations. The 'nature-nurture' debate has never been fully resolved. It seems almost certain that gifted individuals owe their brilliance both to their upbringing and their genetic make-up.

You should start each main body paragraph with a topic sentence which indicates which alternative you will write about in the paragraph

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

It is beyond doubt that a person's environment - including how they are educated and trained - plays a vital role in development.

Many individuals are taught skills such as playing the violin to an extremely high level. Practice leads to significant improvement, and those who spend the greatest amount of time mastering a skill often reap the greatest rewards. For example, the world's most amazing classical guitarists spend literally years in the practice studios.

**You can support
your topic
sentence with
evidence from the
real world**

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

It is beyond doubt that a person's environment - including how they are educated and trained - plays a vital role in development.

Many individuals are taught skills such as playing the violin to an extremely high level. Practice leads to significant improvement, and those who spend the greatest amount of time mastering a skill often reap the greatest rewards. For example, the world's most amazing classical guitarists spend literally years in the practice studios.

You can also support your topic sentence with examples

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

It is beyond doubt that a person's environment - including how they are educated and trained - plays a vital role in development. Many individuals are taught skills such as playing the violin to an extremely high level. Practice leads to significant improvement, and those who spend the greatest amount of time mastering a skill often reap the greatest rewards. For example, the world's most amazing classical guitarists spend literally years in the practice studios.

You should start each main body paragraph with a clear topic sentence which indicates which alternative you will write about in the paragraph

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

However, it should be pointed out that world-class athletes and skilled players of musical instruments probably start with a genetic advantage. It may be that they are naturally stronger or possess the ability to concentrate for longer periods. Some scientific studies have suggested that the brains of pianists, for example, are different at birth from those of less musical children. It is very likely that - as a result of this biological superiority - talented sportspeople and musicians succeed in their particular discipline, which encourages them to continue. The picture is presumably similar for top scientists, engineers and computer programmers. They exploit their biological strengths in a supportive environment.

**You can support
your topic
sentence with
explanation**

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

However, it should be pointed out that world-class athletes and skilled players of musical instruments probably start with a genetic advantage. It may be that they are naturally stronger or possess the ability to concentrate for longer periods. Some scientific studies have suggested that the brains of pianists, for example, are different at birth from those of less musical children. It is very likely that - as a result of this biological superiority - talented sportspeople and musicians succeed in their particular discipline, which encourages them to continue. The picture is presumably similar for top scientists, engineers and computer programmers. They exploit their biological strengths in a supportive environment.

You can also support a topic sentence with evidence from experts

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

However, it should be pointed out that world-class athletes and skilled players of musical instruments probably start with a genetic advantage. It may be that they are naturally stronger or possess the ability to concentrate for longer periods. Some scientific studies have suggested that the brains of pianists, for example, are different at birth from those of less musical children. It is very likely that - as a result of this biological superiority - talented sportspeople and musicians succeed in their particular discipline, which encourages them to continue. The picture is presumably similar for top scientists, engineers and computer programmers. They exploit their biological strengths in a supportive environment.

Because this is a 'consensus' essay, it is good to show how the two alternatives (genes and environment) combine

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However, it should be pointed out that world-class athletes and skilled players of musical instruments probably start with a genetic advantage. It may be that they are naturally stronger or possess the ability to concentrate for longer periods. Some scientific studies have suggested that the brains of pianists, for example, are different at birth from those of less musical children. **It is very likely that - as a result of this biological superiority - talented sportspeople and musicians succeed in their particular discipline, which encourages them to continue. The picture is presumably similar for top scientists, engineers and computer programmers. They exploit their biological strengths in a supportive environment.**

You should start the conclusion by restating your consensus position, or by explaining that a position which focuses on just one alternative is wrong/mistaken

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

In conclusion, it is surely wrong to argue simplistically that a baby is born with a natural ability to thrive in a specific field, or that children are born as 'blank slates' and can learn to do anything to a high level if they practise hard enough. The truth appears to be that there is a complex interaction between these two factors, which leads certain gifted and fortunate individuals to become superstars or academic geni.

You can finish the essay with a comment which further supports and explains your consensus position

Some experts say that the best sports stars, artists and scientists are born with great talent which other people do not have. Other experts say that any child can learn to be one of the best in these areas. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

In conclusion, it is surely wrong to argue simplistically that a baby is born with a natural ability to thrive in a specific field, or that children are born as 'blank slates' and can learn to do anything to a high level if they practise hard enough. The truth appears to be that there is a complex interaction between these two factors, which leads certain gifted and fortunate individuals to become superstars or academic geni.

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

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

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

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Write at least 250 words

It is possible to start an essay with a short comment on the very general issue (such as health)

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

For literally thousands of years, experts have sought to understand human health. Some have examined the functions of the body, whilst others have looked into the workings of the mind and the role of social interaction. This essay will consider these different elements of health before concluding that they are all vital and inter-related components of our wellbeing.

It is often a good idea to paraphrase the alternatives

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In a thesis-led essay, you should include your position in the thesis statement

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

For literally thousands of years, experts have sought to understand human health. Some have examined the functions of the body, whilst others have looked into the workings of the mind and the role of social interaction. This essay will consider these different elements of health before concluding that they are all vital and inter-related components of our wellbeing.

A consensus position brings the two alternatives together, indicating that they both have merit/benefits

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For literally thousands of years, experts have sought to understand human health. Some have examined the functions of the body, whilst others have looked into the workings of the mind and the role of social interaction. This essay will consider these different elements of health before concluding that they are all vital and inter-related components of our wellbeing.

You should start each main body paragraph with a clear topic sentence which indicates which alternative you will write about in the paragraph

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

Nobody could possibly deny that physical health matters. If you break a leg or experience severe toothache, you will feel immense physical pain. In addition, serious and life-threatening medical conditions such as cancer, heart attacks and strokes have physical causes. It should be noted that the brain (which we think of as responsible for cognitive states, sensory perception and social behaviour) is itself a physical entity. Brain damage can be observed, quantified and measured.

You can add points which support your topic sentence

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You can add explanation to support the points you make

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You should start each main body paragraph with a clear topic sentence which indicates which alternative you will write about in the paragraph

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

However, other aspects of health are relevant too. A person in robust physical health would certainly not be deemed entirely well if they were suffering from bipolar disorder or another condition connected with the brain or mind. Similarly, somebody who cannot interact successfully with other humans is in need of medical support, even if their body shows no illnesses. It can even be argued that those who live immorally or unethically, those whose lifestyles damage the planet or those lacking deep spiritual beliefs are not whole, and should be regarded as unwell. These characteristics are likely to have a detrimental effect on the actual physical body.

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You can add explanation to support the points you make

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

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You should start the conclusion by restating your consensus position, or by explaining that a position which focuses on just one alternative is wrong/mistaken

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

As the previous paragraphs have shown, there is a complex interconnection between our physical wellness and other aspects of health. It is impossible to consider one element without taking others into account. I genuinely hope that all medical practitioners offer their patients treatments with this understanding in mind.

You can add a comment which further supports and explains your consensus position

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

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Ending your essay with a hope which connects to your position is usually a strength

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

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DISCUSSION + OPINION

Strategy 4:
prefer one
option + thesis
led + option by
option

INTRODUCTION: Comment on the topic/issue; paraphrase the question/alternatives; include a thesis statement indicating your opinion that one alternative is generally (but not completely) better

MAIN PARAGRAPH 1: Describe and explain the strengths of the alternative you do not prefer (possibly in a shorter paragraph)

MAIN PARAGRAPH 2: Describe and explain the strengths of the alternative you prefer (possibly including weaknesses of the option you do not prefer)

MAIN PARAGRAPH 3 (?) Describe and explain the strengths of the alternative you prefer (possibly including weaknesses of the option you do not prefer)

CONCLUSION: Restate your opinion, indicating that you prefer one option but not completely disagreeing with the other one; support your opinion; express a hope, wish, worry, fear or prediction

COMMENT: This is a good structure when you have more to write about one alternative than the other alternative

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

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.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

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.**

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

You can start your essay by referring to the general topic

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.

Successful teaching is of fundamental importance, so the issue of which type of teacher is better for foreign language students deserves consideration. Although having a teacher with the same mother-tongue as the learners may have some benefits, I am inclined to believe that being taught by a native-speaker is likely to yield superior results.

It is often good to include a comment about the importance of the question

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.

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In a thesis-led essay, you need to state your position in the thesis statement

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.

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Using a sentence with a clause of concession allows you to refer to both alternatives and to express a preference

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.

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It is usually better to start by writing about the alternative you do not prefer

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.

If your tutor comes from the same cultural background and language community as you, communication within the classroom may be easier. Your teacher may have gone through the same process which you are embarking upon, so is likely to be sympathetic and to understand the obstacles you face and how to overcome them. The whole learning experience is likely to be more comfortable. This may make it easier for students to learn.

Paragraphs in the main body should start with a clear topic sentence which supports your position

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.

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**You can support
your topic
sentence with
explanation**

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.

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You can also support your topic sentence by referring to possible results

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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.

However, learning with a native-speaker has arguably greater benefits. This type of teacher is able to provide tremendous cultural understanding which will greatly enrich the learners' experience, and motivate them. The opportunity of conversing with somebody actually from the country where the language is spoken will further encourage students. It will seem like an authentic interaction. In addition, the teacher will be able to help students with their pronunciation so that they can develop an authentic accent. This is a skill which learners of a foreign language greatly prize.

You can use arguments to support your topic sentence

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You can support some of these arguments with explanation or evaluation

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It is possible to start your conclusion with a general comment, though you can write a very strong essay without this

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.

Overall, many factors will affect how successfully an individual progresses when learning a second language. However, I am of the opinion that those with a native-speaker as their teacher often have a distinct advantage, and are more likely to do well. I would urge prospective students to consider this decision carefully before choosing a tutor.

You should restate your position, trying not to indicate that your preferred alternative is always right

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.

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Ending your essay with a wish/hope connected to your position is usually a good idea

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.

Overall, many factors will affect how successfully an individual progresses when learning a second language. However, I am of the opinion that those with a native-speaker as their teacher often have a distinct advantage, and are more likely to do well. **I would urge prospective students to consider this decision carefully before choosing a tutor.**

DISCUSSION + OPINION

Strategy 5:
prefer one
option + thesis
led + point by
point

INTRODUCTION: Comment on the topic/issue; paraphrase the question/alternatives; include a thesis statement indicating your opinion that one alternative is generally (but not completely) better

MAIN PARAGRAPH 1: Discuss strengths of both alternatives connected to one point/area, starting with the alternative you do not prefer, and finishing with the preferred alternative

MAIN PARAGRAPH 2: Discuss strengths of both alternatives connected to a second point/area, starting with the alternative you do not prefer, and finishing with the preferred alternative

MAIN PARAGRAPH 3 (?): Discuss strengths of both alternatives connected to a third point/area, starting with the alternative you do not prefer, and finishing with the preferred alternative

CONCLUSION: Repeat/recap your opinion; support your opinion; express a hope, wish, worry, fear or prediction about the future

COMMENT: This is a good structure when you can write about two or more separate points. (This can work with a **CONSENSUS** essay)

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

In some countries, workers have to retire when they reach a certain age, such as 65. In other parts of the world, they are encouraged to continue working for as long as they want. Discuss these two options and decide which is the better alternative.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

Look at this IELTS Writing Task 2

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Discuss these two options and decide which is the better alternative.

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words

You can start the essay by stating that there is disagreement over this issue

In some countries, workers have to retire when they reach a certain age, such as 65. In other parts of the world, they are encouraged to continue working for as long as they want. Discuss these two options and decide which is the better alternative.

The question of whether older members of society should be entitled to continue working after retirement age is somewhat contentious. Some economists, psychologists and sociologists suggest that there should be a restriction on how long an individual remains in the workforce. However, others - myself included - believe that this idea can be mistaken on a number of levels.

You can then refer to the alternative which you do not agree with

In some countries, workers have to retire when they reach a certain age, such as 65. In other parts of the world, they are encouraged to continue working for as long as they want. Discuss these two options and decide which is the better alternative.

The question of whether older members of society should be entitled to continue working after retirement age is somewhat contentious. Some economists, psychologists and sociologists suggest that there should be a restriction on how long an individual remains in the workforce. However, others - myself included - believe that this idea can be mistaken on a number of levels.

You can end the introduction by referring to the alternative which you generally support

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The question of whether older members of society should be entitled to continue working after retirement age is somewhat contentious. Some economists, psychologists and sociologists suggest that there should be a restriction on how long an individual remains in the workforce. However, others - myself included - believe that this idea can be mistaken on a number of levels.

With this type of essay, it is possible to (more or less) fully support one alternative

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The question of whether older members of society should be entitled to continue working after retirement age is somewhat contentious. Some economists, psychologists and sociologists suggest that there should be a restriction on how long an individual remains in the workforce. However, others - myself included - believe that this idea can be mistaken on a number of levels.

In this type of essay, each main body paragraph focuses on both alternatives in a particular area, such as the economy

In some countries, workers have to retire when they reach a certain age, such as 65. In other parts of the world, they are encouraged to continue working for as long as they want. Discuss these two options and decide which is the better alternative.

Experts in **economics** sometimes state that permitting employees who have reached retirement age to continue in work has a negative effect on employment. They claim that it effectively blocks job opportunities for young apprentices, trainees and graduates. However, there is evidence to contradict this: retaining experienced staff is actually likely to lead to companies being more productive and profitable. They may expand as a consequence, and this could result in far more jobs being created for the young.

You can use the first part of a main body paragraph to put forward an argument for the alternative you disagree with...

In some countries, workers have to retire when they reach a certain age, such as 65. In other parts of the world, they are encouraged to continue working for as long as they want. Discuss these two options and decide which is the better alternative.

Experts in economics sometimes state that permitting employees who have reached retirement age to continue in work has a negative effect on employment. They claim that it effectively blocks job opportunities for young apprentices, trainees and graduates. However, there is evidence to contradict this: retaining experienced staff is actually likely to lead to companies being more productive and profitable. They may expand as a consequence, and this could result in far more jobs being created for the young.

...and use the second part of the paragraph to put forward an argument which refutes it (and supports the alternative you prefer)

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This main body paragraph also focuses on one area – ability to do the job

In some countries, workers have to retire when they reach a certain age, such as 65. In other parts of the world, they are encouraged to continue working for as long as they want. Discuss these two options and decide which is the better alternative.

Others believe that older individuals are **no longer competent, and do not possess the necessary skills to do the job properly**. They claim workers in their late sixties or seventies lack the requisite powers of concentration, interpersonal skills or willingness to embrace innovation. Yet the available evidence indicates that this view is misguided. The elderly are invariably more motivated, hard-working, energetic and open to change than their more youthful counterparts.

The paragraph starts with an argument for the alternative you do not prefer...

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...which is followed by a refutation of this argument

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It is possible to start the conclusion by referring to the alternative you generally disagree with. You can certainly write a strong essay without this

In some countries, workers have to retire when they reach a certain age, such as 65. In other parts of the world, they are encouraged to continue working for as long as they want. Discuss these two options and decide which is the better alternative.

Of course there may be employees approaching the age of retirement who genuinely look forward to putting their feet up and relaxing. These individuals should certainly be able to stop work and receive a pension when they reach the appropriate age. Yet for all those who enjoy their job and want to continue, I fervently believe they should have the right to do so. I hope that all governments will pass laws guaranteeing the rights of older people to carry on in employment.

**You can then
restate your
position**

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It is often a good idea to end your conclusion with a hope/wish which connects to your position

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Master IELTS Writing Task 2

Thanks for watching!



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