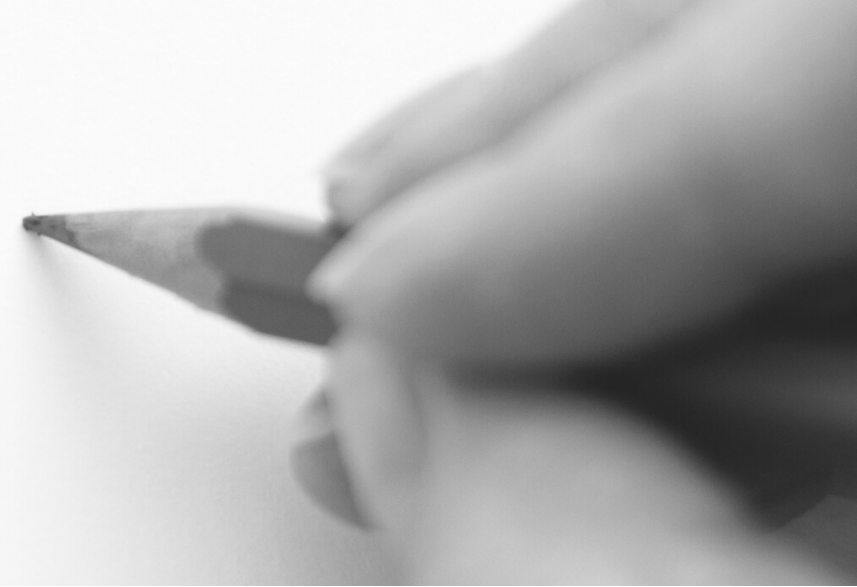


Master IELTS Writing Task 2

IELTS Writing Task 2

Main body paragraphs (1)



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {**IELTS**}

**One-idea
paragraphs:
what do they
include?**

A topic sentence with a linking phrase and the main point

Explanation of the main point

Examples to support the main point

Evidence/facts supporting the main point

The view of experts/people

Evaluation which discusses the main point

An alternative situation

A possible result

A summary/recap of the main point

Generally 3-5 sentences

**One-idea
paragraphs:
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A topic sentence with a linking phrase and the main point

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Evaluation which discusses the main point

An alternative situation

A possible result

A summary/recap of the main point

Generally 3-5 sentences

**Linking
phrases:
examples**

First and foremost, it should be stated that...

The first major argument relates to the fact that...

Perhaps the most important argument relates to the fact that...

One of the most significant points is that...

Another major and relevant point is connected to the idea that...

Another relevant argument is that...

It ought to be pointed out that...

It has to be mentioned that...

It is worth emphasizing the point that...

An often overlooked point is that...

We need to take into account/consideration the fact that...

Finally, it is worth mentioning that...

A final point which should be emphasised is that...

We need to admit/acknowledge/accept the fact that...

**Linking
phrases
in an essay**

All countries should get rid of their nuclear weapons immediately.
We must destroy these terrible weapons before they destroy us.
Do you agree with this suggestion?

Since the dropping of the first atomic bomb in 1945, a fierce and sometimes acrimonious debate has raged. Scientists, politicians and peace campaigners have written and spoken regularly about this issue. Advocates of nuclear arms believe that they guarantee security. However, **although I can see practical reasons why eliminating them would be almost impossible, I find these missiles abhorrent and would like our society to do all it can to get rid of them.**

**Linking
phrases
in an essay**

All countries should get rid of their nuclear weapons immediately.
We must destroy these terrible weapons before they destroy us.
Do you agree with this suggestion?

Perhaps the most important argument relates to the fact that nuclear warheads are incredibly dangerous. It would be extraordinarily easy for a mistake, a misunderstanding or a miscalculation to cause the complete devastation of our planet. Indeed, this has nearly happened on several occasions in the past few decades. The risk is entirely intolerable and can only be removed if the weapons themselves are made unusable.

**Linking
phrases
in an essay**

All countries should get rid of their nuclear weapons immediately.
We must destroy these terrible weapons before they destroy us.
Do you agree with this suggestion?

Another relevant point is that these weapons of mass destruction could easily get into the hands of a terrorist organisation or a dictator. They could then be used to terrorise or blackmail every government on the planet. For instance, there is still genuine concern that nuclear devices and rocket systems which disappeared when The Soviet Union collapsed might fall into the hands of military groups such as Al-Qaida. Obviously, the consequences of this could be disastrous for millions or even billions of human beings.

**Linking
phrases
in an essay**

All countries should get rid of their nuclear weapons immediately.
We must destroy these terrible weapons before they destroy us.
Do you agree with this suggestion?

It should also be pointed out that atomic bombs are already used by governments who control them to threaten and coerce other nations. Although The United States, Russia, China, The United Kingdom and other so-called nuclear powers do not actually propose firing their missiles at other countries, the fact that they possess this capacity to destroy certainly gives them authority.

**Linking
phrases
in an essay**

All countries should get rid of their nuclear weapons immediately.
We must destroy these terrible weapons before they destroy us.
Do you agree with this suggestion?

A final argument for nuclear disarmament relates to the cost.
Developing, purchasing or maintaining these missiles is incredibly expensive. It is estimated that around four percent of the Gross Domestic Product of some countries is spent on this aspect of defence. It goes without saying that this taxpayers' money could be better invested in schools, hospitals or modern transport systems.

**Linking
phrases
in an essay**

All countries should get rid of their nuclear weapons immediately.
We must destroy these terrible weapons before they destroy us.
Do you agree with this suggestion?

However, it is necessary to admit/acknowledge that from a practical perspective, the elimination of every single nuclear bomb is a pipedream. Few if any countries would be willing to disarm and it would be practically impossible to determine whether nations which claimed to have got rid of their nuclear arsenal were being truthful. Unfortunately, those in top military positions usually advocate keeping this so-called nuclear deterrent. They genuinely believe it to be the safer option in an unpredictable modern world.

**Linking
phrases
in an essay**

All countries should get rid of their nuclear weapons immediately.
We must destroy these terrible weapons before they destroy us.
Do you agree with this suggestion?

All in all, I have absolutely no doubt that our planet would be a safer and more secure place without nuclear weapons. Not only that, but we would also have the opportunity to invest the revenue currently spent on these warheads in far more useful areas. However, we have to concede that in reality this wish will never be fulfilled. Probably the best we can hope for is a reduction in the number of missiles and a commitment from nuclear powers to never be the first to use these terrible devices.

**One-idea
paragraphs:
what do they
include?**

A **topic sentence** with a **linking phrase** and **the main point**

Explanation of the main point

Examples to support the main point

Evidence/facts supporting the main point

The view of experts/people

Evaluation which discusses the main point

An alternative situation

A possible result

A summary/recap of the main point

Generally 3-5 sentences

Topic
sentences:
examples

First and foremost, it should be stated that politicians actually have a great deal of power and influence.

Perhaps the most important argument relates to the fact that climate change actually costs lives.

One of the most significant points is that the state has a moral duty to ensure that all of its citizens receive adequate healthcare and education.

It should be pointed out that the quality of life in urban areas can be extremely poor in many respects

It also needs to be mentioned that teachers have a role to play.

The importance of personal responsibility has to be highlighted.

Another relevant argument is that computers generally encourage their users to think less and to rely increasingly on the technology in front of them.

Topic
sentences:
examples

Another major and relevant point is connected to the idea that those who receive a good primary and secondary education tend to report feeling more satisfied throughout the rest of their lives.

One of the main reasons why sport is so relevant is that it teaches us essential skills such as teamwork, self-control and self-esteem.

In addition, it is worth pointing out that participating in sport also leads to outstanding social benefits.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that compulsory military service can have a hugely positive effect on young adults who otherwise would drift into a life of unemployment and possibly crime.

A final point which should be emphasised is that the fashion industry creates hundreds of thousands of jobs globally.

A final but nonetheless significant issue is that smokers cost the health system a huge amount of money.

Lastly, an often overlooked point is that sport is tremendously enjoyable.

**Topic
sentences
In an essay**

It is a good idea for companies to employ as many different people as possible, including young and old, men and women, disabled and able-bodied and those from various ethnic and religious groups.’
Do you agree?

Until very recently, most large multi-national firms have tended to ignore potential employees from many backgrounds. Over recent years however, there has been a growing realisation that diversity in the workplace can be beneficial. Although some employers still believe that hiring individuals from a wide range of groups will not help their businesses, **I am convinced that forward-looking and forward-thinking companies should aim to have workers from as many backgrounds as possible.**

**Topic
sentences
In an essay**

It is a good idea for companies to employ as many different people as possible, including young and old, men and women, disabled and able-bodied and those from various ethnic and religious groups.’
Do you agree?

Firstly and perhaps most importantly, different types of people can bring different qualities to a working environment, making problem-solving and communication easier. Although it is a misleading generalisation to say that all men are logical, all women are intuitive, all young people have energy and all old people and Buddhists are wise, a range of workers is almost certain to give an organisation a variety of strengths. Solving problems in the company and implementing new initiatives might be much easier. This is likely to mean greater productivity, higher profits and increased success.

**Topic
sentences
In an essay**

It is a good idea for companies to employ as many different people as possible, including young and old, men and women, disabled and able-bodied and those from various ethnic and religious groups.’
Do you agree?

Another point worth mentioning is that the work environment will probably be far healthier when a company employs people from different backgrounds. There may be far less conflict and a more harmonious atmosphere. People are likely to be able to learn to work together and share ideas. Colleagues will perhaps become more broad-minded and tolerant as they appreciate the perspective of others. Employees may be much happier and, as a consequence, might work harder. This could lead to a more profitable business.

**Topic
sentences
In an essay**

It is a good idea for companies to employ as many different people as possible, including young and old, men and women, disabled and able-bodied and those from various ethnic and religious groups.’
Do you agree?

A final but nonetheless significant issue is that large organisations which seek to employ individuals from one particular age group, ethnic origin or gender tend to struggle in the twenty-first century market-place. Although it is clearly true that firms will always wish to appoint the most experienced and competent staff, it is generally true that an organisation lacking variety also lacks liveliness, the ability to diversify and to understand its clientele.

**Topic
sentences
In an essay**

It is a good idea for companies to employ as many different people as possible, including young and old, men and women, disabled and able-bodied and those from various ethnic and religious groups.’
Do you agree?

In conclusion, I generally believe that diversity in the workplace is a good thing. There are strong economic and social reasons why companies with a range of employees will be successful. In the future I hope that an increasing number of firms will embrace this approach.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence

Explanation

Examples

Evidence

Expert view

Evaluation

Alternative

Result

Solution

Some believe that governments should reduce spending as much as possible, so that they can cut taxes to a very low level. Do you agree?

Individuals should pay higher taxes so that public services can be protected and improved.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence

Explanation

Examples

Evidence

Expert view

Evaluation

Alternative

Result

Summary

Some believe that governments should reduce spending as much as possible, so that they can cut taxes to a very low level. Do you agree?

Individuals should pay higher taxes so that public services can be protected and improved.

Governments can put up income tax, corporation tax or taxes paid on goods and services to raise revenue which they can invest in projects for the common good.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence

Explanation

Examples

Evidence

Expert view

Evaluation

Alternative

Result

Summary

Some believe that governments should reduce spending as much as possible, so that they can cut taxes to a very low level. Do you agree?

Individuals should pay higher taxes so that public services can be protected and improved.

In Scandinavian countries where taxation is high, citizens benefit from superb hospitals, schools and public transport networks.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence

Explanation

Examples

Evidence

Expert view

Evaluation

Alternative

Result

Summary

Some believe that governments should reduce spending as much as possible, so that they can cut taxes to a very low level. Do you agree?

Individuals should pay higher taxes so that public services can be protected and improved.

Research carried out by top economists has consistently shown that having a higher rate of taxation leads to long-term social benefits.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence

Explanation

Examples

Evidence

Expert view

Evaluation

Alternative

Result

Summary

Some believe that governments should reduce spending as much as possible, so that they can cut taxes to a very low level. Do you agree?

Individuals should pay higher taxes so that public services can be protected and improved.

Top economists have long held the view that the best way to stimulate growth is to invest heavily in public services and raise spending on health and social care.

It is widely believed that having a country where citizens are healthy and well-educated is incredibly desirable. This is best achieved through public spending.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence

Explanation

Examples

Evidence

Expert view

Evaluation

Alternative

Result

Summary

Some believe that governments should reduce spending as much as possible, so that they can cut taxes to a very low level. Do you agree?

Individuals should pay higher taxes so that public services can be protected and improved.

Although this approach might prove unpopular amongst the richest in society, whose main concern is increasing wealth, for the majority it would lead to tremendous improvements in living standards and a wider sense of equality and fairness.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence

Explanation

Examples

Evidence

Expert view

Evaluation

Alternative

Result

Summary

Some believe that governments should reduce spending as much as possible, so that they can cut taxes to a very low level. Do you agree?

Individuals should pay higher taxes so that public services can be protected and improved.

If taxes are reduced in real terms, government revenue will go down and a programme of austerity may be introduced, with cuts to healthcare services, schools, refuse collection services and policing.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence

Explanation

Examples

Evidence

Expert view

Evaluation

Alternative

Result

Summary

Some believe that governments should reduce spending as much as possible, so that they can cut taxes to a very low level. Do you agree?

Individuals should pay higher taxes so that public services can be protected and improved.

When governments raise taxes, the improvements in public services lead to increases in living standards and quality of life.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence

Explanation

Examples

Evidence

Expert view

Evaluation

Alternative

Result

Summary

Some believe that governments should reduce spending as much as possible, so that they can cut taxes to a very low level. Do you agree?

Individuals should pay higher taxes so that public services can be protected and improved.

It is therefore certainly the case that increasing taxes makes sense for governments and citizens alike.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Result

All young adults should be made to do military service for at least a year. This has tremendous personal benefits and helps to improve society as a whole' What is your opinion of this statement?

There is no doubt in my mind that obliging eighteen-year-olds to spend a year in the armed forces is tremendously beneficial for the personal development of these young individuals. Under the constant gaze of experienced leaders, they learn to be confident, self-reliant and able to act in difficult circumstances. When they return to civilian life, they are far more likely to be able to make a positive contribution to society than if they had not had experience of the military.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example
Evidence
Evaluation

All young adults should be made to do military service for at least a year. This has tremendous personal benefits and helps to improve society as a whole' What is your opinion of this statement?

There is no doubt in my mind that obliging eighteen-year-olds to spend a year in the armed forces is tremendously beneficial for the personal development of these young individuals. They learn to be self-reliant, tough, hard-working and also to have respect for themselves and for others. For instance, many school-leavers who have little motivation and few skills join the army and become useful and productive citizens. Evidence has suggested that in some countries, there seems to be a correlation between military service and a low rate of violent crimes. However, it should also be noted that some critics see reasons to worry, claiming that the army only teaches youths to obey without thinking and does not develop their abilities as critical thinkers.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example
Result

Globalisation has been extremely beneficial for the whole planet.
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

As far as I am concerned, our modern globalised society has some major economic advantages. It has sparked demand for products in more affluent western countries. The products craved by consumers in these regions can be supplied by workers in developing areas. For instance, clothes made in Bangladesh or Sri Lanka are sold in Germany and France. As a consequence, workers living in poorer nations have jobs and can pull themselves out of poverty.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example
Evidence
Evaluation

Globalisation has been extremely beneficial for the whole planet.
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

As far as I am concerned, our modern globalised society has some major economic advantages. The fact that companies can sell their products and services worldwide leads to growth and consequently to jobs. For instance, several West African nations are experiencing significant rises in GDP levels as a result of exporting. Research suggests that increased trade generally leads to increased prosperity for everyone involved. However, there is the potential downside that some employees are exploited and obliged to accept extremely low salaries and bad working conditions as prices are forced down by competition.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Evidence
Example

It should be the goal of governments to send every young citizen to university. This policy would make society much stronger and would make individuals much happier. Do you agree?

There seems little doubt that, from the perspective of employment and economic growth, higher education for all would be hugely **beneficial**. Research suggests that countries with a better-trained workforce experience higher levels of economic growth than those where workers are not well-educated. **China is a case in point: its astonishing progress over the last couple of decades is almost certainly linked to the fact that its universities produce thousands of engineering and science graduates each year, as well as vast numbers of experts in technology.**

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example
Expert view
Evaluation

It should be the goal of governments to send every young citizen to university. This policy would make society much stronger and would make individuals much happier. Do you agree?

There seems little doubt that, from the perspective of employment and economic growth, higher education for all would be hugely **beneficial**. Clearly, a country full of well-qualified graduates with the skills necessary for the globalised job market is likely to flourish and thrive. For instance, several so-called 'Asian tiger' economies experienced a major economic boom at a time when the majority of school-leavers went on to get a degree. Some economists have shown that there is a clear correlation between the amount a government invests in higher education and its future economic success. However, this approach would only yield fruit if undergraduates learn job-related skills such as how to become an engineer, architect or chemist.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Evaluation

All students should pay the full cost of their university education. The government should not provide any financial help. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

It seems to me that there are valid reasons why students who have been brought up in poverty ought to be seen as a special exception on moral grounds. It is likely that such individuals have families who cannot afford to provide them with help, and it is therefore necessary for the authorities to give them an opportunity to flourish. It is essential that society gives equal chances to all of its members. This sends powerful signals to everyone in society that fairness and justice are vital and that these concepts should be taken very seriously.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Result
Summary

All students should pay the full cost of their university education. The government should not provide any financial help. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Similarly, highly-talented and gifted students need to be encouraged to go to institutions of higher education regardless of their background because of the huge economic benefits. As a country we need to educate all of our smartest youngsters. Providing intelligent students with a financial incentive to apply for places at academic institutions might ensure that a greater proportion of very bright students attended. These students would hopefully become national leaders, wealth-creating businessmen and women and top-ranking scientists capable of making discoveries which will enable society to progress and prosper. Enabling them to become undergraduates would therefore have profound benefits.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Alternative

Some people believe that modern technology has made our lives more difficult and less enjoyable. Others see advanced computers as essential. What is your opinion?

There is no doubt that in many ways, the revolution in IT has made the lives of everyone on the planet simpler. Social interaction has become a great deal easier for us all. It is now possible to contact a wide range of friends and acquaintances, work colleagues, potential employers, businesses and large organisations through the internet. Whereas in the past, it would have been necessary to write a letter, a quick email is now all that is required.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentences
**Explanation (or
example)**

Some people believe that modern technology has made our lives more difficult and less enjoyable. Others see advanced computers as essential. What is your opinion?

This is not the only way in which technology has made our lives more convenient. We have access to endless time-saving and labour-saving devices in our lives, thanks to computer technology. Smartphones and other electronic gadgets enable us to find information which we would previously have needed to access via a library. In addition, bank websites allow us to manage our finances without actually having to visit a branch of a financial institution, and we can now download movies online, meaning that we do not need to waste time travelling to the cinema.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Result
Evidence
Result

To what extent do you agree that poor diet is one of the most important problems facing our society?

There is no doubt that the poor quality of the food we eat is likely to have serious long-term consequences. Firstly, it will lead to potentially life-threatening conditions such as diabetes, heart attacks and cancer, and will shorten our lives. Scientific research suggests that those with a diet high in fat, salt and sugar - the principle ingredients of junk food - are prone to suffer from major diseases. Obviously, ill people have a lower quality of life and may generally find it harder to feel contented.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
**Explanation (or
result)**
**Explanation (or
result)**

To what extent do you agree that poor diet is one of the most important problems facing our society?

It also needs to be said that, as a consequence of poor diet, the government has to spend an increasing amount of money to provide the healthcare services which overweight and obese individuals require. People with a poor diet are likely to visit their doctor on a regular basis and will probably be admitted to hospital on many occasions. The cost of doctors, nurses and medical equipment will be higher in a society where diet is poor. However, the economic implications go further. Unhealthy adults who eat badly often suffer from depression, anxiety and low self-esteem which may mean that they take more days off sick and are less productive.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Explanation
Result

It is essential that we teach children about world history at school. They need to understand what has happened in the past in order to understand what is happening in the present. What is your opinion of this statement?

One of the main reasons why schoolchildren should be taught about the past is so that they can avoid making the mistakes which have already been made. Pupils who learn that disastrous wars generally begin when individuals and countries refuse to talk and negotiate are more likely to value communication. Students who see that in the past injustice, prejudice and discrimination have been overcome will probably believe that they can also deal with the unfairness which they meet in society. Similarly, youngsters who study successful economic and political systems of the past may put pressure on their leaders to adopt the policies of previous rulers.

**Supporting
the main
point**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Explanation
Result

It is essential that we teach children about world history at school. They need to understand what has happened in the past in order to understand what is happening in the present. What is your opinion of this statement?

Furthermore, those who study history can develop a sense of pride and national identity when they learn about the role which their own country has played in past events. Those who are taught about famous leaders and scientists from their own nation's past will hopefully develop a patriotic spirit. Even better, if teenagers in the classroom discover the errors and crimes committed by their own country in the past, their patriotism will not turn into a racist or nationalistic fervour. They should develop a respect for other nations.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Democratic countries where citizens can vote for their leaders are stronger and healthier than nations with political systems which are not democratic. What is your opinion on this statement?

On our planet there are around two-hundred different countries and territories with a vast range of governments including democracies, monarchies and authoritarian dictatorships. There is a widely-held view among experts on political matters that a system in which the adult population decides who its leaders should be is fair. In this essay I intend to consider the strengths of democracy and demonstrate why it is superior to other forms of authority and rule.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example

Democratic countries where citizens can vote for their leaders are stronger and healthier than nations with political systems which are not democratic. What is your opinion on this statement?

Undoubtedly, the most significant advantage of this form of government is that the general population has some power. At election time, citizens can put a cross on the ballot paper next to the politicians or political parties whose plans and proposals they agree with. For instance, voters who desire greater freedom and a reduction in state interference can support right-wing political parties whereas anyone who wants society to be fairer, more equal and more just should indicate their preference for a left-wing political organisation.

Supporting main points in an essay

Topic sentence
Result
Explanation
Result

Democratic countries where citizens can vote for their leaders are stronger and healthier than nations with political systems which are not democratic. What is your opinion on this statement?

A second and related point is that government ministers and other politicians are accountable under a democratic system. Unpopular leaders can be thrown out. This feature probably leads to honest and open government. Ministers know that if they pass unpopular laws, pursue policies which the electorate does not like, accept bribes or become corrupt, they may easily lose power at the next election. Those in power understand this point and, consequently, tend to behave more appropriately.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Topic sentence
Alternative
Summary
Evidence

Democratic countries where citizens can vote for their leaders are stronger and healthier than nations with political systems which are not democratic. What is your opinion on this statement?

A final point worth making in support of democratically-elected leaders is that the alternatives are dangerous. Systems where power lies with an unelected head of state or in the hands of the military can easily become authoritarian regimes and dictatorships. This type of government is associated with human rights abuses, a loss of civil liberties, violence and aggression towards political opponents, and censorship. Thus we can argue that citizens are likely to be more contented under a democratic system. Indeed, research carried out appears to support this assumption.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Democratic countries where citizens can vote for their leaders are stronger and healthier than nations with political systems which are not democratic. What is your opinion on this statement?

It therefore seems reasonable to conclude that those living in democracies are fortunate, and inhabitants of countries with different political systems are more likely to be unhappy about the way their country is run. Unfortunately, it might be quite difficult for them to express their discontent. I fervently hope that in the future the trend towards having democratically-elected governments continues. I believe this would represent a positive step for all mankind.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

**All school-children should be taught a foreign language.
Do you agree?**

Over recent years, as the planet has become increasingly globalised, the pressure on individuals to be able to communicate in several languages has grown. Nowadays, it is not at all uncommon to meet polyglots who can make themselves understood easily in their native language as well as global languages such as English, Arabic and Mandarin. Some psychologists and experts in child-rearing are cautious about this development, believing that making children study a second language can be detrimental to overall academic and social progress. However, as far as I am concerned, this is an entirely positive approach.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example
Evidence

All school-children should be taught a foreign language.
Do you agree?

The first reason why we should certainly study a second language is that our twenty-first century society requires it. In business, when we travel and when we use social media, we interact with others with different first languages. For instance, Japanese and Indian teenagers may chat online using Mandarin and French and German holiday-makers might talk with Italian hotel staff in English.

Research has suggested that younger members of society spend nearly a third of their time interacting with people with different first languages.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example
Evidence

All school-children should be taught a foreign language.
Do you agree?

Another significant argument relates to the development of intelligence. Students who learn another language may become cognitively more advanced than their peers who do not. For instance, a teenager or adolescent who speaks Russian fluently is also likely to have a better grasp of mathematics, physics or biology. Studies have shown that elderly people who are bilingual are far less likely to suffer from Alzheimer's disease.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Topic sentence
Example
Explanation

All school-children should be taught a foreign language.
Do you agree?

The final point worth making is that learning a second language creates a range of opportunities to meet new friends and widens a young person's social circle. Obviously, a Mexican child who speaks English will have the chance to interact with a significant quantity of youngsters from the English-speaking world. Having more contact with others from around the planet can have a range of benefits, making a person more broad-minded and helping that person to understand life from different perspectives.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

All school-children should be taught a foreign language.
Do you agree?

All in all, I wholeheartedly believe that the advantages connected with teaching school-children a second language are significant and that the drawbacks, if there are any, are negligible. Children benefit educationally, economically and socially when they are able to communicate in a foreign tongue. I fervently hope that educators and policy-makers will begin to appreciate this fact and bring in a curriculum with a strong focus on language learning.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

All school-children should be taught to play team-sports like football and basketball as part of their primary school education. This would have a huge range of benefits.’
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

The notion that youngsters ought to learn team-sports has been around at least since the time of the Ancient Greeks. Nowadays, it is common for schools to include these activities on their curriculum. Although some critics feel that pupils’ time could be better spent in the classroom studying mathematics, physics or economics, I wholeheartedly believe that the advantages of learning to be a team-member are enormous.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example
Evidence
Summary

All school-children should be taught to play team-sports like football and basketball as part of their primary school education. This would have a huge range of benefits.’
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

One major reason for having team-sports on the school timetable relates to development of a child’s character or personality. Children who are involved in this type of activity develop skills like co-operation and team spirit. Additionally, they learn how to take account of their team-mates’ and opponents’ strengths and weaknesses. For instance, a youngster learning to play football grasps the idea that he or she must help a team-mate in defence or support a colleague on the attack. Research has suggested that those who participate in this kind of activity are more mature and have a deeper understanding of others’ motivation and behaviour. Obviously, having these skills can be enormously useful in later life, in a social and work environment.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example
Result

All school-children should be taught to play team-sports like football and basketball as part of their primary school education. This would have a huge range of benefits.’
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

A second significant point is connected to physical health. Those who regularly take part in sports like rugby, hockey or handball become physically fitter. **For example, a child who enjoys football matches will train regularly and develop speed, strength, stamina and agility.** Obviously, this is likely to lead to a healthier and longer life, free from chronic illness and disease. Clearly, the benefits are not merely physical; active and sporty individuals invariably succeed in many areas of life, including academically and socially.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Topic sentence
Explanation
Evidence
Result

All school-children should be taught to play team-sports like football and basketball as part of their primary school education. This would have a huge range of benefits.’
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

The final argument which needs to be made is associated with social development. Team-sports encourage friendship amongst players and anyone who often participates will probably have a wide circle of friends and acquaintances. Some studies have suggested that school-children who play sport regularly tend to have significantly more social interaction than those who do not. This interaction can lead to huge advantages later in life, in areas such as employment.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

All school-children should be taught to play team-sports like football and basketball as part of their primary school education. This would have a huge range of benefits.’
To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Overall, it seems fair to say that the advantages of youngsters regularly participating in team-sports are huge and that the drawbacks, if there are any, are negligible. Children benefit in terms of their personality, health and social development. It is my fervent hope that educators and policy-makers will begin to realise the tremendously positive impact which putting team sports on the timetable could have.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Cigarette smoking is dirty, disgusting and dangerous. It should be banned in all public places. What do you think about this proposal?

Over the last few decades, the number of people worldwide who smoke has shot up. Although this habit has become less popular in some parts of the planet, in other regions it is more widespread than ever. Its supporters believe that not allowing them to light up a cigarette in public is an infringement of their civil liberties.

However, I wholeheartedly believe that forbidding individuals from smoking in public places would be an extremely sensible approach.

Supporting main points in an essay

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example
Evidence
Evaluation

Cigarette smoking is dirty, disgusting and dangerous. It should be banned in all public places. What do you think about this proposal?

The first reason why cigarettes should not be tolerated in public is related to so-called passive smoking. The chemical-filled smoke which cigarette-users exhale is extremely harmful to the health of those who surround them. For instance, when a person smokes on public transport, fellow-passengers breathe in toxic fumes. Researchers have calculated that anyone in constantly close proximity to a smoker has a reduced life expectancy as a result. Although smokers point to their rights to smoke, we should also consider other people and their right to life.

Supporting main points in an essay

Topic sentence
Alternative
Result
Evidence
Result

Cigarette smoking is dirty, disgusting and dangerous. It should be banned in all public places. What do you think about this proposal?

A second significant reason why cigarette use should be illegal in public is connected to economic factors. If individuals are not allowed to light up in the street, in public buildings or on public transport, they are more likely to give up smoking or at least to smoke less. As a consequence, government spending on healthcare is almost certain to fall as there will be fewer cases of lung cancer, respiratory illnesses and even heart attacks. Research carried out in Europe has suggested that banning smoking does have this long-term effect. Obviously, the money saved can be invested in worthwhile projects in the area of health, education or the environment.

Supporting main points in an essay

Topic sentence
Explanation
Example
Evidence
Result

Cigarette smoking is dirty, disgusting and dangerous. It should be banned in all public places. What do you think about this proposal?

The final point worth making relates to cleanliness. Cities where smoking is prohibited are obviously cleaner and pleasanter places. For example, Singapore- where smoking has been outlawed- has a very agreeable environment. Studies show that those living in such places tend to be happier and to have a higher quality of life. Naturally, having this policy in a city is likely to increase tourism, thus boosting the economy further.

**Supporting
main points
in an essay**

Cigarette smoking is dirty, disgusting and dangerous. It should be banned in all public places. What do you think about this proposal?

Overall, although many committed smokers firmly believe that they should have the right to enjoy their filthy habit wherever they want, I have provided a number of compelling reasons why nobody ought to be entitled to light up a cigarette in a public place. Indeed, I would go further and ban smoking entirely. The world would undoubtedly be a healthier and happier place without it.

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

IELTS Writing Task 2

Main body paragraphs (2)



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {IELTS}

List paragraphs: explained

List paragraphs are very similar to **one-idea paragraphs**.

They both have a topic sentence and support.

However, the topic sentence in a list paragraph is often more general, and indicates that the support will be a list of points.

Those points might have further support (explanation, example, evidence, the views of experts, evaluation, an alternative, a result, etc.)

This type of paragraph is often found in:

- **Advantages + disadvantages essays** and
- **Problems + solutions essays**

**List
paragraphs:
examples
(causes)**

Obviously, **global poverty** has a range of causes.

Terrorism is plainly a complex subject with several intricately-linked causes.

We need to begin by exploring the question of why **petty crime** happens/occurs.

An understanding of what motivates **anti-social behaviour** is essential.

There are many reasons why **some learners struggle in schools**.
It is worth examining why **bullying** occurs.

In order to tackle **graduate unemployment around the world**, an analysis of its cause is required.

Undoubtedly, an understanding of why **athletes take performance-enhancing steroids** would enable us to reduce or eliminate this unacceptable behaviour.

Several causes of **cheating** have been identified.

List
paragraphs:
examples
(solutions)

Several solutions to the issue of **global poverty** could be put into place.

A number of policies could be implemented by governments to deal with the issue of **terrorism**.

Much could be done to tackle **petty crime**.

A range of ways to deal with **anti-social behaviour** ought to be considered.

Various strategies and approaches can be used to help **students who find school challenging**.

It is imperative that we seek solutions to the troubling issue of **bullying**.

Having considered why **so many who finish university struggle to gain employment**, we should now focus on what governments, businesses and individuals can do to alleviate the problem.

Various groups and individuals could confront **drug-taking in sport** and hopefully prevent it in the future.

**List
paragraphs:
examples
(advantages)**

Banning smoking altogether has a number of benefits.

The advantages of **preventing cars from entering city-centres** need to be considered.

There are several reasons why **obliging schoolchildren to wear a uniform** makes sense.

It cannot be denied that **advertising** has upsides.

In some respects, **working from home** is a good idea.

Social media benefits individuals and society alike.

It is believed by many/experts that **letting members of the public enter galleries and museums free of charge** is a sensible approach.

The approach/strategy/policy of **heavily taxing airline tickets** has a number of supporters/proponents.

List
paragraphs:
examples
(disadvantages)

Banning smoking altogether has a number of drawbacks.

The disadvantages of **preventing cars from entering city-centres** need to be considered.

There are several reasons why **obliging schoolchildren to wear a uniform** makes little sense.

It cannot be denied that **advertising** has downsides.

In some respects, **working from home** is a bad idea.

Social media harms individuals and society alike.

It is believed by many/experts that **letting members of the public enter galleries and museums free of charge** is a ludicrous approach.

The approach/strategy/policy of **heavily taxing airline tickets** has a number of critics/opponents.

List paragraphs in an essay

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, this is a troubling issue which should be tackled.**

List paragraphs in an essay

Topic sentence
Main point
Support

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. What are the possible causes of this violence and what should be done about it?

A number of reasons why this unacceptably anti-social behaviour occurs have been identified. Researchers in this field often point to psychological motivations: testosterone-fuelled males in particular have a tendency to become aggressive. These individuals, especially younger ones, are more likely to follow and imitate others. This leads to the escalation of small conflicts into larger battles. Perhaps even more significant is the basic human need to belong to a group and to want to defend this group against outsiders, foreigners or those who threaten you. A strongly-related factor is alcohol: fans often drink excessively before attending football matches. They become inebriated and lose their inhibitions. In this state, they are far more likely to become aggressive hooligans and far less likely to worry about the consequences of their actions.

List paragraphs in an essay

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List paragraphs in an essay

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Main point
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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. What are the possible causes of this violence and what should be done about it?

A great many policies could be used to deal with this worrying trend of unnecessary violence. Firstly, attempts could be made to encourage families to go to the stadiums. A less male-dominated atmosphere would make fighting less of a possibility. Potential hooligans should be educated and attempts ought to be made to raise awareness amongst them about how dangerous their behaviour is. At the same time, the authorities could impose stiffer penalties for hooliganism so that anyone thinking of getting involved would realise that they might end up in a prison cell. Finally, and probably most effectively, the powers-that-be might ban the sale of beer, wine and other alcoholic beverages around the times of matches. This would undoubtedly be an unpopular measure but would certainly reduce the amount of fighting associated with football supporters.

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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. What are the possible causes of this violence and what should be done about it?

The issue of football-related violence is unlikely to disappear any time soon. Attempts to deal with it have generally failed. Hopefully, at some stage, football supporters will realise the futility and pointlessness of their violent behaviour and concentrate on cheering on their teams.

**List
paragraphs
in an essay**

Homelessness is a major problem in many parts of the world. What are the main causes of homelessness? What can be done to help reduce this problem?

The sight of the dispossessed, the poverty-stricken and those on the margins of society sleeping in cardboard boxes on the streets or in shelters has become all-too-familiar in the world's major cities. Millions have to endure a poverty-stricken existence without a roof over their heads. **Clearly, this state of affairs is unacceptable and we must understand its causes so that we can begin to discover ways to rectify the situation.**

List
paragraphs
in an essay

Topic sentence
Main point
Support

Homelessness is a major problem in many parts of the world. What are the main causes of homelessness? What can be done to help reduce this problem?

There are many reasons why people become homeless. Of course, economic factors are amongst the most common. Anyone who is made redundant or becomes unemployed through illness will struggle to pay rent or a mortgage and may find herself or himself on the streets. Likewise, in popular metropolitan areas, a lack of affordable housing can mean that even wage-earners find it impossible to pay for accommodation. In London, rents are driven up by demand whilst wages remains stagnant. Social issues can also play a role. When families break up as a result of divorce or feud, young adults and adolescents in particular can find themselves without anywhere to live. Drug-addicts, alcoholics and those with mental illnesses are also tremendously vulnerable.

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Support

Homelessness is a major problem in many parts of the world. What are the main causes of homelessness? What can be done to help reduce this problem?

There are practical measures which governments can take to significantly reduce the likelihood of homelessness. Firstly, the powers-that-be can ensure that those out of work receive reasonable state benefits, allowing them to remain in decent-quality accommodation until they can find work. Additionally, Housing Ministers ought to make sure that enough new properties are being constructed to meet the demand. Furthermore, charities and voluntary organisations can provide support by offering short-term care for those who find themselves in desperate straits. Finally, I would argue that the general public has to become involved in tackling this issue. By donating to charities and offering temporary lodging in their own homes, members of the public could make a tangible difference. Admittedly, many would be reluctant to do this.

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**List
paragraphs
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Homelessness is a major problem in many parts of the world. What are the main causes of homelessness? What can be done to help reduce this problem?

The fact that some of our fellow-humans have no permanent shelter should make us all ashamed. We bear a great deal of responsibility. I dearly hope that ordinary individuals will put pressure on their elected leaders to tackle this issue at the earliest possible opportunity.

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

Thanks for watching!



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {IELTS}