

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

Model answer - COMMUNICATION Explanation + Opinion



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

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ESSAY QUESTION

EXPLANATION + OPINION

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

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. Write at least 250 words

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If you are **entitled** to something, you have a natural right to it, and should not have to work or do anything else to get it

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INTRODUCTION

Most agree that we should all be **entitled** to express ourselves in whichever way we want. Nonetheless, it has been pointed out that developments in technology could enable those in power to prevent citizens from publicly stating their opinions. The questions of why the right to free speech is vital and how advances in computing might challenge this right are worthy of consideration.

whichever = any one from a set of possibilities; it does not matter which one

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We use **nonetheless** to show a contrast and to indicate that the next clause is true, despite what was written before

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This phrase lets us introduce an important point in a formal way

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to **enable** = to
make something
possible; to make
it possible for
somebody to do
something

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those in power =
people in
authority; the
government

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If a question or idea is **worthy of consideration**, it deserves to be thought about, spoken/written about

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We can start a sentence with a verbal noun (-ing form) instead of using a conditional sentence

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

MAIN PARAGRAPH 1

Permitting everyone to freely communicate their beliefs benefits individuals and society alike. When we are free, we feel more fulfilled and more creative, and the absence of fear promotes happiness. In addition, not having to worry about the consequences of what you say makes it easier to trust others. This leads to society being more cohesive and united. Furthermore, enshrining this right in law strengthens the state politically: those allowed to speak their minds are less likely to want to bring down the government. Finally, there is a practical consideration: totalitarian states have always found that monitoring what everyone says requires vast resources.

We can use **alike** with two groups of people/things to show that both groups are included or that both groups are the same

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Permitting everyone to freely communicate their beliefs benefits **individuals** and **society alike**. When we are free, we feel more fulfilled and more creative, and the absence of fear promotes happiness. In addition, not having to worry about the consequences of what you say makes it easier to trust others. This leads to society being more cohesive and united. Furthermore, enshrining this right in law strengthens the state politically: those allowed to speak their minds are less likely to want to bring down the government. Finally, there is a practical consideration: totalitarian states have always found that monitoring what everyone says requires vast resources.

to be **fulfilled** =
feeling happy or
content because
you get everything
from life that you
need

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If you **enshrine a right in law**, you protect this right by making it illegal to ignore or deny it

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We can use **colons** to connect two pieces of information. The information after the **colon** often clarifies, explains or provides an example for the information before the **colon**

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Those in power in a **totalitarian state** have complete control and do not give freedom to the people who live there

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We often use the **present perfect** with **adverbs of frequency** to describe things which were true in the past and which are still true now

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We can put **comment adverbs** at the beginning of a sentence to show the reader our feelings about the information in the sentence

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MAIN PARAGRAPH 2

Troublingly, over a dramatically brief period, the situation has changed. Law-enforcement agencies in authoritarian countries have become capable of monitoring the public and curbing free speech. Owing to the revolution in interactive technology, the secret services are now able to police social media and collect huge amounts of data, which officials might be tempted to analyze. Some governments have always wanted control over the population and some have already used the justification that ‘snooping’ is necessary in order to fight terrorism. This is clearly a worrying development for freedom of speech.

We often use the **present perfect** to refer to a period of time which started in the past and which continues until now

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We can describe the police and other groups which work for the state and try to stop crime as **law-enforcement agencies**

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An **authoritarian** regime demands that people completely obey its rules, and does not give people freedom

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to **curb** = to
control or limit
something which
is not wanted

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owing to =
because of. We
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The **secret service** is a government organisation which tries to stop foreign spies from getting damaging information or harming the country

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Remember that some nouns you know can also be verbs. If you control something which could be dangerous, you **police** it

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Using **relative pronouns/clauses** can make your sentences complex and cohesive

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An **official** is a person with responsibility in a government or other organisation

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If you are **tempted** (to do something), you have a strong feeling that you want to do something, often something which you should not do

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A **justification** is a reason which you give for doing something, often when you do something which others disagree with

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to **snoop** = to look around secretly, trying to find things or information which other people do not want you to have

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We can use **in order to** to describe an aim or purpose. Using this phrase is a good way of linking ideas together

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We can use **this** (with or without a noun) to refer back to an earlier idea

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If you have **freedom of speech**, you have the right to say anything you want. For example, you can criticise the government

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If you **staunchly defend** something, you fight very hard to protect it against its enemies and opponents

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CONCLUSION

The right to express oneself is fundamental, and we should **staunchly defend** it. We need to be concerned that new technology may potentially allow our leaders to curtail it. Nearly all nations are signatories to The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and must promise to uphold this precious right.

to **curtail** = to reduce or limit something, or to stop something before it has finished

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Signatories are people or organisations / governments who have signed an agreement

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The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an agreement signed by many countries to protect the freedoms and rights of all people

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to **uphold** = to
defend or protect
a law, a principle
or a decision

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If something is **precious**, it has great value (perhaps because it is expensive or important)

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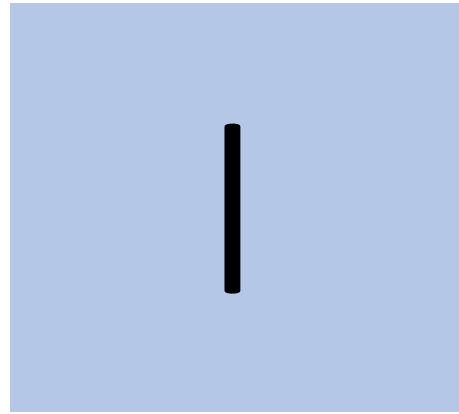
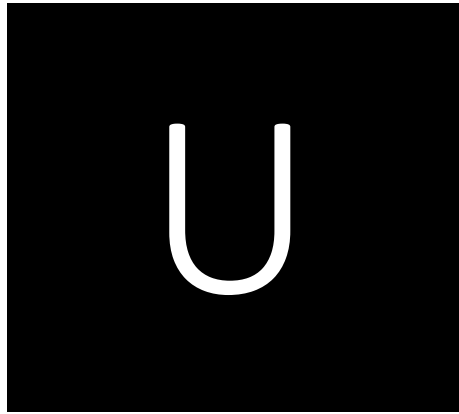
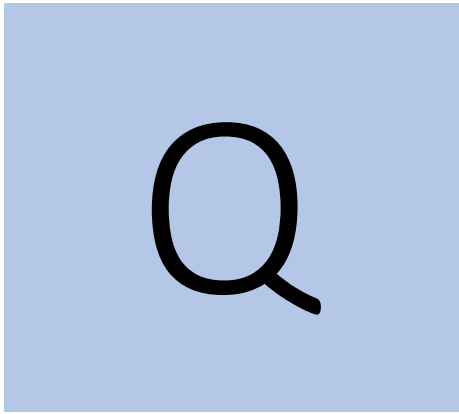
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Most agree that we should all be entitled to express ourselves in whichever way we want. Nonetheless, it has been pointed out that developments in technology could enable those in power to prevent citizens from publicly stating their opinions. The questions of why the right to free speech is vital and how advances in computing might challenge this right are worthy of consideration.

Permitting everyone to freely communicate their beliefs benefits individuals and society alike. When we are free, we feel more fulfilled and more creative, and the absence of fear promotes happiness. In addition, not having to worry about the consequences of what you say makes it easier to trust others. This leads to society being more cohesive and united. Furthermore, enshrining this right in law strengthens the state politically: those allowed to speak their minds are less likely to want to bring down the government. Finally, there is a practical consideration: totalitarian states have always found that monitoring what everyone says requires vast resources.

Troublingly, over a dramatically brief period, the situation has changed. Law-enforcement agencies in authoritarian countries have become capable of monitoring the public and curbing free speech. Owing to the revolution in interactive technology, the secret services are now able to police social media and collect huge amounts of data, which officials might be tempted to analyze. Some governments have always wanted control over the population and some have already used the justification that 'snooping' is necessary in order to fight terrorism. This is clearly a worrying development for freedom of speech.

The right to express oneself is fundamental, and we should staunchly defend it. We need to be concerned that new technology may potentially allow our leaders to curtail it. Nearly all nations are signatories to The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and must promise to uphold this precious right.



Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Freedom of speech is a precious right,
and we must _____ it.

A uptake

B uphold

C upturn

D uplift

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Freedom of speech is a precious right,
and we must _____ it.

A uptake

B uphold

C upturn

D uplift

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

One of my colleagues left her chocolate on the table in our office. I was really _____ to take it and eat it.

A

allowed

B

entitled

C

aware

D

tempted

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

One of my colleagues left her chocolate on the table in our office. I was really _____ to take it and eat it.

A

allowed

B

entitled

C

aware

D

tempted

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

The question of whether free speech is vital is certainly _____ of consideration.

A

worthless

B

worthy

C

worthwhile

D

worth

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

The question of whether free speech is vital is certainly _____ of consideration.

A worthless

B worthy

C worthwhile

D worth

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Nobody wants to live in a _____ state, where the government has complete control and doesn't give any freedom to its people.

A socialist

B totalitarian

C liberal

D democratic

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Nobody wants to live in a _____ state, where the government has complete control and doesn't give any freedom to its people.

A socialist

B totalitarian

C liberal

D democratic

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

We need to _____ the amount of alcohol-related violence in our cities. It is becoming a serious problem and must be reduced.

A

curl

B

crush

C

curb

D

down

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

We need to _____ the amount of alcohol-related violence in our cities. It is becoming a serious problem and must be reduced.

A

curl

B

crush

C

curb

D

down

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Most agree that we should all be entitled to express ourselves in _____ way we want.

A wherever

B whenever

C whoever

D whichever

Prepare for {IELTS}

MULTIPLE CHOICE

Most agree that we should all be entitled to express ourselves in _____ way we want.

A wherever

B whenever

C whoever

D whichever

Prepare for {IELTS}

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

Thanks for watching!



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {**IELTS**}