

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

IELTS Writing Task 2

Connecting ideas



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {IELTS}

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Adding information

There is no doubt that banning anyone under the age of twenty-one from driving a car would cut the number of fatal road-traffic accidents. **In addition**, it would allow the police to concentrate on other forms of crime. Currently, they spend a huge amount of time dealing with young adults who are speeding, driving recklessly or causing car crashes.

Investing government money in scientific research has a number of long-term benefits. It can lead to medical breakthroughs which allow us all to have longer and happier lives. **Additionally**, it can result in innovations which improve the quality of life of everyone on the planet.

Sport is, without doubt, good for our health. **Moreover**, it is excellent for social development.

Spending the majority of your time working can be extremely detrimental to your health. **Furthermore**, it can seriously damage your social and family life.

Adding information

Not only do politicians tend to tell lies, **but** they are **also** often found guilty of corruption.

Cycling to work is obviously good for your health. **Another factor/point/issue worth thinking about/worth considering/worth taking into account** is that every time you take your bike and leave your car at home, you are helping to save the planet.

Playing team-sports obviously has physical benefits for children. **As well as that**, it helps them develop socially.

The school offers the chance to work with skilled teachers. **On top of that**, students get the chance to collaborate with intelligent youngsters from all over the world.

The centre has play activities for children. **Besides that**, there are art classes and dance lessons for the young at heart.

The company offers employees a competitive salary. **What's more**, they can join our staff benefits scheme, which entitles them to medical insurance and gym membership.

Giving a list of arguments

If we reduced social and economic inequality, it would have profound and positive consequences. **Firstly**, closing the gap between rich and poor would benefit the economy as a whole because less well-off individuals would have higher levels of disposable income which they could spend on goods and services. **What's more**, social tension would be likely to lessen if the distance between the haves and the have-nots became smaller. **Lastly**, and perhaps surprisingly, research has suggested that the more affluent members of society also benefit from greater equality. They too tend to feel more contented if some of their wealth has been transferred to the most vulnerable and needy.

Giving a list of arguments

There are several significant reasons why schoolchildren should study physical education as part of their curriculum. **First and foremost**, it is hugely beneficial for their health to play sports and games. **Secondly**, there are proven social benefits because playing team-sports in particular can help to generate friendships. **Thirdly**, physical education teaches skills which are essential for the workplace such as teamwork, co-operation and mutual understanding. **Finally**, we should never lose sight of the fact that physical activity is, for most youngsters, lots of fun. They enjoy it.

Making young adults spend a period of time in the army has numerous advantages. **In the first place**, older teenagers and adults in their early twenties can learn to be disciplined and self-controlled. **As well as that**, doing military service can teach citizens about their duties and responsibility towards society. **Last but not least** is the point that, when they return to the comfort of civilian life, they will be grateful and appreciate the decent standard of living.

Describing results

War broke out last year. **As a result**, food prices rose and some products disappeared from supermarket shelves.

Levels of obesity in the western world have rocketed over the past couple of decades. **As a consequence**, governments now have to invest significantly larger amounts in healthcare than previously.

The river has flooded on several occasions recently. **Consequently**, many local residents have tried to sell their properties but there are very few prospective buyers.

The amount of junk food eaten has soared since the turn of the century. The **consequent** rise in levels of obesity and instances of diabetes means that governments are having to invest significantly more in healthcare.

Television channels in my country recently screened a movie containing both violence and offensive language. The **resulting** public outcry suggests that, as a society, we are troubled by excessive violence on our screens.

Describing results

The quality of the average person's diet has certainly fallen over recent years, **so** the authorities are trying to encourage parents to provide their children with more nutritious meals.

Disposable incomes have increased, **hence** the sharp rise in the number of families taking holidays in exotic foreign destinations.

Funding for science projects has been cut. **Therefore**, there is little chance that expensive projects will be contemplated any time soon.

Animal rights have come to be seen as an important issue for many. **Thus**, few circuses remain open and zoos report fewer visitors.

There is no doubt that people are living longer these days; partly **for that reason**, government funding of the healthcare system has had to increase significantly.

The number of factories located around cities is extremely high, which **means that** air quality for city-dwellers is poor.

Poverty is a serious issue believed by many **to lead to** higher levels of crime and disorder.

Describing reasons

Because of the increased number of wars and civil conflicts, there has been a huge rise in the number of refugees seeking safety.

Significant numbers of people from rural areas have re-located to cities **because** work in the countryside is so scarce.

Most job-seekers these days use the internet to help them find work **since** this is by far the most effective and efficient way of getting a job.

A great number of workers report feeling dissatisfied, **on account of the fact that** salaries are low and working conditions poor.

As so many politicians have been accused of corruption over recent years, confidence in their ability to govern has eroded.

It is believed that, **owing to** unpredictable weather patterns, growing crops in many regions is becoming trickier.

Describing reasons

Due to the process of globalisation, there appears to be significant downward pressure on wages and an increase in unemployment in many sectors.

The reason (why) so many people migrate **is that** economic conditions in their own countries are so poor.

There are **so many** obstacles to building a fair society **that** most political leaders prefer not to try.

There is **so much** rubbish on the streets **that** tourists are put off.

Public transport tends to be **so** unreliable **that** many commuters prefer to travel by car.

The cost of taking a foreign holiday has risen **so** many families decide to stay at home.

Describing purpose

Parents sometimes pay huge amounts of money to send their children to private schools, **so as to** give them the best chance of doing well in life.

Some people go swimming regularly **so as not to** get unhealthy.

It is not uncommon for students to cheat in exams **in order to** get as high a grade as possible.

We all need to drive carefully **in order not to** cause serious accidents.

Many businesses spend an excessive amount of money on the furniture and décor within their headquarters, **with the aim/purpose/intention of** impressing potential clients.

Large companies often make donations to charities **so that** members of the public associate the company or its brand with the ideas of generosity and caring.

Many adults who are in full-time employment enrol onto online courses **to** improve their promotion prospects.

Describing contrasts

The price of meat and other foodstuffs has risen. **However**, the amount of meat bought by consumers has remained relatively constant.

Living standards have fallen significantly over the past couple of decades. **Nevertheless**, the numbers of migrants wanting to relocate to this region have continued to soar.

In Saudi Arabia, house prices have risen sharply. **In contrast**, in Denmark they have fallen by a huge amount.

Most motorists believe that the speed limit is too low. **In sharp contrast**, the average pedestrian thinks it is much too high.

Most young adults have huge hopes and ambitions for the future. **In comparison / Contrastingly**, those approaching middle-age often feel a sense of frustration and pointlessness.

Describing contrasts

There are huge/radical/massive/monumental differences between what people say and what they do.

The dangers associated with being a fisher are huge. In comparison, being a firefighter is actually quite a safe job.

For many years, experts were concerned about the effects of online gaming. Some contrary evidence has now emerged, suggesting that these activities might actually have some social and intellectual benefits.

While some think that vaping is safe, many experts hold the opposite view.

As a business, you know that your customers can be your best ambassadors or, conversely, your worst.

Many people thought the business would prosper. Instead it went bankrupt within a year.

On one hand, city life is full of excitement. On the other (hand), it can be enormously stressful.

Describing concession

Despite the significant changes in weather patterns, many so-called experts still deny the possibility of climate change. They believe that alterations in weather patterns are the result of natural phenomena.

Despite the fact that most experts believe money to be a great source of motivation, some studies have indicated that, in certain circumstances, employees actually work less when they are offered higher salaries.

In spite of major obstacles and difficulties such as a lack of resources and discrimination, some students from poorer socio-economic backgrounds manage to get outstanding exam results which entitle them to attend the most prestigious universities.

In spite of the fact that happiness is hard to define, most people have quite a clear idea about whether they are happy or not.

The cost **notwithstanding**, millions visit exotic locations on holiday each year.

Describing concession

Although speeding fines have been introduced, the number of road-traffic accidents has not gone down appreciably. The authorities find this quite perplexing.

Even though living standards have clearly risen over recent times, many people still feel quite dissatisfied with their levels of income and savings.

Whilst/While there is no evidence that children who do well academically are actually happier than those who do not, parents often invest huge amounts of money to ensure that their sons and daughters succeed in school exams.

Describing a similarity

Riding a motorbike is one of the most dangerous activities which humans regularly undertake. **Similarly**, going onto the roads on a bicycle can be fatal: statistics suggest that a large proportion of all cyclists have had serious accidents or collisions.

In West Africa, the population has soared as the death rate falls but the number of births remains high. **Likewise**, in the north of the continent, individuals are living longer and the birth rate continues to be high. The consequent population surge troubles those planning for the region's future.

Describing a similarity

Many elderly people take up a hobby, such as painting, which allows them to be creative. **In the same way**, younger adults enjoy dedicating their free time to crafts or music-making.

Governments need to take responsibility for the welfare of their citizens. **Equally**, they have to ensure that their country's borders are protected.

Teachers have a responsibility to ensure that their students pass exams at the end of the course. However, **just as importantly**, they need to inspire and stimulate the young people they teach.

Public parks and gardens play a part in providing a peaceful and calm atmosphere for locals. **Equally important** is their role of attracting visitors and tourists.

Giving examples

Government economic policy could make a real difference to those living below the poverty line. This could, in turn, increase general prosperity. **For example**, if the amount of taxation paid by those on lower incomes was reduced further, they would have the ability and opportunity to spend more, which would provide an overall boost to the economy.

Disabled people often feel discriminated against. **For instance**, they may find it harder to get a job. In some cases, employers are reluctant to recruit wheelchair-users, blind or deaf people, or those with a mental or emotional difficulty.

It is thought by many that allowing citizens to carry guns makes society more dangerous. **A case in point** is The USA, where murder rates are astonishingly high.

Giving examples

Many scientists, **such as** biologists and chemists, worry about how little the general public seems to know about their subject.

Undergraduates, **including** those who attend some of the most prestigious universities, seem to have very little knowledge of subjects beyond their own.

Some sports, **like** motor-racing and boxing, are so dangerous that they should probably be banned.

In countries where citizens have the right to carry arms, the number of fatal shootings is obviously high. **An illustration of this is** the United States where an extremely high number of people die each year as a result of gunshot wounds.

Giving examples

The recent financial crisis **(perfectly) illustrates the point that** the global economy is unstable.

This cool and cloudy morning **(perfectly) exemplifies** the weather here.

The company really cares about its customers. **This is amply/clearly demonstrated by** its superb after-sales service.

The authorities are not especially concerned with the health of prisoners, **as can be seen by/as is shown by** the poor-quality food they are served.

Governments need to spend more in areas which can boost the economy, **namely** infrastructure projects and business investment.

The company has managed to expand its operations, **notably/chiefly/mainly** in Europe and North America.

Introducing a new topic

As regards the economy, most governments have limited aims, merely hoping to keep unemployment and inflation as low as possible.

With regard/regards to nutrition, most of us are extremely poorly informed and need educating about what we should and should not eat.

Life expectancy in most cities is lower than in affluent areas of the countryside. **Turning to** quality of life, most studies also suggest that those in rural areas are in a better situation.

When adults are surveyed about their lives, they often claim to be relatively happy. **Concerning** the future, the majority of them have more hopes than fears and worries.

As far as the future is concerned, most of us prefer to be optimistic.

Introducing a new focus

Economically/Financially, the government's decision to make a thousand teachers, doctors and nurses redundant makes perfect sense. However, this decision is devastating for each person concerned and for their families.

Politically, it makes sense for candidates in elections to give speeches criticising immigrants and asylum-seekers. It wins votes.

Ethically/Morally, I believe it is totally wrong to carry out experiments on animals. They have rights to be treated with respect and decency.

Environmentally, the prospects for our planet look bleak. Unless we radically alter our wasteful lives, we face an ecological disaster.

Psychologically, emigrating is traumatic. Loneliness and culture shock debilitate anyone moving to a new region, causing stress.

From the perspective of schoolchildren, homework is pointless.

From a teacher's viewpoint, asking children to complete extra study tasks at home probably makes perfect sense.

Giving emphasis

Many are of the opinion that capital punishment is wrong. **The most compelling evidence is probably that** rates of serious crimes such as murder do not appear to be lower in countries with the death penalty than in those without it.

Being overweight clearly affects individuals in a number of ways. **A point often overlooked is that** obesity can sometimes be a response to the difficulties people have faced. There is a proven link between suffering from mental and emotional illnesses and putting on weight.

Homelessness affects a significant proportion of the population, even in affluent countries. **A point worth emphasising/mentioning/repeating/reiterating is that** homelessness can happen to almost anybody.

Debt is a terrible issue which can cause immense suffering to those who do not have enough money to pay what they owe. **Another key point to emphasise/mention/note is that** debt is responsible for a great deal of family and social breakdown.

Describing your level of analysis

Bullying and truancy can be problems in some schools, **especially** in those where staff are poorly-qualified or inexperienced.

Specifically for those who struggle with academic subjects, studying the performing arts can lead to real progress and development.

Students need to understand many aspects of nutrition and food science. **In particular**, they need to be aware of the strategies which can be used to avoid a poor diet.

In general, people have an ambivalent attitude towards advertising. They find individual adverts quite entertaining but, at the same time, recognise them as manipulative and exploitative.

Generally speaking, those living in Third World countries oppose foreign aid. They would usually prefer wealthier governments to invest in their countries, giving them the tools to grow instead of giving them charity.

In general terms, the number of immigrants has shot up recently, although some categories - such as those seeking refugee status - have not changed much.

Commenting on what you write

It seems entirely clear that we owe a huge debt of gratitude to previous generations. **Significantly/Importantly/Crucially**, discoveries made in the nineteenth century such as the light-bulb and telephone paved the way for our modern world.

Astoundingly/Astonishingly, despite long-running awareness-raising campaigns and stories in the media almost every day, quite a large proportion of the population claims not to know anything about global warming or climate change.

Bizarrely/Remarkably, the police have been offering free ice-cream to anyone who can give them information which leads to the arrest of a criminal. This weird strategy has so far proved quite ineffective.

Obviously/Evidently/Clearly, if teachers punish their pupils for being disruptive in class, the children will learn to hate school and will probably continue behaving badly just to annoy the teachers.

Undoubtedly/Without a shadow of a doubt, the computer has had more impact on the modern world than any other innovation, development or invention.

Summarising

In conclusion, it is clear that reducing the level of obesity would have only a positive effect. There would be no negative consequences whatsoever.

In summary, it seems abundantly clear that allowing young children to watch television programmes which contain violence is wrong. They should be protected from this kind of offensive material until they are adults. It could have a hugely detrimental effect on their emotional and cognitive development if they are subjected to on-screen violence.

To sum up, it is evident that unless we tackle issues surrounding climate change as a matter of urgency, we will face dire consequences.

To conclude, I strongly oppose the use of capital punishment in all circumstances. As far as I am concerned, it is ineffective and dehumanising.

Summarising

In the final analysis, it seems fair to say that private education should be permitted; anyone wishing to pay for their child's learning should be entitled to.

All things considered, I would argue that all zoos, circuses and aquatic parks should be closed immediately unless they can clearly demonstrate a commitment to animal welfare.

Having weighed up all the arguments, I am convinced that men and women should receive equal pay under all circumstances.

After having considered this matter in detail, I have reached the conclusion that sending young offenders to prison is entirely inappropriate.

On balance, I believe that democracy is probably the best political system available.

On the whole, I disapprove of television broadcasters screening violent images on their news bulletins.

Typical mistakes: overuse

This is weak: There are several reasons why obesity is on the rise. **Firstly**, many individuals have a sedentary lifestyle. **In addition**, the quantity of junk food consumed is astronomical. **Furthermore**, only a small proportion of people regularly exercise. **Finally**, it seems that there is far less social pressure on adults to maintain a healthy body weight. **For instance**, in North America it is considered acceptable these days to be overweight. **However**, there are still parts of the world where being fat is seen as negative.

This is stronger: There are several reasons why obesity is on the rise. Many individuals have a sedentary lifestyle and the quantity of junk food consumed is astronomical. **Furthermore**, only a small proportion of people regularly exercise and it seems that there is far less social pressure on adults to maintain a healthy body weight. In North America it is considered acceptable these days to be overweight. **However**, there are still parts of the world where being fat is seen as negative.

Typical mistakes: formality

This is weak: One of the effects of climate change has been a vast reduction in rainfall. **But** locals have managed to introduce modern irrigation techniques to tackle this problem. **And** grants from international organisations have allowed them to dig deeper wells and access more water.

This is stronger: One of the effects of climate change has been a vast reduction in rainfall. **However,** locals have managed to introduce modern irrigation techniques to tackle this problem. **Additionally,** grants from international organisations have allowed them to dig deeper wells and access more water.

Typical
mistakes:
because

This is incorrect: Because the government has increased taxes on alcohol.

This is incorrect: Because the government has increased taxes on alcohol, the problem of drunkenness was becoming more serious.

This is incorrect: Because inflation, families are struggling to put food on the table.

This is better: The government has increased taxes on alcohol because the problem of drunkenness was becoming more serious.

This is better: Because the problem of drunkenness was becoming more serious, the government has increased taxes on alcohol.

This is better: Because of inflation, families are struggling to put food on the table.

Typical mistakes: punctuation

This is incorrect: There are several reasons why cyber-terrorism should worry us. **Firstly** it can lead to our personal information being stolen. **Secondly** it might lead to serious problems with infrastructure. **Finally** it can force governments to introduce laws which restrict individual freedoms.

This is better: There are several reasons why cyber-terrorism should worry us. **Firstly,** it can lead to our personal information being stolen. **Secondly,** it might lead to serious problems with infrastructure. **Finally,** it can force governments to introduce laws which restrict individual freedoms.

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Thanks for watching!



Iain

Rebecca

FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {IELTS}