

Master IELTS Writing Task 2

IELTS Writing Task 2 Functions



FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS

Prepare for {**IELTS**}

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Expressing wishes and regrets

I **hope** governments (**will**) eventually see sense.

It is my **heartfelt/fervent/vehement hope that** sense prevails.

I **wish** that **adults who complain about children would stop** criticising and **begin** to understand the challenges youngsters face.

It is my **fervent wish** that **those in power would focus** on alleviating poverty and inequality. (**expressing annoyance, frustration etc.**)

I **wish the world was/were** a more peaceful place, where we could all live together in harmony. (**wish to change the current situation**)

I **wish the government had taken** steps to ban smoking as soon as it became clear how dangerous cigarettes were.

Farmers often **regret migrating / regret having migrated** to the city.

If the government **had invested** more in infrastructure, unemployment levels today **could/might/would be** far lower.

If the government **had invested** more in infrastructure in the past, the economy **could/might/would have developed** more quickly over the past few decades.

Expressing worries and fears

The current situation is **extremely worrying**.

Experts are **genuinely concerned that** air pollution in cities could one day become intolerable.

Instead of burying our heads in the sand, we should be **extremely fearful** about the future of our planet.

Steps need to be taken immediately so that we can avert **the looming crisis**.

Unless action is taken in the nearest future, we will **suffer/face dire consequences**.

If we continue our addiction to social media, it is likely **to have a catastrophic effect** on humanity.

This would have **terrible repercussions/ramifications** for us all

Unless chemical and biological weapons are controlled, we could face **the doomsday/nightmare scenario** of our species being totally eradicated.

Expressing predictions

It is estimated/predicted that by the middle of the century, there will be more than nine billion inhabitants on the planet.

Researchers **anticipate/expect that** global temperatures will rise sharply by the end of the century.

There is a realistic expectation that crop yields will fall as the climate worsens.

Scientists **predict that** artificial intelligence will start to have a massive impact on everyday life in the coming years.

It is extremely likely that the way we educate children will undergo radical changes in the next few decades.

There is a real/genuine likelihood that life expectancy will begin to fall in the next few decades.

There is the distinct possibility that around three quarters of us will live in urban areas by the turn of the decade.

It is not beyond the realms of possibility that we will discover alien life-forms in the next few decades.

Positive comments and praise

There are several benefits associated with allowing parents to take extended maternity or paternity leave.

Making schoolchildren wear a uniform is extremely beneficial.

Providing every citizen with a free bicycle would/could have significantly positive outcomes/results/consequences/effects.

It is worth pointing out that there are convincing arguments in support of banning smoking.

There are excellent reasons why making military service compulsory would be a good thing to do.

Making school-leavers do voluntary work for a year would be an extremely positive step/would be a step in the right direction/would be a step forward.

Offering free fruit and vegetables to poorer families would have benefits almost too numerous to mention.

If governments brought in laws to make societies fairer, this would attract a great deal of praise from experts.

Criticising and refuting ideas

This suggestion is **entirely ridiculous**.

The idea has been put forward that everyone - no matter how rich or poor - should pay for their own healthcare. **This is a preposterous suggestion.**

Advocates of longer prison sentences for offenders claim that this policy has the effect of making would-be criminals think twice about committing a crime. **This claim is quite simply preposterous.**

There is/are a whole range of reasons why completely banning the use of smartphones would be **disastrous/catastrophic/detrimental**.

It is often said that those in their twenties and thirties always make better employees than older colleagues, because of their drive, determination and openness to new ideas. **Anyone who believes this clearly has a limited grasp of the matter/situation.**

Some experts in pedagogy advocate expelling students who are caught taking drugs on school premises. **This would be an extremely short-sighted approach./This is an utterly nonsensical idea.**

Criticising and refuting ideas

It should be clearly pointed out that making all schoolchildren wear a uniform can have **considerable drawbacks**.

Obliging citizens to pay every time they wanted to see a doctor **could have negative outcomes/repercussions/consequences/ramifications**.

Several strong and convincing/persuasive arguments against immigration controls **have been put forward**.

It has been argued that the rich should pay much higher taxes than they currently do. **I am convinced that implementing this proposal would be counterproductive/pointless**.

Some local councils would like the power to arrest and imprison graffiti-artists. **Putting this proposal into practice would be a retrograde/backward step**.

In order to save money, ministers have been considering closing libraries and museums. **As far as I am concerned, this would be a disastrous step/policy/strategy/approach**.

Criticising and refuting ideas

I find the argument that nuclear weapons actually make us safer to be **entirely unconvincing**.

Proponents of dividing schoolchildren into classes which reflect their ability claim that this strategy motivates youngsters. **In fact, quite the opposite is true.**

There is little or no evidence to support the view/assertion/claim that allowing everyone to carry a gun makes society safer.

Some business leaders have suggested that companies with a high proportion of female directors and senior staff are less likely to make a profit. **In actual fact, all evidence points in the opposite direction.**

It is said by some that children who are allowed to play for long periods do not develop the necessary academic skills to succeed. **All the evidence supports the opposing viewpoint.**

Some believe that university-educated people are superior to everybody else. **I fundamentally disagree with this notion.**

Referring to advantages and disadvantages

It is important to assess both **the pluses and minuses** of providing free food to the most deprived members of society

I would like to discuss **the pros and cons** associated with fixed-term marriages.

Obviously, the issue of giving all workers an equal salary can be discussed from both **a positive and a negative perspective/angle/viewpoint**.

The positives and negatives are finely balanced in this case.

To some extent, **the advantages** of providing free medical services for all **outweigh the disadvantages**.

The benefits of bringing children up as **bilingual far/considerably outweigh the drawbacks**.

Living in a city certainly has **upsides**, but the **downsides** should also be considered.

The **merits** of this approach should not be ignored, but it must be admitted that there are **problems/issues** with it too.

Referring backward and forward in a text

As mentioned/noted/explained/argued/stated in the previous paragraph, divorce is undoubtedly on the increase.

As previously mentioned/noted/explained/argued/stated, the most common cause of conflict relates to natural resources.

As mentioned/noted/explained/argued/stated above, unless we radically alter how we live, the planet is likely to change irrevocably.

The **aforementioned/abovementioned** points can be challenged.

In the paragraphs which follow, I intend to argue that banning the use of smartphones in public places would be counterproductive.

In the paragraphs below, I intend to fully analyse the arguments surrounding this debate.

In the remainder of this essay I hope to explain why we so fiercely guard our right to say what we want and how technological advances fundamentally threaten this right.

The rest of this essay will examine the reasons why success is so difficult to define and so important to achieve.

Describing certainty

There seems absolutely no doubt that employees who are respected and well-paid are more likely to be well-motivated and committed.

It is an indubitable fact that investing in infrastructure is good for an economy.

It is certainly the case that marriage is as popular as ever. Even though divorce rates are on the rise, the number of couples embarking on married life together is extremely high.

Without a shadow of a doubt, unless we urgently alter the way we live, future generations will be faced with environmental disaster.

It is impossible to deny the importance of a child's first few years; young children who receive the right level of care are far more likely to be successful in adult life.

Undoubtedly, those living in urban areas have greater social and economic opportunities than those living in the countryside.

The wealth gap is **indubitably** getting wider.

Describing possibility

The likelihood that climate change will have an increasingly significant impact on humanity **is extremely/relatively high**.

It is incredibly likely that cities will continue to grow in size.

There is an extremely strong possibility that how we communicate will change beyond recognition within the next few decades.

According to some astronomers **it is distinctly possible that** the radio signals we have been emitting for the past few decades have already been picked up by alien species in distant galaxies.

There is very little probability/possibility that politicians will start telling the truth. Unfortunately, those who make unrealistic promises tend to win elections and those who explain the reality of the situation are often disliked by the electorate.

It is highly unlikely that our species will be wiped out.

It is almost inconceivable/impossible that the world could ever be fair and equal. Inequality and injustice seem to be part of the human condition.

Describing necessity

It is absolutely imperative that governments take steps to alleviate poverty.

It is essential/vital/crucial that those in power take the issue of poverty seriously.

It is necessary for governments to act immediately.

The authorities simply **must** address the issues of poverty and inequality without delay.

Steps must be taken in the nearest future to improve the quality of life for older people.

Something has/needs to be done about the terrible injustices in our modern world

It is the duty of political leaders to tackle the problem of social inequality.

I believe that **our leaders have a clear (moral) obligation** to ensure that nobody remains below the poverty line.

Giving your opinion

I am utterly convinced that nuclear weapons represent a danger.

I am entirely of the opinion that hitting children is wrong.

It is my fervently-held belief/view that we must confront the environmental issues which face us.

It is my strongly-held belief/view that abortion is immoral.

I fervently believe that freedom of speech should be defended at all times and in all societies.

I wholeheartedly believe that those found guilty of fraud should be imprisoned; fraud is not, as some claim, a victimless crime.

I fully support the rights of parents to choose a child's education.

As far as I am concerned, the sooner technology is brought into the classroom the better.

From my perspective/viewpoint, it would be tremendous if the authorities took the decision to close all fast-food outlets.

I am implacably/thoroughly/vehemently opposed to all forms of exploitation of animals. I find this practice absolutely abhorrent.

Qualifying your opinion

When considering whether junk food should be banned, we **need to take into account/consideration** the fact that individuals should have the freedom to make their own choices whenever possible.

When considering the proposal to ban cars from city-centres, we **ought not to lose sight of** the fact that pollutants from motor vehicles actually shorten the lives of those living near busy roads.

I agree **to a certain extent/to some degree** with the notion that drivers should pay for improvements to the roads.

In some/certain circumstances, working from home can benefit both the employer and the employee.

There are cases where forcing a young person to do military service helps them to thrive. However, this is **by no means always the case**.

Although most students should have to study music, **perhaps an exception could be made** for those with no musical talent.

There are certainly situations/instances in which criminals should not be given custodial sentences by the courts.

Reporting the views of others

It is commonly believed that teachers and nurses deserve greater financial reward.

It is often thought that if science was taught better at school, there would be a long-term economic benefit.

It is a widely-held view that criminals should be dealt with harshly by the legal system

It is considered by many that banning smoking in all public places would be beneficial to health.

It is often argued that children have a limited ability to pay attention because they spend so much time on smartphones.

Experts in the field generally agree that unless urgent steps are taken, all the summer sea-ice in The Arctic will soon disappear.

Those who understand this issue are often convinced that the future is extremely bleak.

Reporting the views of others

It has often been stated/claimed by those with expertise in this field that warfare between nations is inevitable.

There is a consensus amongst experts and commentators that rampant inflation is the most crippling economic condition which a country can face.

A significant proportion of the population is convinced that more money should be given to organisations which look after under-privileged children.

On the whole, members of the public tend to believe that people who are obese should not receive medical treatment until they have managed to lose some weight.

It is sometimes claimed that humans are entirely self-interested.

Scientists/Economists maintain that there is room for optimism.

Teachers fiercely defend the notion that all children have the capacity to succeed.

Introducing a new point

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 clearly stated that politicians actually have a great deal of power and influence.

It has to 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.

The point that obesity is as much a psychological issue as a physical one also needs emphasising.

Introducing a new point

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.

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.

It is worth pointing out that participating in sport also leads to outstanding social benefits.

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

An often overlooked point is that sport is tremendously enjoyable.

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.

It has to be acknowledged/admitted/accepted that making sport compulsory has its limitations.

Giving suggestions

The most obvious solution would be to increase government spending

Probably the most effective strategy/approach/policy would involve awareness-raising campaigns

One approach likely to meet with success would be to cap the amount of electricity which individuals are allowed to use in a single day.

One option worth considering would be congestion charges: cars wanting to enter the city-centre at peak times could be taxed.

Educators could consider bringing back corporal punishment.

One way in which this issue could be tackled involves education: if young children were made aware of the dangers of junk-food, they may pass this on to overweight family members.

An appropriate way of dealing with this issue would be through education sessions for youngsters and adults alike.

Giving suggestions

The authorities should ban smoking in all public places.

Motorists ought to pay every time they take their vehicles onto the roads.

I strongly believe it would be beneficial to re-introduce capital punishment.

If individuals wanted to make the world a better place, they could start by increasing the amount of money they donate to charities.

If I were leader of my country, I would undoubtedly consider bringing in laws to make it illegal to sell alcohol or cigarettes.

I feel it would make a great deal of sense to restrict the amount of junk-food which any individual can buy.

It would be a tremendously good idea to introduce legislation preventing farmers from chopping down any more trees.

Under no circumstances should the government prevent refugees from entering the country. This would have negative economic consequences.

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Thanks for watching!



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