# Master IELTS Writing Task 2

## Model answer - AGE
### Opinion

Rebecca

Iain

**FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS**

Prepare for {IELTS}

These days, a higher percentage of the population is elderly. Is it a good or a bad thing to have so many old people in society?

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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The adjective **demographic** is used to refer to populations and the groups which they include

**These days, a higher percentage of the population is elderly. Is it a good or a bad thing to have so many old people in society?**

## INTRODUCTION

**Major demographic changes have taken place in recent decades. Nowadays, economically-developed nations in particular have a high proportion of pensioners. This situation may lead to significant economic costs, but the potential social benefits probably outweigh these.**

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We often use the **present perfect** with an unfinished past time

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This is a formal way of describing richer countries

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If we have to use the same word twice, it is good to change the form

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## INTRODUCTION

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We can use **this** with a noun to refer back to an earlier idea, making the text more cohesive

These days, a higher percentage of the population is elderly. Is it a good or a bad thing to have so many old people in society?

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to **outweigh** = to be greater or more important than something else

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## INTRODUCTION

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We can use **these** with or without a noun to refer back to an earlier idea/noun, making the text more cohesive

These days, a higher percentage of the population is elderly. Is it a good or a bad thing to have so many old people in society?

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**Starting a sentence with a verbal noun (-ing form) makes writing more formal**

These days, a higher percentage of the population is elderly. Is it a good or a bad thing to have so many old people in society?

**MAIN PARAGRAPH 1**

**Having large numbers of people in their seventies, eighties and even nineties is clearly expensive.** These individuals tend to have stopped working and rely on the state pension and other financial benefits. Through no fault of their own, they frequently require costly medical treatment, which taxpayers have to fund. Senior citizens also depend on the support of younger family members, many of whom become less productive because they have to devote so much time to caring for a vulnerable parent or grandparent.

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The **state pension** is money which the government gives to people who are too old to work

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We can use this phrase to show that people did not cause the difficult/bad situation they have

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We can use **relative pronouns/clauses** to refer back to an earlier noun and make writing more cohesive

These days, a higher percentage of the population is elderly. Is it a good or a bad thing to have so many old people in society?

## MAIN PARAGRAPH 1

Having large numbers of people in their seventies, eighties and even nineties is clearly expensive. These individuals tend to have stopped working and rely on the state pension and other financial benefits. Through no fault of their own, they frequently require costly medical treatment, **which** taxpayers have to fund. Senior citizens also depend on the support of younger family members, many of whom become less productive because they have to devote so much time to caring for a vulnerable parent or grandparent.

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If you **fund** an event, activity or organisation, you provide the money needed to pay for it

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to **depend on** = to rely on; not to be able to manage without

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**Always try to avoid repetition by using synonyms**

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We can use **relative pronouns/clauses** to refer back to an earlier noun. We use **whom** instead of **who** after a preposition

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to **devote** = to give your time, love or effort to something you believe in

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Having large numbers of people in their seventies, eighties and even nineties is clearly expensive. These individuals tend to have stopped working and rely on the state pension and other financial benefits. Through no fault of their own, they frequently require costly medical treatment, which taxpayers have to fund. Senior citizens also depend on the support of younger family members, many of whom become less productive because they have to **devote** so much **time** to caring for a vulnerable parent or grandparent.

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A **perspective** is a particular way of considering something, or a position from which we view something

These days, a higher percentage of the population is elderly. Is it a good or a bad thing to have so many old people in society?

**MAIN PARAGRAPH 2**

However, from a social perspective, those in their later years have immense value. They can play a vital role in raising grandchildren. Pensioners often have time to spare, and looking after their children's children gives them a sense of purpose. Similarly, the fact that they have so much life experience means that they can support and educate other youngsters in the wider community, especially those who are struggling or in trouble. Finally, it should not be forgotten that a society containing wise, caring and tolerant elderly members tends to be more harmonious and to have less conflict. The old have a positive effect on the behaviour of those around them.

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immense = huge; massive very big

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Prepare for {IELTS}

If you have **time to spare**, you have extra time when you are free and have nothing else to do

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We can use **similarly** and **likewise** at the beginning of a sentence to link two ideas which are the same in some way

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We can use **those** with a relative clause to refer to particular groups of people

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Prepare for {IELTS}

We can also use **those** with a prepositional phrase to refer to particular groups of people

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This phrase lets us introduce an idea/point which some people might not consider

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**harmonious** = being friendly and peaceful, without anger or conflict

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Prepare for {IELTS}

We can use **the** (in red) with nouns based on adjectives, to refer to particular groups of people

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Prepare for {IELTS}

**Starting a sentence with a verbal noun (-ing form) makes writing more formal**

These days, a higher percentage of the population is elderly. Is it a good or a bad thing to have so many old people in society?

CONCLUSION

Clearly, having a society containing large numbers of older people places a financial burden on its healthier and more productive members. Nevertheless, those who have retired bring advantages to a culture. These benefits might be less tangible, but they are arguably more significant. It is my heartfelt wish that more of us will start to appreciate that the elderly greatly enrich our world.

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A **burden** is something difficult or unpleasant which you have to deal with or worry about

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## CONCLUSION

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We can use **these** with a noun to refer back to an earlier plural noun

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If something is described as **tangible**, it is real and can be touched, seen or experienced. It is not imaginary

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A **heartfelt wish** is a very strong desire for something to happen

These days, a higher percentage of the population is elderly. Is it a good or a bad thing to have so many old people in society?
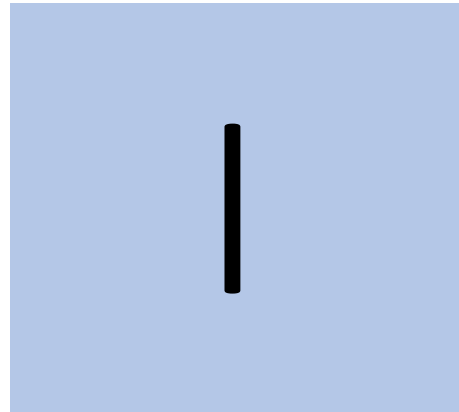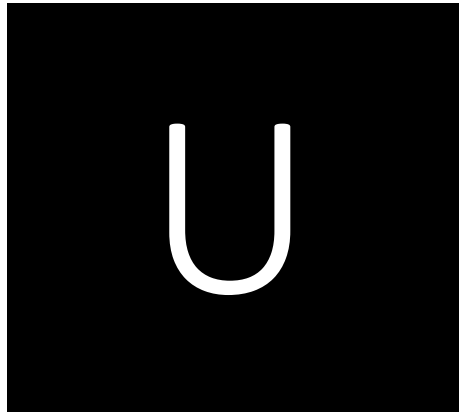
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Prepare for {IELTS}

to **enrich** = to improve the quality of something by adding something else to it

These days, a higher percentage of the population is elderly. Is it a good or a bad thing to have so many old people in society?
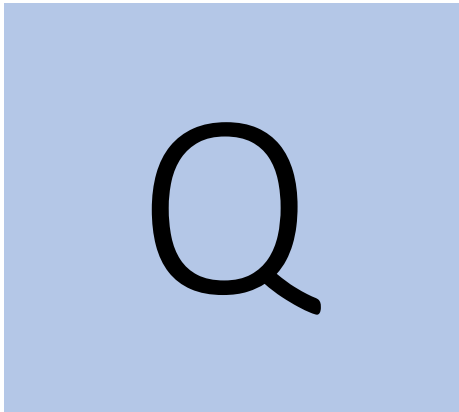
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Q U I Z

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It is fair to say that the advantages probably _____ the disadvantages.

A outdo

B overcome

C outweigh

D overstate

Prepare for {IELTS}

It is fair to say that the advantages probably _____ the disadvantages.

**A** outdo

**B** overcome

**C** outweigh

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Prepare for {IELTS}

Having a society containing large numbers of older people places a financial _____ on its healthier and more productive members.

**A** bundle

**B** burden

**C** heaviness

**D** weigh

Prepare for {IELTS}

# MULTIPLE CHOICE

Having a society containing large numbers of older people places a financial _____ on its healthier and more productive members.

**A** bundle

**B** burden

**C** heaviness

**D** weigh

Prepare for {IELTS}

It is my _____ wish that more of us will start to appreciate that the elderly greatly enrich our world.

**A** heartfelt

**B** extreme

**C** hearty

**D** extraordinary

Prepare for {IELTS}

It is my _____ wish that more of us will start to appreciate that the elderly greatly enrich our world.

**A** **heartfelt**

**B** extreme

**C** hearty

**D** extraordinary

Prepare for {IELTS}

Older people can help family members. _____, they can support those in the wider community.

**A** Likely

**B** Similar

**C** Likewise

**D** In a likewise way

Prepare for {IELTS}

Older people can help family members. _____, they can support those in the wider community.

A   Likely

B   Similar

C   Likewise

D   In a likewise way

Prepare for {IELTS}

The government should ____ research into how older people can best contribute to society.

A  fun

B  fine

C  fund

D  fee

Prepare for {IELTS}

The government should ____ research into how older people can best contribute to society.

**A** fun

**B** fine

**C** fund

**D** fee

Prepare for {IELTS}

I had a bit of time to _____ at the weekend, so I baked a cake. It's rare for me to have a few extra hours.

**A** save

**B** spend

**C** lose

**D** spare

Prepare for {IELTS}

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Prepare for {IELTS}

# Master IELTS Writing Task 2

## Thanks for watching!

Rebecca

Iain

**FORMER IELTS EXAMINERS**

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