

IELTS Sample Essays (IELTS Writing Task 2)

IELTS Writing Sample #1

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Is freedom of speech necessary in a free society?

Give reasons for your answer.

Write at least 250 words.

Writing Tip

Decide whether you agree/disagree completely with the statement, partly agree/disagree with it, or have no definite opinion.

Choose one of these approaches:

State your position in the introduction and then justify it with agreements. This may be more suitable if you feel strongly about the statement.

Present the arguments first and then say what you think in the conclusion. This may be better if you have no strong opinion but can put forward arguments on both sides.

Model answer

In the last decade, there has been considerable debate over the role of free speech in a free society. Some object to absolute freedom of speech. Others advocate free speech, arguing that the freedom of speech is the single most important political right of citizens in a civilized society. Whilst I believe that there are strong arguments on both sides, I would suggest that freedom of speech should be protected in all but extreme circumstances.

The freedom of speech is important at all levels in a society. Yet it is most important for the governments. A government which does not know what the people feel and think is in a dangerous position. This is how the communist regimes of Eastern Europe were toppled in the 1980s. The same is happening again in other regions of the world today.

The governments that muzzle free speech run a risk of pushing their people to behave destructively or to rebel.

Furthermore, without free speech no political action is possible and no resistance to injustice and oppression is possible. Without free speech elections would have no meaning at all. Policies of contestants become known to the public and become responsive to public opinion only by virtue of free speech. Between elections the freely expressed opinions of citizens help restrain oppressive rule. Without this freedom it is futile to expect political freedom or consequently economic freedom.

In conclusion, I believe that the importance of free speech as a basic and valuable characteristic of a free society cannot be underestimated. It may be challenging for society to allow differences of opinion out into the open; however, the consequences of restricting free speech are likely to be more damaging in the longer term.

(285 words)

IELTS Writing Sample #2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people think women should be allowed to join the army, the navy and the air force just like men.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer.

Write at least 250 words.

Test Tip

At the end of any type of essay in the IELTS exam, you need to write a short conclusion. The important thing to remember is that there are no right or wrong conclusions, and the examiner will not make any judgments about your opinions, so write freely and clearly

Model answer

Whether women should be allowed to serve in the military has triggered spirited debate. Some assert that women should be allowed to defend their country in the same capacity as their male peers. Personally, I agree with their assertion for two reasons.

History has shown that women are fully capable of performing well in the military. Historically, there were a host of valiant women soldiers whose achievements really put their male counterparts to shame. One need only look at the classic examples of Joan of Arc and Mulan to see how exceptionally women could perform on the battlefield. In my observation, their determination, courage and dignity, to this day, are still being admired by male soldiers and civilians alike throughout the world.

Moreover, from an enlightened standpoint, female patriots should be granted the right to go to the front line when their motherland is involved in a war. Admittedly, gender inequality was a highly controversial issue in the twentieth century. However, now twelve years into the new millennium, women can learn and teach, work and supervise, vote and voted in most countries just like men. In light of this sweeping progress in gender equality, there is no sense in denying them the right to defend their home

country when a war breaks out.

In sum, keeping military services out of bounds of women in the information age is unwarranted. I have been convinced that it is in the best interest of a nation if women are also granted equal rights in this particular arena.

(254 words)

IELTS Writing Sample #3

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Machine translation (MT) is slower and less accurate than human translation and there is no immediate or predictable likelihood of machines taking over this role from humans.

Do you agree or disagree?

Write at least 250 words.

Model answer

Read the following sample answer. Complete the answer by filling the gaps with a word or phrase from the box below.

on the contrary	for instance	especially	because
for these reasons	in order to	it is true	of course
similarly	however	it seems to me	for example

It is true that there have been great advances in technology over the last forty years. the use of mobile phones and e-mail communication are common these days., machines that translate from one language to another are still in their early stages.

..... that a machine could never do as good a job as a human, when it comes to interpreting what people are saying., machines can translate statements such as "Where is the bank?" but even simple statements are not always straightforward the meaning depends on more than just words. the word "bank" has a number of different meanings in English. How does a translating machine know which meaning to take?

..... understand what people are saying, you need to take into account the relationship between the speakers and their situation. A machine cannot tell the difference between the English expression "Look out!" meaning "Be careful!" and "Look out!" meaning "Put your head out of the window". You need a human being to interpret

the situation.

..... with written language, it is difficult for a machine to know how to translate accurately we rarely translate every word., we try to take into consideration how the idea would be expressed in the other language. This is hard to do every language has its own way of doing and saying things.

..... I feel that it is most unlikely that machines will take the place of humans in the field of translating and interpreting. If machines ever learn to think, perhaps then they will be in a position to take on this role.

IELTS Writing Sample #3 Answers

It is true that there have been great advances in technology over the last forty years. **For example / For instance** the use of mobile phones and e-mail communication are common these days. **However**, machines that translate from one language to another are still in their early stages.

It seems to me that a machine could never do as good a job as a human, **especially** when it comes to interpreting what people are saying. **Of course**, machines can translate statements such as “Where is the bank?” but even simple statements are not always straightforward **because** the meaning depends on more than just words. **For instance / For example** the word “bank” has a number of different meanings in English. How does a translating machine know which meaning to take?

In order to understand what people are saying, you need to take into account the relationship between the speakers and their situation. A machine cannot tell the difference between the English expression “Look out!” meaning “Be careful!” and “Look out!” meaning “Put your head out of the window”. You need a human being to interpret the situation.

Similarly with written language, it is difficult for a machine to know how to translate accurately **because** we rarely translate every word. **On the contrary**, we try to take into consideration how the idea would be expressed in the other language. This is hard to do **because** every language has its own way of doing and saying things.

For these reasons I feel that it is most unlikely that machines will take the place of humans in the field of translating and interpreting. If machines ever learn to think, perhaps then they will be in a position to take on this role.

IELTS Writing Sample #4

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many newspapers and magazines feature stories about the private lives of famous people. We know what they eat, where they buy their clothes and who they love. We also often see pictures of them in private situations.

Is it appropriate for a magazine or newspaper to give this kind of private information about people?

Give reasons for your answer.

Write at least 250 words.

Model answer

Generally, people read newspapers to find out about world current affairs and they read magazines to be entertained. Therefore, one would expect to find articles that feature the private lives of famous people in magazines rather than newspapers. However, nowadays, more and more newspapers include stories like these which are neither informative nor useful.

In my opinion, this type of gossip about people's private lives should not be in newspapers for several reasons. Firstly, for example, the fact that Princess Diana is going out with a sportsman is not important news. Secondly, if newspapers want to publish articles about famous people they should focus on their public events and achievements. In other words, if there is an article about Princess Diana it should be about her works of charity, which will increase public awareness of important problems. In addition, journalists should make sure that they write about the facts only, not rumours. One should be able to rely on newspapers for the actual truth.

Magazines, on the other hand, focus on social news. But I feel it is more acceptable for them to contain some features about famous personalities. In addition to being popular reading, these stories often benefit the stars by giving free publicity to them, thereby helping their careers. However, I also believe that magazine stories should not mention things that are too embarrassing or untrue just to attract people to buy the magazine. Sensational stories, such as these, cause great unhappiness to the people concerned.

In conclusion, I think newspapers should concentrate on real news but magazines can feature some articles on people's private lives.

(268 words)

IELTS Writing Sample #5

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people feel that certain workers like nurses, doctors and teachers are undervalued and should be paid more, especially when other people like film actors or company bosses are paid huge sums of money that are out of proportion to the importance of the work that they do.

-How far do you agree?

-What criteria should be used to decide how much people are paid?

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.

Write at least 250 words.

Model answer

Nobody can deny that there are certain professionals like nurses, doctors and teachers who are essential to the fabric of society, and who should therefore be rewarded accordingly. However, this is seldom the case. When we look at the salaries and fees commanded by certain film stars and actresses and people who run large companies, this does not seem fair.

First of all, not all film stars earn huge sums of money. In fact, at any one time in the UK, for example, roughly 80 per cent of actors are out of work and on top of that the number who are paid so-called 'telephone number fees' is even smaller. One must also remember that the career of many actors is very short and that therefore the money they earn has to be spread over many years. The same applies to company bosses.

Stating a set of criteria as to how much people should be paid is not easy. The idea of performance-related pay is very much in vogue at the moment. Rewarding people according to qualifications has long been used as a yardstick for paying people, but it is not a consistently good measure. Another is years of relevant experience, but there are many cases where a younger person can perform a task better than someone with lots of experience.

Whatever criteria are used to assess salaries, an on-going cycle will develop. This will create pressure in other areas. This considered, generally I feel that certain key professionals should have their salaries assessed by independent review bodies on an on-going basis so that they do not fall behind.

(269 words)

IELTS Writing Sample #6

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people consider computers to be more of a hindrance than a help. Others believe that they have greatly increased human potential.

How could computers be considered a hindrance?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model answer

Look at the words or phrases in capitals. Correct your version where necessary.

It is easy to understand why some people THINK computers are more of a hindrance than a help. THINGS LIKE GETTING MY MONEY BACK FROM BANK or changing a ticket ARE EASY WITHOUT USING COMPUTER, yet once one is involved, the process can become time-consuming, complex and prone to errors. IN ALL THE OFFICES I'VE SEEN, it can sometimes seem that for every hour saved by computers, at least set of problems caused by THE COMPUTERS BREAKING DOWN. THIS WASTES A LOT OF TIME.

ALSO, over-enthusiastic use of computers in the home has the potential to divert large amounts of free time away from THINGS LIKE socialising, taking exercise or having dinner with your family. Spending a lot of leisure time looking at a computer monitor screen HINDERS achieving other goals in life, LIKE being healthy and socially integrated.

However, it would be simplistic to SAY that computers ARE BAD. THEY HAVE CAUSED ENORMOUS IMPROVEMENTS in communications, medicine, design, education and LOTS OF OTHER THINGS. THESE DAYS, virtually EVERYTHING WE KNOW is as far away as the nearest internet point. Computers have brought about a profound change in the way most people in RICH COUNTRIES live. (Although it should not be forgotten that the majority of the inhabitants of this planet have never EVEN USED A COMPUTER ONCE.)

THERE ARE DEFINITELY MORE GOOD THINGS THAN BAD THINGS ABOUT COMPUTERS. The question is not DO computers help or hinder, but DO WE always use THEM in a sensible and responsible way?

IELTS Writing Sample #6 Answers

Model answer

Look at the words or phrases in capitals. Correct your version where necessary.

It is easy to understand why some people believe that computers are more of a hindrance than a help. Operations such as obtaining a refund or changing a ticket tend to be fairly straightforward without the aid of a computer, yet once one is involved, the process can become time-consuming, complex and prone to errors. In an office environment, it can sometimes seem that for every hour saved by computers, at least set of problems caused by a system malfunction.

Another consideration is that, over-enthusiastic use of computers in the home has the potential to divert large amounts of free time away from activities such as socialising, tasking exercise or having dinner with your family. Spending a lot of leisure time looking at a computer monitor screen could perhaps achieving other goals in life, such as being healthy and socially integrated.

However, it would be simplistic to assert that computers have a generally negative impact. There have been enormous advances in communications, medicine, design, education and numerous fields of human endeavour. Nowadays, virtually the entire sum of human knowledge is as far away as the nearest internet point. Computers have brought about a profound change in the way most people in the developed world live. (Although it should not be forgotten that the majority of the inhabitants of this planet have never so much as touched a computer keyboard.)

The benefits of computers undoubtedly outweigh the disadvantages. The question is not whether computers help or hinder, but whether people always use their huge potential in a sensible and responsible way?

IELTS Writing Sample #7

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Modern lifestyles mean that many parents have little time for their children. Many children suffer because they do not get as much attention from their parents as children did in the past.

Do you agree or disagree?

Write at least 250 words.

Writing Tip

In IELTS Writing Task 2, you might be asked to read a statement and state whether you agree or disagree with the opinion. Of course, you may only partly agree with it. You must explain your point of view and give reasons for it.

Model answer

Look at the words or phrases in capitals. Choose the word or phrase which sounds more formal. Rewrite the final paragraph in a more formal style.

People who SAY/ARGUE that nowadays parents give less attention to their children than in the past are FREQUENTLY/OFTEN looking back to a SHORT/BRIEF period of time in the twentieth century when MOTHERS/MUMS in middle-class families REMAINED/STAYED at home to look after their children. What these people are SUGGESTING/SAYING is that women nowadays should not go out to work.

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT/ACTUALLY in MOST/THE MAJORITY OF families in the past both parents worked MUCH LONGER HOURS/MORE than they do nowadays. What has changed is that now in most countries their children ATTEND/GO TO school rather than also working themselves. In that sense they may SEE LESS OF/HAVE LESS CONTACT WITH their parents.

Nowadays, as a result of ACQUIRING AN EDUCATION/GOING TO SCHOOL, children come into contact with teachers who NATURALLY/OF COURSE have to explain why some of their students are failing. What teachers come up with are LOTS OF/FREQUENT stories of parents who are SIMPLY/JUST too busy for their

CHILDREN/KIDS. And IF CHILDREN ARE NOT SUPERVISED BY THEIR PARENTS/IF PARENTS DON'T KEEP AN EYE ON THEIR CHILDREN, they will often DO BADLY/UNDERPERFORM at school. However, FAILURE AT SCHOOL/ACADEMIC FAILURE is nothing new even when one or both parents are at home. If children ARE NEGLECTED/DON'T HAVE ATTENTION GIVEN TO THEM by their parents, they will suffer.

I guess children probably had more problems in the past when they and their parents had to work non-stop just to get by. These days, the law looks after children and they can go to school, so children have lots more chances than they ever had before.

IELTS Writing Sample #7 Answers

Model answer

Look at the words or phrases in capitals. Choose the word or phrase which sounds more formal. Rewrite the final paragraph in a more formal style.

People who **ARGUE** that nowadays parents give less attention to their children than in the past are **FREQUENTLY** looking back to a **BRIEF** period of time in the twentieth century when **MOTHERS** in middle-class families **REMAINED** at home to look after their children. What these people are **SUGGESTING** is that women nowadays should not go out to work.

THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT in **THE MAJORITY OF** families in the past both parents worked **MUCH LONGER HOURS** than they do nowadays. What has changed is that now in most countries their children **ATTEND** school rather than also working themselves. In that sense they may **HAVE LESS CONTACT WITH** their parents.

Nowadays, as a result of **ACQUIRING AN EDUCATION**, children come into contact with teachers who **NATURALLY** have to explain why some of their students are failing. What teachers come up with are **FREQUENT** stories of parents who are **SIMPLY** too busy for their **CHILDREN**. And **IF CHILDREN ARE NOT SUPERVISED BY THEIR PARENTS**, they will often **UNDERPERFORM** at school. However, **ACADEMIC FAILURE** is nothing new even when one or both parents are at home. If children **ARE NEGLECTED** by their parents, they will suffer.

I guess children probably had more problems in the past when they and their parents had to work non-stop just to get by. These days, the law looks after children and they can go to school, so children have lots more chances than they ever had before.

In my opinion, children probably suffered more in the past when the whole family was obliged to work long hours just to survive. Nowadays children are protected by the law. Moreover access to education means that they have greater opportunities than ever before.

IELTS Writing Sample #8

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In most countries multinational companies and their products are becoming more and more important.

This trend is seriously damaging our quality of life.

Do you agree or disagree?

Write at least 250 words.

Writing Tip

In IELTS Writing Task 2, you might want to talk about a common opinion or fact. For example, you might say, *Many people say that multinational companies and globalisation are making societies more open.* However, if you want to be more formal, it is good to use the structure ***It + passive + clause***: *It is said that multinational companies and globalisation are making societies more open.*

Verbs which are often used in this way are: **say, agree, suppose, know, think, believe, expect, feel, report, estimate**

Model answer

The writer has tried to avoid repeating the same words too often in the answer. Read the sample again and find synonyms or phrases later in the answer with similar meanings to the underlined words.

Multinational companies nowadays find it easy both to market their products all over the world and set up factories wherever they find it convenient. In my opinion this has had a harmful effect on our quality of life in three main areas.

The first area is their products. Supporters of globalization would argue that multinational companies make high-quality goods available to more people. While this may be true to some extent, it also means that we have less choice of products to buy. When powerful multinational companies invade local markets with their goods, they often force local companies with fewer resources to go out of business. In consequence, we are obliged to buy multinational products whether we like them or not.

This brings me to my second point. It is sometimes said that multinational companies and globalisation are making societies more open. This may be true. However, I would argue that as a result the human race is losing its cultural diversity. If we consumed different products, societies all over the world would be more varied. This can be seen by the fact that we all shop in similar multinational supermarkets and buy identical products wherever we live.

Thirdly, defenders of multinational companies often point out that they provide employment. Although this is undoubtedly true, it also means that we have become more dependent on them, which in turn makes us more vulnerable to their decisions. When, for example, a multinational decides to move its production facilities to another country, this has an adverse effect on its workers who lose their jobs.

All in all, I believe that if we as voters pressured our governments to make multinational companies more responsible and to protect local producers from outside competition, we could have the benefits of globalisation without its disadvantages.

IELTS Writing Sample #8 Answers

Model answer

The writer has tried to avoid repeating the same words too often in the answer. Read the sample again and find synonyms or phrases later in the answer with similar meanings to the underlined words.

Multinational companies nowadays find it **convenient** both to market their **goods** all over the world and set up **production facilities** wherever they find it convenient. In my opinion this has had **an adverse** effect on our quality of life in three main areas.

The first area is their products. Supporters of globalization would argue that multinational companies make high-quality goods available to more people. While this may be true to some extent, it also means that we have less choice of products to **consume**. When powerful multinational companies invade local markets with their goods, they often **are obliged** local companies with fewer resources to go out of business. In consequence, we are obliged to buy multinational products whether we like them or not.

This brings me to my second point. It is sometimes said that multinational companies and globalisation are making societies more open. This may be true. However, I would **point out** that as a result the human race is losing its cultural diversity. If we consumed

varied products, societies **wherever we live** would be more varied. This can be seen by the fact that we all shop in **identical** multinational supermarkets and buy identical products wherever we live.

Thirdly, defenders of multinational companies often point out that they provide **jobs**. Although this is undoubtedly true, it also means that we have become more **valnurable** on them, which in turn makes us more vulnerable to their decisions. When, for example, a multinational decides to move its production facilities to another country, this has an adverse effect on its workers who lose their jobs.

All in all, I believe that if we as voters pressured our governments to make multinational companies more responsible and to protect local producers from outside competition, we could have the benefits of globalisation without its disadvantages.

IELTS Writing Sample #9

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

More and more qualified people are moving from poor to rich countries to fill vacancies in specialist areas like engineering, computing and medicine. Some people believe that by encouraging the movement of such people, rich countries are stealing from poor countries. Others feel that this is only part of the natural movement of workers around the world.

Do you agree or disagree?

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer:

The so-called 'brain drain' from poor to rich countries is now robbing poorer countries of essential personnel like doctors, nurses, engineers, and the trend is set to continue, if not to get worse.

Some people say this movement of people around the world is not a new phenomenon. Migrant workers have always been attracted by the wider choice of employment and greater opportunity in major cities in their own countries and abroad. Recently, as the technological age has advanced and as richer countries find themselves with not enough workers to feed their development, they have had to run to other parts of the world to find the necessary manpower. Many richer European countries, for example, are now trying to attract skilled IT workers from my home country India by offering higher salaries than they could hope to earn at home. With the globalisation of the world economy, many people feel that the process cannot be stopped.

Others, myself included, are of the opinion that measures should be taken to address the problem, by compensating poorer countries financially for the loss of investment in the people they have trained, like doctors and nurses. Admittedly, this may be cumbersome to administer, but an attempt could be made to get it off the ground. Another step, which in part has already begun to happen, is to use the forces of globalization itself. Western countries could encourage people to stay in their own countries by direct investment in projects like computer factories or by sending patients abroad for treatment, as is already happening.

It is obviously difficult to restrict the movement of people around the world and it is probably foolish to try to stop it, but attempts should be made to redress the imbalance.

(291 words)

IELTS Writing Sample #10

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Computers and modems have made it possible for office workers to do much of their work from home instead of working in offices every day. Working from home should be encouraged as it is good for workers and employers.

Do you agree or disagree?

Write at least 250 words.

Read the following sample answer.

Complete the answer by filling the gaps with a word or phrase from the box below.

Also	because	The first is that	For Example
Secondly	Finally	In conclusion	since
such as	while	On the other hand	
A further point is that			

In recent years the vast expansion of information and communications technology has made teleworking much more practical. Although in many cases office workers could be made geographically independent by using modems, faxes and cell phones, few companies or employees take full advantage of this possibility.

There are a number of strong arguments in favor of allowing workers to work from home. Firstly costs for employers would be reduced businesses would require less office space, which is often situated in the center of large cities., worker's lives would be improved in a variety of ways., they would not need to travel to get to work, which would give them more free time.

....., they could combine their work with their family life, which is a major advantage if they are parents of young children or they have old people to look after.

....., traveling to a centralized workplace also has a number of points in its favor. many employees would miss the social aspect of work seeing colleagues and meeting customers. employers would need to be able to trust their workers to work at a high standard and finish their work on time, supervising teleworkers is even more complicated than supervising workers in the same office.

....., working from home might inhibit teamwork and creative work and so perhaps so only really suitable for people doing routine office work.

....., I believe that many workers welcome the opportunity to go out to work, others would find the chance to work from home very convenient. Where possible, I think workers should be offered the choice, but not forced to work from home unless they wish to.

IELTS Writing Sample #10 Answers

In recent years the vast expansion of information and communications technology has made teleworking much more practical. Although in many cases office workers could be made geographically independent by using modems, faxes and cell phones, few companies or employees take full advantage of this possibility.

There are a number of strong arguments in favor of allowing workers to work from home. Firstly costs for employers would be reduced **because** businesses would require less office space, which is often situated in the center of large cities. **Secondly**, worker's lives would be improved in a variety of ways. **For example**, they would not need to travel to get to work, which would give them more free time.

Also, they could combine their work with their family life, which is a major advantage if they are parents of young children or they have old people to look after. **On the other hand**, traveling to a centralized workplace also has a number of points in its favor. **The first is that** many employees would miss the social aspect of work **such as** seeing colleagues and meeting customers. **A further point is that** employers would need to be able to trust their workers to work at a high standard and finish their work on time, **since** supervising teleworkers is even more complicated than supervising workers in the same office.

Finally, working from home might inhibit teamwork and creative work and so perhaps so only really suitable for people doing routine office work.

In conclusion, I believe that **while** many workers welcome the opportunity to go out to work, others would find the chance to work from home very convenient. Where possible, I think workers should be offered the choice, but not forced to work from home unless they wish to.