IELTS

WRITING TASK 2

WORKBOOK

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TYPES OF TASKS

OPINION ESSAY (AGREE-DISAGREE)

In this type of task, you are required to provide your opinion on a certain topic.

3 WAYS TO ANSWER THIS TASK:

- to agree
- to disagree
- to give a balanced opinion

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:

- To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

- Do you agree or disagree?

- Do you agree?

- Is it a positive or negative development?

- Is it a good or bad thing?

- What is your opinion?

TWO VIEWS AND YOUR OPINION

In this type of task, you should discuss both views and provide your opinion.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:

- Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

- Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

ADVANTAGES – DISADVANTAGES

In this type of task, you should discuss both the advantages and disadvantages. Your opinion may be required or not.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:

- Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

(Discuss the advantages and disadvantages and provide your opinion.)

- Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

(Discuss the advantages and disadvantages and provide your opinion.)

- What are the advantages and disadvantages?

(Discuss the advantages and disadvantages. Do not provide your opinion.)

- Does AAA have more advantages than BBB?

(Discuss the advantages of options AAA and BBB and provide your opinion. You may also mention the disadvantages of both options.)

PROBLEM – SOLUTIONS

In this task, you will be presented with a problem. You should discuss the causes of this problem and possible solutions.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:

- Explain possible reasons for this problem and suggest some solutions.

- What are the reasons for this problem? What actions can be taken to solve it?

- What are the causes of this problem? What actions can be taken to solve it?

- Why is this problem happening? What can be done to solve it?

- Why is this problem the case? What can be done to solve it?

TWO QUESTIONS

In this task, you will find two direct questions. These questions often belong to different types of essays. Answer each question in your essay.

Only provide your opinion if one of the questions asks for it.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS:

- How true is this statement? What measures can governments take?

- What are the causes? Do you agree that it is the greatest problem?

- What are the main disadvantages of this? What can be done to solve this problem?

- Why is it the case? Should people…?

- What are the reasons for this? Is it a positive or negative development?

- Why do you think this change has happened? What are the effects of the change?

RECENT TOPICS

- All questions on this list were reported by students in recent exams. The wording of the questions may differ from that of actual exams.

- The number of questions reflects the popularity of certain topics and types of questions in recent exams.

OPINION ESSAY (AGREE - DISAGREE)

☐ Some people think that it is always an advantage to buy local products rather than those made in other countries. Do you agree or disagree?

☐ In order to overcome stress, some psychologists recommend doing nothing at all for a period of time during the day. To what extent do you agree with this opinion?

☐ People today can use the internet to learn about lives and cultures in other countries, so it is not necessary to travel anymore. Do you agree?

☐ Some people prefer watching sports on television to playing it. Is this a positive or negative thing?

☐ Some people believe that art, such as painting and music, does not improve people's lives, so the government should not spend money on it. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

☐ Some people think that news and media have a positive effect on our lives, while others disagree. What is your opinion?

☐ The government should stop spending money on restoration of old buildings. Instead, it should build more houses and improve roads. To what extent do you agree with this statement?

☐ Scientists can increase people's lifespan to 100 years. Is this a good or bad thing?

☐ Most people cannot speak in public. Therefore, it is important to start teaching this skill at school. Do you agree or disagree?

☐ In the modern world, it is possible to shop, work and communicate with other people without face-to-face contact. Is this a positive or negative development?

TWO VIEWS AND YOUR OPINION

☐ Some people believe that children should study all subjects at school, while others think they should only study subjects they are good at or find interesting. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

☐ Some people say that young people should spend time building a successful career. Others think that spending time with friends and family is more important. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

☐ Some people believe that children should be involved in educational activities in their spare time. Others think it puts too much pressure on children. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

☐ Some people believe that success in life depends on hard work and determination, while others think that other factors, such as money and appearance, are more important. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

☐ Some people believe that money is the best gift for teenagers while others disagree. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

☐ Some people believe that a student's educational success depends on good teachers, while others think that a student's attitude is more important. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

☐ Some people think that everyone should go to the gym, while others believe that there are other ways to stay fit. Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

☐ Some people think that universities should offer places to young people with good grades. Others believe that everyone should be given a chance to study, despite their age or marks. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

☐ Some people think that it is individuals' responsibility to protect the environment. Others believe that the government should play the primary role. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

☐ Some people believe that playing team sports helps children succeed in their future career, while others disagree. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

ADVANTAGES - DISADVANTAGES

☐ Many people believe that riding a bicycle is the best way to get to places. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using a bicycle these days?

☐ Some people prefer to rent accommodation while others buy their own homes. Does renting a house or a flat have more advantages than buying one?

☐ Today, people use many language translation applications. Do the advantages of such services outweigh the disadvantages?

☐ Supermarkets offer a wide range of foods from different countries instead of selling locally produced food. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

☐ For some people, consumer goods have become the most important thing in life. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this development?

☐ Today, machines can do many jobs without humans. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

☐ Many famous sports players advertise products. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this development?

☐ As countries develop, more people can afford to buy cars. Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

PROBLEM - SOLUTIONS

☐ Experts say that if older people exercise daily, they will be healthier and happier. However, many still suffer from a lack of fitness. What are the reasons for this? What actions can be taken to solve this problem?

☐ People produce more waste today than in the past. Why is it happening? What can be done to solve this problem?

☐ People these days are less fit than they used to be. Explain possible reasons for this problem and suggest some solutions.

☐ Many people have health problems due to their unhealthy lifestyle. Why is it the case? What can be done to solve this problem?

☐ Despite environmental concerns raised by scientists, people are not changing their lifestyle. Why is this so? What should be done to encourage people to do more to save the environment?

TWO QUESTIONS

☐ Despite better access to education, some adults are not able to read or write. What are the main disadvantages of this? What can be done to solve this problem?

☐ Shopping has become a favourite pastime for many young people. Why is this the case? Should they be encouraged to spend their free time in a better way?

☐ Cultures in different countries are more similar today than they used to be. What are the reasons for this? Is this a positive or negative development?

☐ These days, people prefer to throw damaged items away, while in the past, they used to repair and use things for a long time. Why do you think this change has happened? What are the effects of this change?
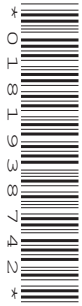
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WRITING TASK 2: Band Descriptors (public version)

Band	Task response	Coherence and cohesion	Lexical resource	Grammatical range and accuracy
9	• fully addresses all parts of the task • presents a fully developed position in answer to the question with relevant, fully extended and well supported ideas	• uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention • skilfully manages paragraphing	• uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'	• uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8	• sufficiently addresses all parts of the task • presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas	• sequences information and ideas logically • manages all aspects of cohesion well • uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately	• uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings • skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation • produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation	• uses a wide range of structures • the majority of sentences are error-free • makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
7	• addresses all parts of the task • presents a clear position throughout the response • presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to over-generalise and/or supporting ideas may lack focus	• logically organises information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout • uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-/over-use • presents a clear central topic within each paragraph	• uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision • uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation • may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation	• uses a variety of complex structures • produces frequent error-free sentences • has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors
6	• addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others • presents a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive • presents relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear	• arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression • uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical • may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately • uses paragraphing, but not always logically	• uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task • attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy • makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication	• uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms • makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication
5	• addresses the task only partially; the format may be inappropriate in places • expresses a position but the development is not always clear and there may be no conclusions drawn • presents some main ideas but these are limited and not sufficiently developed; there may be irrelevant detail	• presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression • makes inadequate, inaccurate or over-use of cohesive devices • may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution • may not write in paragraphs, or paragraphing may be inadequate	• uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task • may make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader	• uses only a limited range of structures • attempts complex sentences but these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences • may make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader
4	• responds to the task only in a minimal way or the answer is tangential; the format may be inappropriate • presents a position but this is unclear • presents some main ideas but these are difficult to identify and may be repetitive, irrelevant or not well supported	• presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response • uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive • may not write in paragraphs or their use may be confusing	• uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task • has limited control of word formation and/or spelling; errors may cause strain for the reader	• uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses • some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty
3	• does not adequately address any part of the task • does not express a clear position • presents few ideas, which are largely undeveloped or irrelevant	• does not organise ideas logically • may use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas	• uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/or spelling • errors may severely distort the message	• attempts sentence forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning
2	• barely responds to the task • does not express a position • may attempt to present one or two ideas but there is no development	• has very little control of organisational features	• uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling	• cannot use sentence forms except in memorised phrases
1	• answer is completely unrelated to the task	• fails to communicate any message	• can only use a few isolated words	• cannot use sentence forms at all
0	• does not attend • does not attempt the task in any way • writes a totally memorised response			

IELTS Writing Answer Sheet – TASK 1

Candidate Name

Centre Number

Candidate Number

Module (shade one box):   Academic ▭   General Training ▭

Test date

D D   M M   Y Y Y Y

TASK 1

Do not write below this line
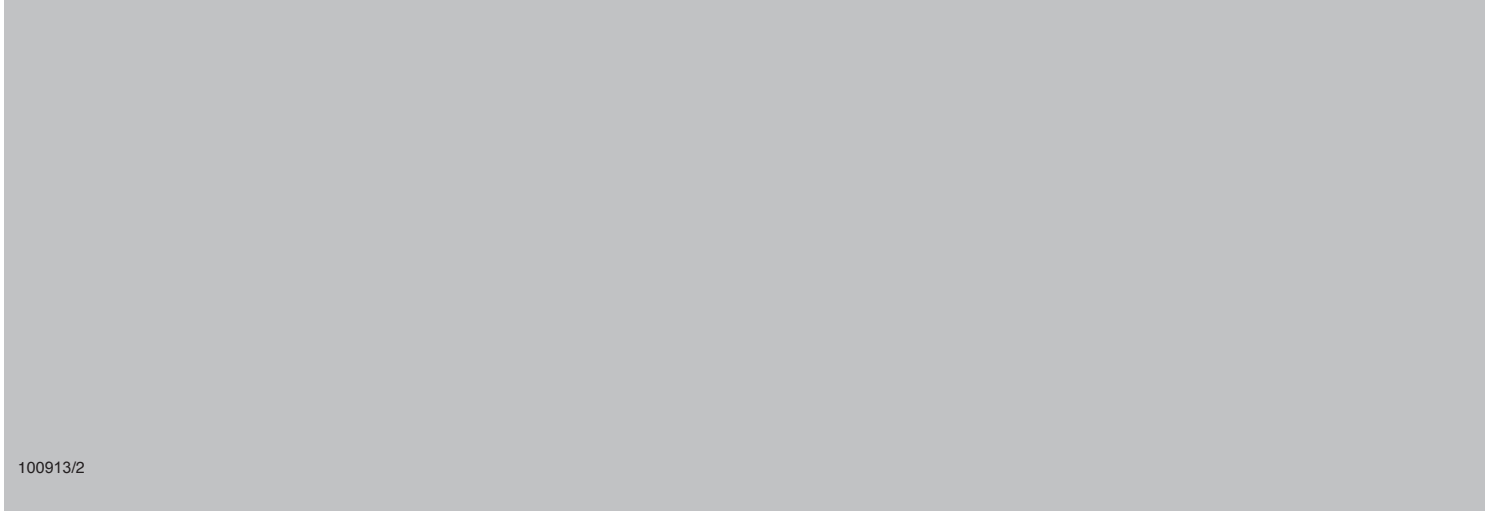
IELTS Writing Answer Sheet – TASK 2

Candidate Name

Centre Number

Candidate Number

Module (shade one box):   Academic ▭   General Training ▭

Test date

D D   M M   Y Y Y Y

TASK 2

Do not write below this line

Candidate Number:								TR		CC		LR		GRA	

Examiner 2 Number:							

Underlength	No. of words	Penalty		Off-topic	Memorised	Illegible

Candidate Number:								TR		CC		LR		GRA	

Examiner 1 Number:							

Underlength	No. of words	Penalty		Off-topic	Memorised	Illegible