

# Essays Topics and Types

# Types of IELTS Essays

- Agree / disagree
- Discuss two opinions
- Advantages & disadvantages
- Causes (reasons) & solutions
- Causes (reasons) & effects
- Problems & solutions
- The golden rule is to **ALWAYS read the question very carefully** to see exactly what you are being asked to do.

# Identify the Topic

If you write about the wrong topic or go off topic when you write your answer, this is likely to substantially reduce your band score.

## **How do I identify the topic?**

So you need to **read the question carefully** and identify what the issue is. You will normally only be looking for **one or two key words**.

# What is the issue?

- *The crime rate among teenagers has increased dramatically in many countries.*
- *Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions.*

# Narrow the topic down

- *The **crime** rate among **teenagers** has increased dramatically in many countries.*

In this case, the question specifically wants you to address the issue of TEENAGE crime.

# Practice

Identify the **topic and type** of the essay:

**'Telecommuting' refers to workers doing their jobs from home for part of each week and communicating with their office using computer technology.**

**Telecommuting is growing in many countries and is expected to be common for most office workers in the coming decades.**

**How do you think society will be affected by the growth of telecommuting?**

- Working from home
- Telecommuting
- Computer technology

# Practice

Identify the **topic and type** of the essay:

**We are becoming increasingly dependent on computers. They are used in businesses, hospitals, crime detection and even to fly planes.**

**What things will they be used for in the future? Is this dependence on computers a good thing or should we be more suspicious of their benefits?**

- The benefits of computers
- Computers in businesses, hospitals, crime detection, and flying.
- Computer dependency

# Practice

Identify the **topic and type** of the essay:

**In what ways has information technology changed work and working practices in the past 10 years?**

Information technology and work

Information technology

Working practices

**Blood sports have become a hot topic for debate in recent years. As society develops it is increasingly seen as an uncivilized activity and cruel to the helpless animals that are killed. All blood sports should be banned.**

**Discuss the main arguments for this statement and give your own opinion.**

Animal cruelty

Blood sports

Blood sports and uncivilized activity



# Practice

Identify the **topic and type** of the essay:

**A growing number of people feel that animals should not be exploited by people and that they should have the same rights as humans, while others argue that humans must employ animals to satisfy their various needs, including uses for food and research.**

**Discuss the arguments in favour of both these positions and state your own position on the issue.**

- Satisfying human needs
- Animals and humans
- Animal rights

# Practice

Identify the **topic and type** of the essay:

**Forests are the lungs of the earth. Destruction of the world's forests amounts to death of the world we currently know.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

The Earth

Deforestation

Death of the world

**The idea of going overseas for university study is an exciting prospect for many people. But while it may offer some advantages, it is probably better to stay home because of the difficulties a student inevitably encounters living and studying in a different culture.**

**To what extent do you agree or disagree this statement?**

Studying abroad

Studying

Living in a different culture

# Practice

**Zoos are sometimes seen as necessary but not poor alternatives to a natural environment.**

**Discuss some of the arguments for and/or against keeping animals in zoos.**

Natural environments

Alternatives to zoos

Keeping animals in zoos

**Many countries are currently witnessing an increase in criminal activity among young people.**

**Discuss reasons for this phenomenon and suggest ways to deal with the problem.**

Youth crime

Criminal activity

Increases in crime