

IELTS Essays

- 1) Time - 40 minutes
- 2) The quantity of words - 250
- 3) Criteria on marking
 - **Task Response** (your position, relevancy and ability to develop ideas) - **25%**
 - **Coherence & Cohesion** (organisation, paragraphing, linking) - **25%**
 - **Grammar** (your range and accuracy) - **25%**
 - **Lexical Resource** (the range and accuracy of your vocabulary) - **25%**
- 4) Formal style of writing
- 5) The definition of your essay type

Types of essay

- 1) Opinion (Agree or Disagree)
- 2) Advantages and Disadvantages
- 3) Problem and Solution
- 4) Discussion (Discuss both view)
- 5) Two Question Essay

Agree or Disagree Sample Essay

With this type of essay we have two choices:

- 1) We agree with the statement or
- 2) We disagree with the statement

Here is the example of such an essay:

In some countries, the number of shootings increase because many people have guns at home.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

The structure

Paragraph 1- Introduction

Sentence 1 - Paraphrase Question

Sentence 2 - Thesis Statement

Sentence 3 - Outline Statement

Paragraph 2 - Supporting Paragraph 1

Sentence 1 - Topic Sentence

Sentence 2-3 - Explain Topic Sentence

Sentence 3-4 - Example

Paragraph 3- Supporting Paragraph 2

Sentence 1 - Topic Sentence

Sentence 2-3 - Explain Topic Sentence

Sentence 3-4 - Example

Paragraph 4 - Conclusion

Sentence 1- Summary and reiteration of your opinion.

Introduction

1- Paraphrase Question - In order to paraphrase the question we simply restate it with a different meaning using synonyms. I will also reorder the question.

2 - Thesis Statement - This is our opinion in one sentence

3 - Outline Statement - This sentence outlines what you will write about in the main body paragraphs.

Introduction

In some countries, the number of shootings increase because many people have guns at home.

Paraphrase: Across the globe, many individuals own guns for self-defense and recreational purposes. In recent decades, many surveys have revealed the increased number of fatal gun shootings.

Thesis: Indeed, this is now convincing evidence that these incidents occur because of guns possession at home.

Outline Statement: In this essay, I shall appeal to crime statistics to argue that a person is at a far greater risk being shot if there is a gun in a household.

Supporting Paragraph 1

1 Topic Sentence - A topic sentence tells the examiner what the rest of the paragraph is about. In other words, it is a summary of your first idea

$\frac{2}{3}$ Explain Topic Sentence - A good way of doing this is to assume that the examiner has no knowledge of this subject and you have to explain clearly what you mean.

$\frac{3}{4}$ Example - Think about any recent news stories, studies or adverts. If you can't think of one, make one up. The examiner won't check if it is real or not.

Supporting Paragraph 1

Topic Sentence: Firstly, it is intuitively obvious that having a gun in a household endangers children and teenagers.

Explanation: This is because minors do not have the requisite knowledge or maturity to handle guns safely.

Example: For example, the US Department of Justice recently revealed statistics showing that 150 American children and teenagers die each year because of accidents relating to household guns. Therefore, it is incontrovertible that household guns lead to additional shootings.

Supporting Paragraph 2

We now repeat the same formula with our second supporting point

1. **Topic sentence** - Secondly, household guns became especially dangerous when spouses have violent arguments.
2. **Explaining** - This is because male sexual rage, in particular, often results in deadly aggression.
3. **Example** - For example, the International Crime Bureau recently produced statistical evidence that if there is a household gun, a man is twice as likely (if he discovers his wife having an affair) to kill her in a fit of jealous rage. Therefore, once again, household guns correlate positively with additional shootings.

Conclusion

As stated before a good conclusion for agree or disagree essays should include:

Sentence 1- Summary of main points

Sentence 2- Your opinion

NB! Don't write any new ideas in conclusion. A good conclusion should **just restate** your thesis statement and your main supporting points.

In conclusion, there is undeniable evidence that having a gun in a house leads to further shootings. Given the strength of this evidence, in the future, more legislature needs to be put in place to limit private gun ownership.

Advantages and Disadvantages Essay

This essay simply asks us to discuss the advantages and disadvantages. It does not ask for our opinion or say which side is better or worse, so we should not include this information in our answer.

Here is the example of such an essay:

In some countries young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university studies.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decided to do this.

The structure

Introduction

Sentence 1- Paraphrase question

Sentence 2- Outline sentence

Supporting Paragraph 1 (Advantages)

Sentence 3- Topic sentence (Advantage 1)

Sentence 4- Explain this advantage

Sentence 5- Example

Supporting Paragraph 2 (Disadvantages)

Sentence 6- Topic sentence (Disadvantage 1)

Sentence 7- Explain this disadvantage

Sentence 8- Example

Conclusion

Discuss Both Views Essay

Typical task is to discuss both points of view and give your opinion.

1) Introduction consists of:

- Sentence 1- Paraphrase Question and/or state both viewpoints.
- Sentence 2- Thesis Statement.
- Sentence 3- Outline Sentence.

2) Main Body Paragraph 1 consists of:

- Sentence 1- State first viewpoint
- Sentence 2- Discuss first viewpoint
- Sentence 3- Reason why you agree or disagree with this viewpoint
- Sentence 4- Example to support your view

3) Main Body Paragraph 2

- Sentence 1- State second viewpoint
- Sentence 2- Discuss second viewpoint
- Sentence 3- Reason why you agree or disagree with this viewpoint
- Sentence 4- Example to support your view

The sample

There is an ever increasing use of technology, such as tablets and laptops, in the classroom. It is often argued that this is a positive development, whilst others disagree and think it will lead to adverse ramifications. This essay agrees that an increase in technology is beneficial to students and teachers. This essay will discuss both points of view.

It is clear that the Internet has provided students with access to more information than ever before. Moreover, learners have the ability to research and learn about any subject at the touch of a button. It is therefore agreed that technology is a very worthwhile tool for education. Wikipedia is a prime example, where students can simply type in any keyword and gain access to in-depth knowledge quickly and easily.

However, many disagree and feel that technology deprives people of real human interaction. Human interaction teaches people valuable skills such as discourse, debate and empathy. Despite this, human interaction is still possible through the internet and this essay disagrees technology should be dismissed for this reason. For instance, Skype and Facebook make it possible for people to interact in ways that were never before possible.

While the benefits of technology, particularly the internet, allow students to tap into limitless sources of information, some still feel that people should be wary of this new phenomena and not allow it to curb face to face interaction. However, as long as we are careful to keep in mind the importance of human interaction in education, the educational benefits are clearly positive.

Problem and Solution Essay

2 types of question: Problem and solution. Cause and solution.

Structure:

1) Introduction

- Sentence 1- Paraphrase Question
- Sentence 2- Outline Sentence

2) Main Body Paragraph 1

- Sentence 1- State Problem
- Sentence 2- Explain problem
- Sentence 3- Result
- Sentence 4- Example

3) Main Body Paragraph 2

- Sentence 1- State Solution
- Sentence 2- Explain Solution
- Sentence 3- Example

4) Conclusion

- Sentence 1- Summary
- Sentence 2- Recommendation or Prediction

The sample

Some people believe the aim of university education is to help graduates get better jobs. Others believe there are much wider benefits of university education for both individuals and society.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

These days, more and more people are making the choice to go to university. While some people are of the opinion that the only purpose of a university education is to improve job prospects, others think that society and the individual benefit in much broader ways.

It is certainly true that one of the main aims of university is to secure a better job. The majority of people want to improve their future career prospects and attending university is one of the best ways to do this as it increases a person's marketable skills and attractiveness to potential employers. In addition, further education is very expensive for many people, so most would not consider it if it would not provide them with a more secure future and a higher standard of living. Thus job prospects are very important.

However, there are other benefits for individuals and society. Firstly, the independence of living away from home is a benefit because it helps the students develop better social skills and improve as a person. A case in point is that many students will have to leave their families, live in halls of residence and meet new friends. As a result, their maturity and confidence will grow enabling them to live more fulfilling lives. Secondly, society will gain from the contribution that the graduates can make to the economy. We are living in a very competitive world, so countries need educated people in order to compete and prosper.

Therefore, I believe that although a main aim of university education is to get the best job, there are clearly further benefits. If we continue to promote and encourage university attendance, it will lead to a better future for individuals and society.

Two Question Essay

Typical question:

There will normally be a statement and they will then ask you to answer to separate questions.

Structure:

Introduction

- Sentence 1- Paraphrase Question
- Sentence 2- Outline Sentence (mention both questions)

Main Body Paragraph 1

- Sentence 1- Answer first question directly
- Sentence 2- Explain why
- Sentence 3- Further explain
- Sentence 4- Example

Main Body Paragraph 2

- Sentence 1- Answer second question directly
- Sentence 2- Explain why
- Sentence 3- Further explain

The sample

The use of illegal drugs, such as heroin and cocaine, are becoming more and more common in many countries.

What are some of the problems associated with drug abuse? What are some of the possible solutions?

Drug abuse is becoming increasingly serious in many nations. Although drugs threaten many societies, their effects can also be combated successfully. This essay looks at some of the problems caused by drug use on society, and suggests some solutions to the problems.

Drug abuse causes multiple problems for countries and communities. The medical effects are very obvious. Addicts abuse their bodies and neglect their health and, and so eventually require expensive treatment or hospitalization. In some cases, such as Marilyn Monroe, a drug overdose even leads to death. The second effect is crime. People who take drugs become crazy and irrational and often cause harm and danger to themselves and others.

However, the menace of drugs can be fought. Education is the main way to tackle this issue. People need to be aware of the effects so that they can avoid this problem. Children need to be told at home and in school about the dangers and need for avoiding drugs. The government could also use infomercials to educate their citizens. A second approach is to increase police manpower and powers to stop dealers and to enforce the law.

In conclusion, drug abuse is a serious issue because it causes harmful effects on people's health and people who are high often commit crimes. The best approaches to deal with it are to educate the public about its effects and also to give the police more power to fight drug related crimes. Although the problem is unlikely to be entirely eliminated in the short term there are concrete steps to reduce the effects it is having on the current society.