IELTS Test Prep

Gradhopper

Structure and Timing

2 Tasks

Lasts 60 minutes in total

Structure and Timing

Task 2:

- Respond to a question relating to a point of view or argument
- 40 minutes
- 250 words

Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic.

> *The first car appeared on British roads in 1888. By the year 2000 there may be as many as 29 million vehicles on British roads.*
>
> *Alternative forms of transport should be encouraged and international laws introduced to control car ownership and use.*
>
> *To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

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

Write at least 250 words.

Task Achievement

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Task Achievement
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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Task Achievement
8	• sufficiently addresses all parts of the task • presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Task Achievement
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 overgeneralise and/or supporting ideas may lack focus

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Task Achievement
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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Task Achievement
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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Task Achievement
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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Task Achievement
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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Task Achievement
2	• barely responds to the task • does not express a position • may attempt to present one or two ideas but there is no development
1	• answer is completely unrelated to the task

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Task Achievement
0	•does not attend •does not attempt the task in any way •writes a totally memorised response

Coherence and Cohesion

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
9	•uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention •skillfully manages paragraphing

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
8	• sequences information and ideas logically • manages all aspects of cohesion well • uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
7	•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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
6	•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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
5	•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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
4	•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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
3	•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

Scoring

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
2	•has very little control of organisational features
1	•fails to communicate any message

Scoring

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
0	• does not attend • does not attempt the task in any way • writes a totally memorised response

Lexical Resource

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Lexical Resource
9	•uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Lexical Resource
8	•uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings •skillfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation •produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Lexical Resource
7	•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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Lexical Resource
6	•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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Lexical Resource
5	• 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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Lexical Resource
4	•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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Lexical Resource
3	• 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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Lexical Resource
2	•uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling
1	•can only use a few isolated words

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Lexical Resource
0	•does not attend •does not attempt the task in any way •writes a totally memorised response

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
9	• uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
8	uses a wide range of structures the majority of sentences are error-free makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
7	uses a variety of complex structures produces frequent error-free sentences has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
6	•uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms •makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
5	•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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
4	•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

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
3	•attempts sentence forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
2	cannot use sentence forms except in memorised phrases
1	cannot use sentence forms at all

Scoring

Task 2

Band	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
0	•does not attend •does not attempt the task in any way •writes a totally memorised response

Task 2

Problem Solution Questions

Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems.

Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals can tackle these problems.

Task 2

Problem Solution Questions

Nowadays many people have access to computers on a wide basis and a large number of children play computer games.

What are the negative impacts of playing computer games and what can be done to minimize the bad effects?

Task 2

Problem Solution Questions

The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before.

What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?

Task 2

Problem Solution Questions

In the developed world, average life expectancy is increasing.

What problems will this cause for individuals and society?

Suggest some measures that could be taken to reduce the impact of ageing populations.

Task 2

Opinion Essays

Advances in technology and automation have reduced the need for manual labour. (opinion) *Therefore, working hours should be reduced.*

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Task 2

Opinion Essays

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

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Task 2

Opinion Essays

Some people believe that entertainers are paid too much and their impact on society is negative, while others disagree and believe that they deserve the money they make because of their positive effect on others.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Task 2

Opinion Essays

Many people are copying famous celebrities from magazines and TV.

Why is this happening?

Do you think it's a good idea to copy celebrities?

Task 2

Opinion Essays

Subjects like arts, music and drama are more important than other school subjects and therefore should be give more time in the calendar.

Do you agree or disagree?

Opinion questions

Examples of phrases used to ask for your opinion:

◦ Do you agree or disagree?

◦ Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

◦ Are there more benefits or more drawbacks?

◦ Do you think?

◦ What is your view?

◦ Do you think this is a good thing?

Task 2

Advantages and disadvantages

People now have the freedom to work and live anywhere in the world due to the development of communication technology and transportation.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?

Task 2

Advantages and disadvantages
- ◦ Discuss the advantages and disadvantages in separate paragraphs
- ◦ Pay attention to whether they asked for your opinion or not

Task 2

Advantages and disadvantages

> *People now have the freedom to work and live anywhere in the world due to the development of communication technology and transportation.*
>
> *Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?*
>
> *OR*
>
> *Will this have more positive or negative impacts?*

Task 2

Advantages and disadvantages

Many young people are leaving their homes in rural areas to study or work in the cities.

What are the reasons?

Do the advantages of this development outweigh its disadvantages?

Task 2

Complex Essay Question

There are many types of music in the world today. Why do we need music? Is the traditional music of a country more important and should it be preserved or is international music that is heard everywhere nowadays more useful to a society?

Task 2

Complex Essay Question

Demand for food is increasing worldwide.

What is the cause of this? What measures can the international community take to meet this demand?

Task 2

Complex Essay Question

Many museums and historical sites are mainly visited by tourists rather than local people.

Why does this happen?

What can be done to encourage local people to visit museums and historical sites?

Vocabulary

Linking words for giving examples

- For example
- For instance
- One clear example is
- Such as
- To illustrate
- In other words
- In particular

Vocabulary

Linking words for adding information

◦ In addition, additionally

◦ Furthermore, moreover

◦ Also

◦ Not only

◦ As well as

◦ And

◦ Too

Vocabulary

Linking words for giving results or reasons

◦ As a result

◦ Because of

◦ Consequently

◦ Therefore

◦ For this reason

◦ So

◦ Due to (the fact that)

Vocabulary

Linking words for highlighting information

◦ In particular

◦ Specifically

◦ Especially

◦ Clearly

◦ Of course

Vocabulary

Linking words for showing contrast

◦ Admittedly

◦ However

◦ Despite, in spite of

◦ But, still, although, even though

◦ Nevertheless

◦ On the other hand

◦ In contrast, alternatively

◦ In comparison

Vocabulary

Linking words for giving opinions

◦ In my opinion

◦ I think, I believe

◦ I admit

◦ From my perspective

◦ I agree

◦ I disagree

Vocabulary

Linking words for conclusions

- In conclusion
- To conclude
- To sum up
- In summary
- To conclude
- In closing
- Overall

Strategies

◦ Read the instructions carefully

◦ Take some time to plan the content and structure of your essay

◦ You need an introduction, more than 1 body paragraph, and a conclusion (4-5 paragraphs total)

◦ The introduction should paraphrase the question

◦ Use formal language instead of casual language

◦ Be sure to manage your time

◦ Leave time to proofread

General Tips

◦ Only give your opinion if they ask for it

◦ Don't support all sides of an argument if they ask you to choose one

◦ If you're taking the paper based test, don't spend time counting the words on test day

　◦ Practice writing on test paper and see how many words you generally write on each page

◦ Don't use slang or very casual vocabulary

◦ Avoid repetition

Other ways to prepare

- Write as much as possible
- Read as much as possible, especially if you don't have someone to correct your writing
- Read sample essay questions and answers
- Learn vocabulary relating to the types of questions on the test
- Practice, practice, practice