

IELTS Prep

Writing Session 2



Writing Session 2

Sample: Writing Task 2 (Essay)

“Do you believe that societies ought to enforce capital punishment or Are there alternative forms of punishment that could be better used?”

You should write at least **250** words.

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

Spend about **40 minutes** on this question.



Writing Session 2

In Writing Task 2, you will be asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. Topics are of general interest and suitable for test takers entering undergraduate and postgraduate studies or seeking professional registration.

For IELTS Academic, the essay must be in a formal style.

For IELTS General, the essay can be fairly personal in style.

Time limit: 40 minutes

Minimum word limit: 250



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In Academic Writing Task 2

- Write in an academic or semi-formal/neutral style.
- Answers should be a discursive consideration of the relevant issues.
- Make sure that you read the task carefully and provide a full and relevant response. For example, if the topic is a particular aspect of computers, they should focus on this aspect in their response. They should not simply write about computers in general.



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In General Writing Task 2

- Test takers write a semi-formal/neutral discursive essay.
- Topics may include
 - whether children's leisure activities should be educational
 - why families are not as close as they used to be and how they could be brought closer
 - how environmental problems can be solved
 - who should pay for the care of old people
 - whether smoking should be banned in public places.



Writing Test 1

Assessment Criteria

1. Task response
2. Grammatical range & accuracy
3. Coherence & cohesion
4. Lexical resources



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1. Task response

- A. Fully satisfies all the requirements of the task (does not write off-topic)
- B. Clearly presents a fully developed response including examples and/or reasons
- C. Presents a minimum of 250 words response (not under length)
- D. Write in a legible handwriting in case of a pen and paper test
- E. Does not write a memorized response



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2. Coherence & cohesion

- A. Logical organization of ideas: introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion
- B. Appropriate sequence of ideas
- C. Variety of linking words
- D. Logical use of paragraphs
- E. Topic sentences



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Activity 2: The following words and phrases are all used to connect sentences and ideas together. Put them into the correct place in the list, according to how they are used

that is	because of	However	inspite of
furthermore	in addition	on the other hand	such as
consequently	while	so	despite
as a result	whereas	for instance	in fact
not only....but also	although	also	

- Connecting similar ideas: *similarly*,
- Connecting different ideas: *but*,
- Clarifying an idea: *in other words*,
- Giving examples: *for example*,
- Giving a reason or conclusion: *therefore*,



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Activity 3: Choose the correct words.

1. Advertisements provide vital revenue for the entertainment industry. *Consequently / Despite*, without adverts we could lose certain forms of entertainment altogether.
2. Nowadays, the internet has become an indispensable business tool. *Although / In fact*, we would find it very difficult to get through a working day without it.
3. The internet brings the world into our home. *Also / However*, we sometimes want to shout out the outside world from time to time.
4. Schools can give our children academic knowledge. *Whereas / Furthermore*, at school, children can learn social skills.
5. Many people today spend time on social networking sites. *As a result / For example*, Facebook and Twitter are both used around the world to help people stay connected.



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3. Lexical Resource

- A. Synonyms
- B. Words not copied from the task
- C. Appropriate words as per the context
- D. No or minor spelling mistakes
- E. Words



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4. Grammatical range and accuracy

- A. Free from grammatical errors
- B. Appropriate usage of punctuations
- C. Complexity of sentence structures
- D. Variety of sentence structures
- E. Style of writing (academic and formal in the IELTS Academic)



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Activity 5: Correct the punctuation in these sentences.

1. According to the survey, the population will grow more and more, it is predicted that by 2050 the population will have increased by 30%.
2. Many famous film stars are american.
3. My conclusion; therefore is that teaching children to be good members of society is the job of both parents and the school.
4. the pie chart gives us information about the causes of land degradation worldwide.
5. Many children spend hours playing video games which can lead to health problems.
6. However, we can see that the rate of both National and international calls increased from 1995 to 2010.
7. Nowadays in many universities around the world university students can study any subject they like.



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Common Types of Essays

- Agree / disagree
- Discuss two opinions
- Advantages and disadvantages
- Causes (reasons) and solutions
- Causes (reasons) and effects
- Problems and solutions



Steps

1. **Read the prompt and the instructions carefully:** Know exactly what is being asked of you. It's a good idea to dissect the prompt into parts.
2. **Brainstorm your ideas:** Brainstorming and organizing your ideas will make your life much easier when you go to write your essay. It's a good idea to make a web of your ideas and supporting details.
3. **Type your Essay:** Type your response promptly but carefully.
4. **Proofread your Essay:** Read your response carefully to make sure that there are no mistakes and that you didn't miss anything.



Structure

Structuring an essay is essential for presenting your ideas in a clear and organized manner. While there are different types of essays (e.g., argumentative, expository, persuasive), the basic structure often includes an introduction, body paragraphs, and a conclusion. Here's a general guide on how to structure an essay:

1. Introduction

- **Start:** Try to start with a compelling statement, question, quote, or anecdote to grab the reader's attention.
- **Background Information:** Provide some context or background information on the topic to give readers a foundation for understanding.
- **Thesis Statement:** Clearly state the main point or argument of your essay. This is the central idea that your essay will revolve around.



Structure

2. Body

- **Topic Sentence:** Begin each paragraph with a clear topic sentence that introduces the main point of the paragraph.
- **Supporting Evidence:** Support your topic sentence with relevant examples, facts, statistics, or quotes. This is where you develop and elaborate on your main ideas.
- **Analysis:** Explain how the evidence supports your thesis. Analyze and interpret the information to show its significance to your overall argument.
- **Transition Sentences:** Use transitional words and phrases to smoothly guide the reader from one point to the next.
- **Counter-arguments (if applicable):** State opposing viewpoints or counter-arguments. Acknowledge them and then refute or counter them with evidence and reasoning.



Structure

3. Conclusion

- **Restate Thesis:** Summarize your main points and restate your thesis in a different way.
- **Summary of Key Points:** Provide a brief summary of the main arguments presented in the body paragraphs.
- **Closing Thoughts:** End with a thought-provoking statement, a call to action, or a suggestion for further research or consideration.



Writing Session 2

Example 1: Application

“Do you believe that societies ought to enforce capital punishment or Are there alternative forms of punishment that could be better used?”

You should write at least **250** words.

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

Spend about **40 minutes** on this question.



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The question asks whether you believe societies should enforce capital punishment.

There are, of course, two points of view:

1. Capital punishment should be enforced
2. Capital punishment shouldn't be enforced

Capital punishment should be enforced	Capital punishment shouldn't be enforced

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



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"Do you believe that societies ought to enforce capital punishment or Are there alternative forms of punishment that could be better used?"

In your planning stage, you should have a roadmap for the introduction, the body paragraphs and the conclusion. Here is a brief plan for the essay.

Introduction

- What CP is? Where it's used. (Not my country). Differing opinions.
- I don't believe in CP.
- There are alternative punishments.



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Body

- Inhumane - we shouldn't sink to the level of criminals.
- We can get convictions wrong; prisoners can be released if there's an error. Mentally ill. Examples.
- Alternative punishments: life means life; hospitals for criminally insane. Costs more but society has a duty to care.
- Many countries favor it and they say it works. Prisons too full. Killers deserve nothing less. Some crimes deserve it. Not my morals though.



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Conclusion

- I don't agree. We can have alternatives. Avoid mistakes and make modern society a humane one.
- The above is a basic plan of how you should write your essay. It's not rigid. You can change your ideas and format as you write if you feel you can do better.
- You can also add things that you have forgotten as the essay goes on. It's normal of course for you to have better ideas as you write and the skill is to get them into your essay without upsetting the balance of the essay. How do you do this? It's practice again. So, below is an example of the essay using the plan above as a basis.



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Example 2: Application

Write about the following topic:

Countries are becoming more and more similar because people are able to buy the same products anywhere in the world. Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Positive Development	Negative Development

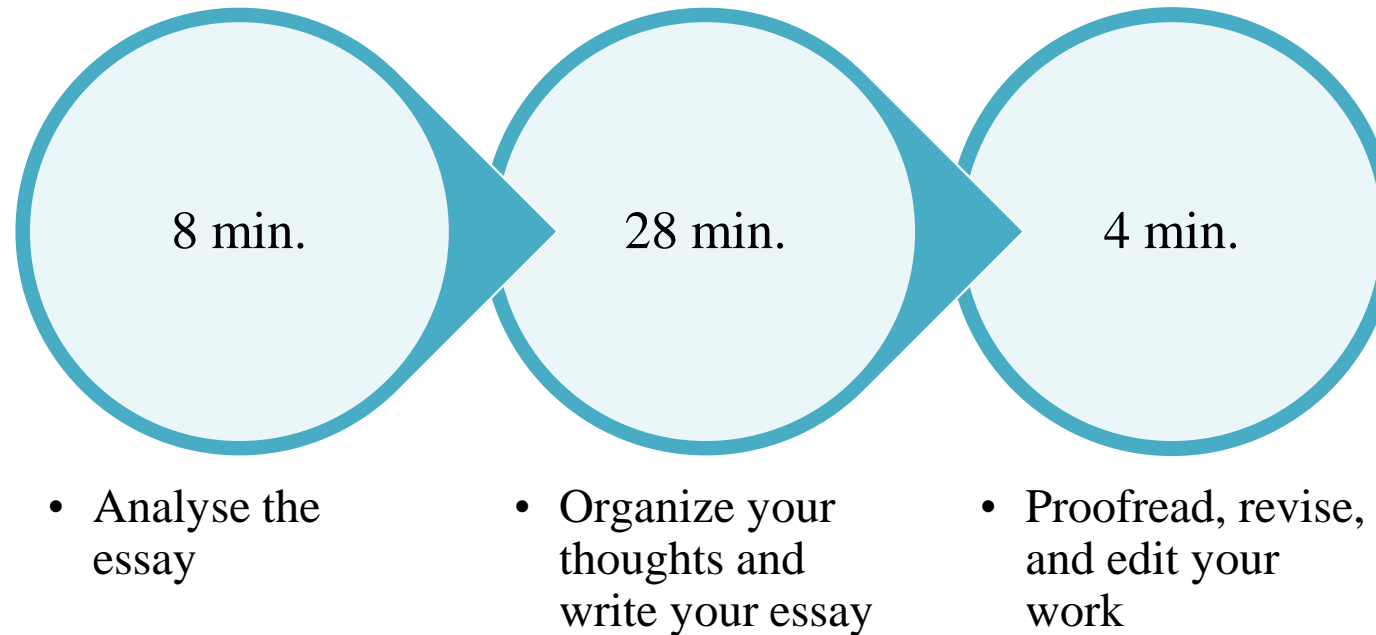
Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.



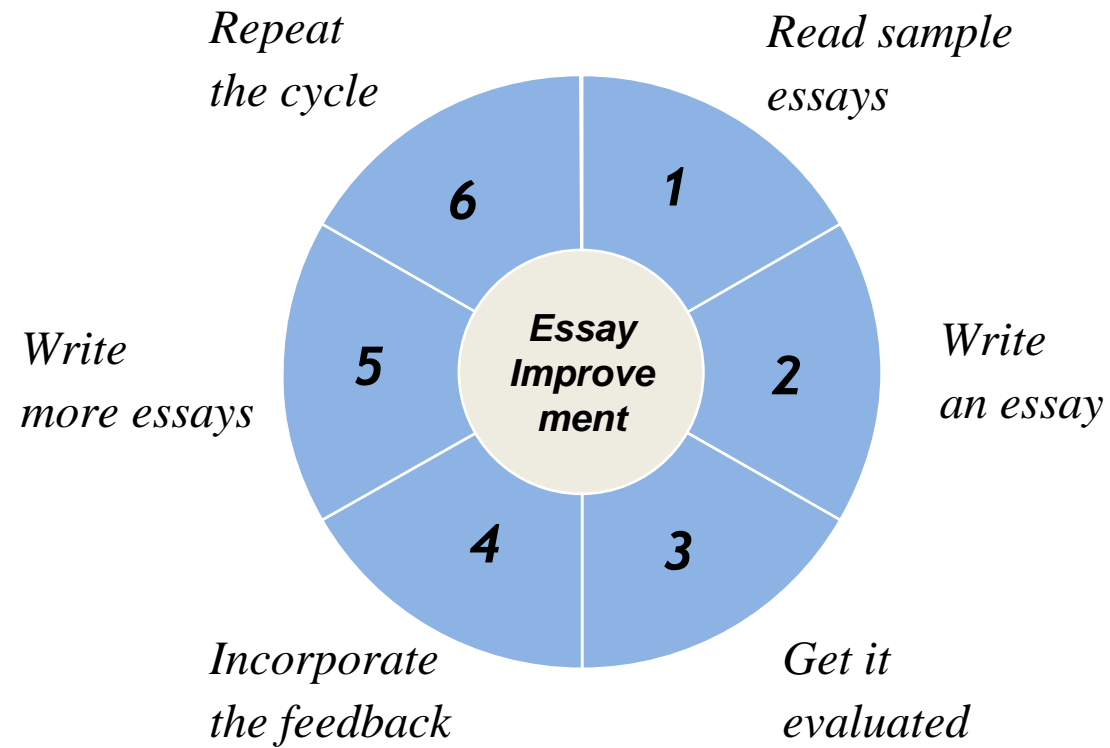
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Time Allocation Strategy



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How to improve the Essay Scores?



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Practice Question 1:

Some people believe that there should be fixed punishment for each type of crime. Others, however, argue that the circumstances of an individual crime, and the motivation for committing, should always be taken into account when deciding on the punishment

.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

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

Write at least 250 words.

You should spend about **40** minutes on this task.



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Practice Question 2:

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic:
Popular events like the football world cup and other international sporting occasions are essential in easing international tensions and releasing patriotic emotions in a safe way.

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

Use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and with relevant evidence.

You should write at least 250 words.

You should spend about **40** minutes on this task.





Thank you