***Sample essay.***

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***In the last 20 years there have been significant developments in the field of information technology (IT), for example the World Wide Web and communication by email. However, these developments in IT are likely to have more negative effects than positive in the future.***

***To what extent do you agree with this view?***

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

Write at least 250 words.

*The last two decades have seen enormous changes in the way people's lives are affected by****IT****, with many advances in this field. However, while these technological advances have brought many benefits to the world, it can be argued that****these developments in IT will result in more negative impacts than positive.***

*To begin,****email****has made communication, especially abroad, much simpler and faster, resulting in numerous benefits for commerce and business. Furthermore, the****World Wide Web****means that information on every conceivable subject is now available to us. For example, people can access news, medical advice, online education courses and much more via the internet.  It is evident that these improvements have made life far easier and more convenient for large numbers of people and will continue to do so for decades to come.*

***Nevertheless, the effects of this new technology have not all been beneficial.****For example, many people feel that the widespread use of email is destroying traditional forms of communication such as letter writing, telephone and face-to-face conversation. This could result in a decline in people's basic ability to socialize and interact with each other on a day-to-day basis.*

*In addition, the large size of the Web has meant that it is nearly impossible to regulate and control. This has led to many concerns regarding children accessing unsuitable websites and viruses. Unfortunately, this kind of problem might even get worse in the future at least until more regulated systems are set up.*

*In conclusion, developments in IT have brought many benefits, yet I believe developments relating to new technology are likely to produce many negative effects in the future that must be addressed if we are to avoid damaging impacts on individuals and society.*

***1st step: Identify the topic.***

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

***Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions.***

You should have identified *teenage crime* as the topic.

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

***Practice:***

Начало формы

1. **'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

1. **To what extent is the use of animals in scientific research acceptable?**

 Animal research

 Animals

 Scientific research

1. **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

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

 Information technology and work

 Information technology

 Working practices

1. **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

1. **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

1. **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

1. **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

1. **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

1. **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

Конец формы

***2nd step. Identify the task***

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

***Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions.***

1. *Why teenage crime has increased*
2. *Ways to solve this problem*

You **MUST** discuss both those things to ensure you have fully answered the question and you must write roughly equal amounts about each part.

Doing any of the following things will reduce your score for task response, and hence may reduce your overall score:

1. *Only writing about reasons or only solutions*
2. *Writing most of your essay about reasons and only a small part on solutions (or visa versa)*
3. *Writing about the reasons and solutions for crime in general, and not referring to teenage crime (the topic)*
4. *Writing about neither reasons nor solutions*

Here is another example.

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

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

You have to say if you **agree** or **disagree** with working hours being reduced, or, in other words, automation (machines) taking over from some human’s duties.

You must also say **how much** you agree or disagree ("to what extent").

Let’s assume you want to look at both sides of the issue. You therefore need to discuss the reasons **why you agree**, and the reasons **why you disagree**. Or put another way:

1. *The advantages of reducing working hours*
2. *The disadvantages of reducing working hours*

And of course in the introduction or conclusion you need to make it clear what **your opinion is**.

If you do all of these things then you will have answered all parts of the prompt. If you find more reasons to agree than disagree, then you can write more about this side of the argument, or visa versa.

***Practice.***

Pick the one that you think best describes what you would write about in order to fully answer all parts of the question.

Начало формы

1. **The rising levels of congestion and air pollution found in most of the world cities can be attributed directly to the rapidly increasing number of private cars in use. In order to reverse this decline in the quality of life in cities, attempts must be made to encourage people to use their cars less and public transport more.**

**Discuss possible ways to encourage the use of public transport.**

 Why people have been using cars more and public transport less

 How to get people to use public transport more

 The causes of increasing congestion and air pollution.

1. **Do the benefits of study abroad justify the difficulties? What advice would you offer to a prospective student?**

**(a)** A discussion of the benefits versus the challenges of studying abroad **(b)** Strategies to cope with studying abroad

**(a)** The benefits of study abroad

**(a)** The benefits of study abroad **(b)** the difficulties of studying abroad

1. **Fresh water has always been a limited resource in some parts of the world. Today, however, growing worldwide demand has made this a global problem.**

**What are the causes of the increased demand and what measure could governments and individuals take to respond to this problem?**

**(a)** The problems with using too much water **(b)** Government solutions **(c)** Individual solutions

 How **(a)** Governments and **(b)** Individuals can solve water shortage problems.

**(a)** Reasons for increased demand for water **(b)**Government solutions **(c)** Individual solutions

1. **As global trade increases, many goods including those we use on a daily basis are produced in other countries and transported long distances.**

**Do the benefits of the trend outweigh the drawback?**

**(a)** The benefits of this **(b)** The disadvantages of this **(c)**Your opinion on whether it is more beneficial or not

**(a)** The benefits of this **(b)** Your opinion on whether is is more beneficial or not

**(a)** The disadvantages of this **(b)** Your opinion on whether it is more beneficial or not

1. **Some people feel that animals should have the same rights as humans, but others think they are not as equal or intelligent as us so should not have the same rights.**

**Discuss both opinions and give your opinion.**

**(a)** The arguments for giving animals rights **(b)** The arguments against this

**(a)** Arguments for having animal rights **(b)** The arguments against this **(c)** Your opinion

**(a)** The reasons why animals are not as equal or intelligent as humans

1. **Currently there is a trend towards the use of alternative forms of medicine. However, at best these methods are ineffective, and at worst they may be dangerous.**

**To what extent do you agree with this statement?**

**(a)** How alternative medicine differs from Conventional medicine

**(a)** The dangers of alternative medicine

**(a)** The benefits of alternative medicine **(b)** The drawbacks of alternative medicine **(c)** Your opinion

1. **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.**

**(a)** Problems of overpopulation in urban areas **(b)**Government solutions **(c)** Individual solutions

**(a)** The problems of overpopulation **(b)** The solutions

**(a)** How governments can tackle urban overpopulation **(b)**How individuals can tackle urban overpopulation.

1. **Computers should never have been invented.**

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

**(a)** The reasons why computers were invented **(b)** The benefits of computers **(c)** Your opinion.

**(a)** The problems with computers **(b)** Solutions to these problems.

**(a)** The benefits of computers **(b)** The drawbacks of computers **(c)** Your opinion

1. **Unemployment has become an increasing problem in the recent past.**

**What factors contribute to an increase in unemployment and what steps can be taken to solve the problem?**

**(a)** The causes of increasing unemployment **(b)** How to solve this problem

**(a)** The problems with increasing unemployment **(b)** How to solve this problem.

**(a)** The reasons why unemployment is increasing.

1. **Some people think that young children should be allowed to do paid work, while others think that this should be illegal.**

**Discuss both opinions and give your opinion.**

**(a)** The advantages of allowing children to do paid work **(b)**Your opinion.

**(a)** The advantages of allowing children to do paid work **(b)**The disadvantages this **(c)** Your opinion.

**(a)** The problems of allowing children to do paid work **(b)**The benefits of allowing them to do paid work.

Конец формы

***3rd step. Brainstorm the ideas.***

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

***Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions.***

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

In order to get a good score it will not be enough just to put a list of ideas - you need to **extend and explain** those ideas.

**Developing Focus Questions**

For this question, you need to write about**reasons** for the increase in teenage crime and**solutions**.

In order to make sure you fully answer the question it is a good idea to develop some **focus questions** i.e. questions that will help you focus on what you need to write.

These are possible focus questions for this essay question:

* ***Focus question 1: Why has teenage crime increased*?**
* ***Focus question 2: What can be done about it*?**

You then need to brainstorm answers to these questions:

*Why has teenage crime increased*?

* *Breakdown in the nuclear family*
* *Lack of things to do*

*What can be done about it*?

* *Government - Provide better support for families & stricter punishments*
* *Individuals – take responsibility*

[*Nuclear family* is a term used to define a family group consisting of a pair of adults and their children, as opposed to *single-parent*families].

### Extending and Supporting your Ideas

However, you now need to think about how your are going to extend and support those ideas you have brainstormed. In other words, you need to ask yourself further questions about each of your ideas. For example:

Why has there been a breakdown in the nuclear family?

What is the effect of this?

What is a good example of it?

Answering questions like these will make sure you have fully supported and explained all your points.

For example:

Why has there been a breakdown in the nuclear family?

*- high divorce rates*

What is the effect of this?

*- no male role model; boys go astray & may commit crime*

### Planning

When you have extended your main ideas, this then provides the basis for your plan.

### ****Essay Plan****

***Why has teenage crime increased*?**

1) Breakdown in the nuclear family

*- high divorce rates = no father as ‘role model’*

*– boys go astray, drugs & crime*

2) Lack of things to do

*- e.g. TV has shown nothing to do*

*– children see crime as entertainment*

***What can be done about it*?**

1) Govt - Provide better support for families

*- e.g. more youth centres*

*– guidance and activities, sport*

*2)*Parents – take responsibility

*- provide loving environment, relative as role model*

The essay can now be written. Here is an example essay written from the plan, with the main supporting ideas highlighted in bold:

### Sample Essay

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

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

**Discuss some possible reasons for this increase and suggest solutions*.***

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

Write at least 250 words.

**Model Answer**

Over the last decade there has been a massive rise in the level of crime committed by teenagers in a number of countries.  It is important to establish why this has happened and to look at ways to solve the problem.

One reason is the **breakdown in the nuclear family**.  The high divorce rates have meant many children have been brought up in one-parent families with no father to act as a role model which is detrimental to their development.  This is particularly important for boys, who without this guidance are easily led astray by bad influences such as drugs and crime.  Another factor is the **lack of things to do** for the young.  For example, in the UK, many television programs about this issue have shown that teenagers hang around in the evenings with little to do.  When this happens, the boredom means they will find their own entertainment, which is often crime.

There are, however, ways to tackle these problems.  Firstly, the **government should provide more support for families**.  They could, for instance, invest more into building and staffing youth centers which would provide guidance through the youth workers and also enable teenagers to focus their attention on sport and other activities.  **Parents should also be encouraged to take more responsibility for their children**.  Ultimately, the onus is on them to ensure their children are brought up in a loving environment which would make them less likely to turn to crime.  They could, for example, find a male relative to act as a role model.

Therefore, it is clear that there are various reasons for this rise in crime, but solutions are available.  If we begin to tackle the issue now, we may be able to prevent the situation from declining further.

(294 Words)

#### COMMON  TRANSITION WORDS

**Listing Points to Show New Ideas:**

Firstly,     
First of all,  
To begin,  
Secondly,  
Finally,  
Furthermore,   
In addition,  
Also,  
Moreover,

**Showing an Example:**

For example,  
For instance,  
To illustrate,  
A case in point,

**Showing Contrast:**

However,   
On the other hand,  
In contrast,

**Showing a Result:**

Therefore,  
As a result,  
Consequently,  
Thus,

**Showing time:**(commonly in essay introductions)

These days,  
Nowadays,  
At present,

**To introduce concluding comments:**

To conclude,  
In conclusion,  
In brief,  
All in all,

*1) Full-stop, capital letter, comma*

*There are many ways to improve congestion.****For example,****some cities in The Netherlands have pedestrian only city centres.*

*Many countries have now reduced their CO2 emissions.****As a result,****there is now less pollution.*

**OR**

*2) Semi-colon, small letter, comma*

*There are many ways to improve congestion;****for example,****some cities in The Netherlands have pedestrian only city centres.*

*Many countries have now reduced their CO2 emissions;****as a result,****there is now less pollution.*

***1) Giving Examples***

You can vary your use of **‘for example**’ and **‘for instance**’ by moving them to after the first phrase of the sentence or to after the subject or verb.

*There are many ways to improve congestion.  Some cities in The Netherlands,****for instance,****have pedestrian only city centres.*

*There are many ways to improve congestion.  Some cities in The Netherlands have,****for instance,****pedestrian only city centres.*

***2) Giving a Contrast or Result***

Similarly, you can place**contrast** or **result** transitions further down the sentence:

*Tokyo now has a Sky Train.  Traffic problems,****as a result/therefore/as a consequence,****have decreased significantly.*

These can also be joined to the previous sentence with the conjunction 'and’:

*Tokyo now has a Sky Train,****and, as a result/therefore/as a consequence****, traffic problems have decreased significantly.*

**Note**: you cannot join it to another sentence without ’and’:

*Tokyo now has a Sky Train, as a result, traffic problems  have decreased significantly.****- this is incorrect.***

***3) Listing Points***

These can also be varied.  For example:

***Firstly,****an advantage of a new public transport system is that it will reduce traffic congestion.*

Again, to improve your writing, you should vary the way you use these.  They can be changed so they are no longer a transition but become part of the subject:

***The first advantage of a new public transport system****is that it will reduce traffic congestion.*

When you write an introduction, you should make sure you do two things:

1. *Write a sentence****introducing the topic****and giving some****background facts****about it*
2. *Tell the reader****what you are going to be writing about***

Question:

***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. Blood sports should be banned.***

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

Sample IELTS essay introduction:

*Despite the fact that killing animals for sport is popular in modern society, it remains a contentious issue. I believe that blood sports are cruel and uncivilized and so should be banned as soon as possible.*

As you can see, the **first sentence** consists of the**topic** plus some **background facts** on the topic which have been taken from the rubric.

The**second sentence**then gives the **writers opinion** and tells us that in the essay the writer will be arguing the reasons why it is cruel.

Question:

***Science and technology have helped the world make many advances. The Arts, such as painting, theatre and dance, to name just three examples, however, are also valuable.***

***What things do the Arts provide to the world that Science and Technology do not?***

Sample IELTS essay introduction:

*Societies have developed rapidly over time due to the many advances in science and technology. However, the arts are also very important and provide our world with many things that science and technology cannot.*

Question:

***According to a recent study, the more time people use the Internet, the less time they spend with real human beings. Some people say that instead of seeing the Internet as a way of opening up new communication possibilities world wide, we should be concerned about the effect this is having on social interaction.***

***How far do you agree with this opinion?***

Sample IELTS essay introduction:

*A recent study has shown that as people use the Internet more, they are spending less time with human beings. I believe that although this has increased the communication around the world in positive ways, it has also led to negative effects on the day-to-day social interaction of human beings.*

Question:

***Unemployment has become an increasing problem in the recent past.***

***What factors contribute to an increase in unemployment and what steps can be taken to solve the problem?***

Sample IELTS essay introduction:

*Over recent years, the level of unemployment has been increasing at an alarming rate in many countries around the world. This essay will discuss the reasons for this increase and consider what practical solutions are available.*

Question:

***Some people think children in secondary school should study international news as part of the curriculum. Others think that this would be a waste of time as there are already too many subjects for children to concentrate on.***

***Discuss both views and give your own opinion.***

Sample IELTS essay introduction:

*While some people are of the opinion that it would be useful to include international news as a subject in the school curriculum, others believe that this is a waste of students time because they are already overloaded with subjects to study. This essay will examine both sides of the issue.*

### What is a thesis statement?

Very basically, it tells the person reading your essay **what will be in it**. It may also **give your opinion** if the question asks you for this.

It is the last sentence of your introduction.

Don't get it mixed up with the [topic of your essay](https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/identify-the-topic.html) - this is usually at the beginning of your introduction.

### How do I write a thesis statement?

In order to make it effective, you must have first identified the task of the essay.

The task is **what you have to do**, and is usually at the **end of the rubric**. For example, look at this IELTS essay question:

***As global trade increases, many goods including those we use on a daily basis are produced in other countries and transported long distances.***

***Do the benefits of this trend \*outweigh the drawbacks?***

What you have to do (the task) is explain whether you think, overall, an increase in the production of goods in other countries and their subsequent transportation over long distances is more **advantageous**or **disadvantageous**.

So your essay is obviously going to be **discussing the advantages and disadvantages** of this issue, and this is what needs to be made clear in your thesis statement.

It is also an opinion essay as it is asking you to make a decision on whether you think there are more advantages or disadvantages. So you need to make this clear as well.

Here is an example introduction, with the thesis in bold:

*Due to the increase in global trade, many of the goods that we consume every day are made in a different country and then transported over a long distance in order to reach us.****In my opinion, this trend has more disadvantages than advantages****.*

You would then go on to write about the advantages and disadvantages of global trade (**focusing more on the disadvantages**as you think there are more of these).

\*Just a quick note on the word '**outweigh**'. This word often confuses students and they end up writing a thesis statement opinion that contradicts what they write in the essay.

The simple answer - **don't use the word!** It is just asking you if there are more advantages than disadvantages. So just state what you think in the thesis without using the word, as in the example.

**1) Writing about Two Opinions**

Some questions ask you specifically to **discuss two opinions** and to **give your opinion**.

***Some people think that young children should be allowed to do paid work, while others think that this should be illegal.***

***Discuss both opinions and give your opinion.***

There are various ways you could choose to write an introduction and thesis for this.

**Example 1**

You could begin by paraphrasing the two opinions, then stating in the thesis what you will do:

*Some people believe that it is acceptable for young children to undertake jobs that they are paid for, whereas others believe that this is wrong and should be illegal.****This essay will discuss both sides of the issue.***

This is quite simplistic but it makes it very clear what you are going to do.

You will obviously need to give your opinion as well in the essay, but stating this in the thesis ("This essay will discuss both sides of the issue and then give my opinion") sounds awkward so it is better without it.

Here is a [sample essay](https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/animal-rights-essay.html) with a similar thesis statement.

**Example 2**

Another possible way to do it is by having a sentence to introduce the topic first, and then paraphrasing the two opinions to make them your thesis:

*At present, more and more young children are becoming involved in paid work.****Whilst some people are of the opinion that this is an entirely acceptable practice, others believe that this is completely wrong and should be made illegal.***

This is fine as your thesis will match with your essay - you go on to discuss the first opinion and then the second one.

Here is another [model essay](https://www.ieltsbuddy.com/ielts-writing-example.html) using such a thesis statement.

**Example 3**

Or of course you could modify this slightly to include your opinion:

*At present, more and more young children are becoming involved in paid work.****Whilst some people are of the opinion that this is an entirely acceptable practice, I believe that this is completely wrong and should be made illegal.***

As long as you go on to discuss both sides of the argument, this is fine.

**2) Agreeing or Disagreeing**

Another type of question is when you are asked to **agree or disagree**with one opinion.

***Currently there is a trend towards the use of alternative forms of medicine. However, at best these methods are ineffective, and at worst they may be dangerous.***

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

For this type of question, you need to state what your opinion is in the thesis statement.

Although you could feasibly do this in the conclusion, I think it is better to do it first so it is clear to someone reading the essay what your opinion is upfront. It is not wrong though to put it in the conclusion - this is your choice.

Your thesis statement here will depend on whether you agree, disagree, or partly agree. Here are some examples of each:

A thesis statement that **agrees with the opinion**:

*Alternative medicine is not new. It is accepted that it pre-dates conventional medicine and it is still used by many people all over the world.****However, I strongly believe that this form of medicine does not work and is possibly a danger to those using it.***

A thesis statement that **disagrees with the opinion**:

*Alternative medicine is not new. It is accepted that it pre-dates conventional medicine and it is still used by many people all over the world.****I am unconvinced that it is dangerous, and feel that both alternative and conventional medicine can be useful.***

A thesis statement that **partly agrees with the opinion**:

*Alternative medicine is not new. It is accepted that it pre-dates conventional medicine and it is still used by many people all over the world.****I agree that for certain conditions this type of medicine is ineffective and could even be dangerous, but for some illnesses it is a good alternative choice.***

These examples illustrate why it is important to ananlyze the question carefully and brainstorm your ideas first so you have a clear idea of what you will be writing and what your opinion is.

**3) Other Essays**

Some other essays may not ask you for your opinion specifically, but may ask you to discuss, for example, **problems and solutions**, **causes and effects**, **advantages and disadvantages**.

If you are asked to do this, then you should just clearly state that you will be discussing these two things in your essay. Here are some examples:

**Problems and solutions:**

***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.***

Sample thesis in bold:

*Many countries of the world are currently experiencing problems caused by rapidly growing populations in urban areas.****Both governments and individuals have a duty to find ways to overcome these problems.***

**Causes and Effects:**

***The percentage of overweight children in western society has increased by almost 20% in the last ten years.***

***Discuss the causes and effects of this disturbing trend.***

Sample thesis in bold:

*Over the last ten years, Western societies have seen close to a 20% rise in the number of children who are overweight.****This essay will discuss some reasons why this has occurred and examine the consequences of this worrying trend.***

**Advantages and Disadvantages**:

***In order to solve traffic problems, governments should tax private car owners heavily and use the money to improve public transportation.***

***What are the advantages and disadvantages of such a solution?***

Sample thesis in bold:

*Traffic congestion in many cities around the world is severe. One possible solution to this problem is to impose heavy taxes on car drivers and use this money to make public transport better.****This essay will discuss the benefits and drawbacks of such a measure.***

***Some of the methods used in advertising are unethical and unacceptable in today’s society.***

***To what extent do you agree with this view?***

So your options are:

**1. Agree 100%  
2. Disagree 100%  
3. Partly agree**

You need to write a plan and an introduction to this task.