

3 If you live in a city now, would you say it is too crowded? In what situations do you notice this most? Describe to your partner how you feel in these situations.

4 Look at some of the problems caused by overpopulation in cities. Rank these problems, putting numbers next to the categories. (1 the most serious – 6 the least serious).

housing shortages
street crime

unemployment
traffic congestion

pollution
health problems

5 Compare your ranking with your partner and give reasons for your choices.

Writing

Organizing your writing

1 Writing any essay or assignment involves a number of different stages. Decide on a logical order for these stages.

Write the essay.

Note down a rough essay plan organized by paragraph headings.

Analyse the question.

Check for errors.

Read the instructions and question carefully.

Brainstorm ideas.

2 Read this question.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

There is an excessive number of cars on our roads today and this leads to many problems. Individuals and governments should ensure that public transport plays a more important role in modern life in order to tackle these problems.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Time: 40 minutes

Write at least 250 words.

3 Answer these questions.

- 1 Who are you writing for?
- 2 What is the main topic in this question?
- 3 How long do you have to write this essay?
- 4 What is the minimum number of words you are required to write?

4 Think about what the writing task involves. Underline the key words in the question.

5 Answer these questions.

- 1 Who are you writing for and how will this change your writing style?
- 2 Is it possible to start your essay by changing the first sentence of the question?
- 3 What does the second sentence suggest?
- 4 What does the actual writing task ask you to do in this essay?

TIP

Look at a previous piece of writing. How many words on average do you write on a line and how many lines would make a 250-word answer? This will give you a good idea about the minimum amount that you need to write in IELTS Writing Task 2.

6 Brainstorm ideas. The first part of the question states that *too many cars on the roads can lead to many problems*.

- 1 Write down three problems caused by an excessive number of cars and any vocabulary you might want to use.
- 2 How are individuals and governments responsible for causing some of the problems mentioned above?
- 3 How can *governments* reduce some of these problems in terms of public transport? Give examples.
- 4 How can *individuals* reduce some of these problems in terms of public transport? Give examples.

7 From your ideas, outline a rough plan.

Paragraph 1 *Introduction – Increase in traffic in general*

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 4

Paragraph 5 *Summary of opinion – Public transport very important*

8 Write the essay.

Strategy

Follow your rough outline and write your essay as quickly as possible.

Use paragraphs.

Express ideas and opinions backed up by examples and evidence.

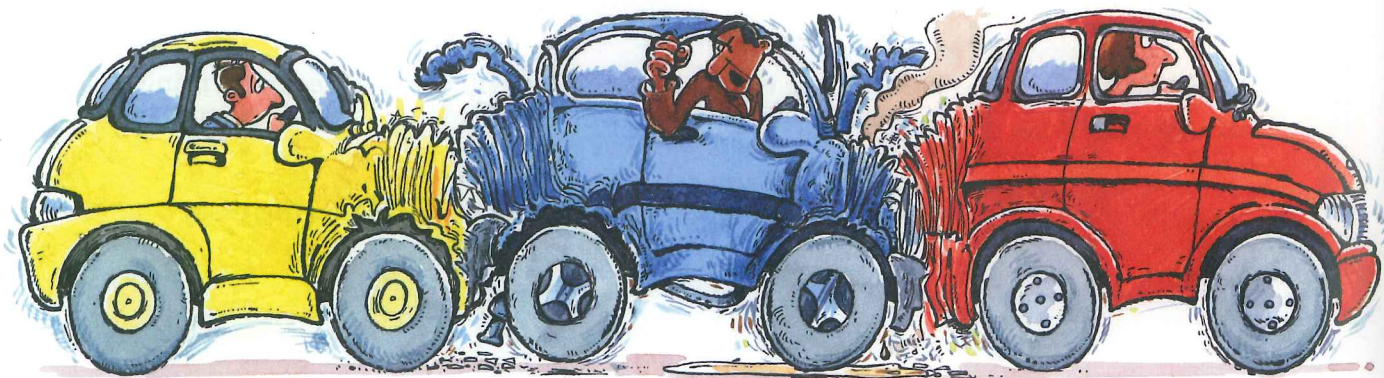
Pay attention to grammar, vocabulary, spelling and punctuation as you write.

9 Editing. Check grammar, vocabulary and spelling.

Make sure that you leave yourself a few minutes to check your work for any obvious grammar (for example articles, tenses, plurals, 3rd person, subject-verb agreement, etc.), vocabulary or spelling mistakes. You will not have time to change the main content of your essay but you might notice some errors that can be easily corrected.

10 Work in pairs. Read the example of a student's answer to this question. Then discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you think the candidate has answered the question sufficiently? Give reasons.
- 2 Do you think the answer has been well organized?
- 3 Are the mistakes (1–8) grammar, vocabulary or spelling? How would you correct them?
- 4 What other mistakes can you find?
- 5 What is your opinion of the essay in general?



These days, as the amounts of (1) transports is increasing (2) considerably, people think this is one of the main reason causing the pollution. So, it is a good idea that, the government and individuals should use the public transport more than the private transport in order to tackle the numerous problems.

To begin with, (3) the raising of the use of the public transport can help the government to reduce the amount of the private transport. For example, if more and more people go to work and go home by buses, trains, or underground, there will be fewer people (4) use their own cars, so that, there will be less transport on the road. In this way, lots of problems will be solved, such as air pollution, traffic jams, road accidents, and so on. Anyways, the idea should be based on the high quality public transport services, which are provided by the government in order to attract more passengers.

Besides, as people's living standards (5) is improving, the amount of people who have their own transports is increasing dramatically. This is another reason cause the increasing of the road accidents. (6) Because there would be numbers of drivers who have their own transports (7) are not qualified, some of them may just driving for fun. So, it is safer to travel by the public transports due to the qualified and experienced drivers, buses are the best example.

To sum up, I strongly support that the (8) increasing of using the public transports is an efficient way to tackle the traffic and the environment problems.

Writing: further practice

11 Follow the stages on pages 25 and 26 and write an essay for this question.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following issue.

Overpopulation of urban areas has led to numerous problems. Identify one or two serious ones and suggest ways that governments and individuals tackle these problems.

Time: 40 minutes

Write at least 250 words.

Note completion

3 Complete these notes about the passage you have read. Choose **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS** from the passage for each answer.

Text 1

Method used to conduct tests

Crows chose hook or straight wire in order to

1 container. After male crow took hook, the female bird (Betty) 2 wire to make another one. Researchers gave Betty more straight wire and in ten tests she managed to make a hook 3 times.

Research findings

Crows able to make an appropriate tool from 4 that they had not seen or used much, providing new evidence of animal intelligence.

Text 2

Method used to conduct tests

Zinc oxide was put on sides of bottleneck dolphins and their behaviour was filmed through a 1

After seeing

2 the dolphins moved about a lot suggesting they had noticed the

3

Research findings

Dolphins, like

4 may be self-aware.

Text 3

Method used to conduct tests

Objects were passed into the orang-utans' cages and as they touched a computer screen a corresponding 1 would appear. They then learnt which of these matched which object. If they made the 2 choice a bell rang and they received 3 , which could be food or praise.

Research findings

Orang-utans showed the 4 by making connections between abstract symbols and objects.

Writing

Task 2: Organization and coherence: paragraphing

1 Read this question.

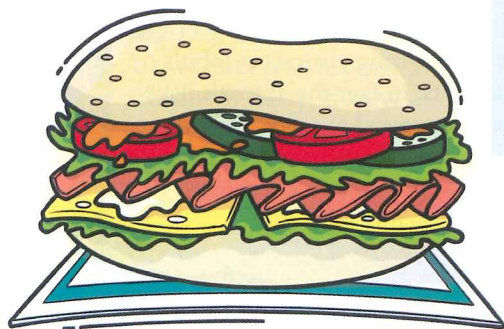
Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Academic achievement at school or university is the only true measure of a person's intelligence.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Time: 40 minutes

Write at least 250 words.



Think of your essay as a sandwich – the introduction and conclusion paragraphs are the bread while the main body (usually 2–4 paragraphs) is the filling. The first and last paragraphs are essential in holding the sandwich together!

Introductions

Paragraph 1

The first paragraph is the introduction to the topic.

2 Look back at the question, then read the three introductions below and decide which is best. Why is it more suitable than the other two?

Introduction 1

Academic achievement at school or university means passing exams such as A levels or getting a Degree or Masters. There is no doubt that you need to be clever to do this.

Introduction 2

Many people believe that academic achievement at school or university is the only true measure of a person's intelligence. However, there are two sides to this statement and other people would disagree with this view.

Introduction 3

There is no doubt that people are often judged in terms of their educational success. People need to pass exams to go to university and study for a degree and the majority of jobs and careers require these types of qualifications. However, this is surely not the only way to measure intelligence.

The main body

There are 3 paragraphs in the main body of this essay.

Paragraph 2

3 Identify the topic sentence and the main idea from the sentences below. Then put them in the correct order (1–4) to form a coherent paragraph.

This is often particularly true of people with practical skills such as carpenters or plumbers.

There are also further examples of people who have not achieved academic success in education.

Although they may not have passed many exams at school, they have successfully learnt a trade or skill which definitely requires intelligence.

There are many people who leave school at the age of 16 yet go on to have successful careers.

Now answer these questions:

- 1 What specific examples are given to support the main idea?
- 2 Which different type of intelligence is mentioned to support the main idea?
- 3 How does the writer provide a link with paragraph 3?

Paragraph 3

4 Now do the same task with this paragraph which is the next section in the main body:

Such skills cannot necessarily be learnt on a course or from a book yet could be considered to be more 'natural' forms of intelligence.

It cannot be denied that creative or artistic ability is another form of intelligence.

Musicians have the skills to perform complex pieces of music while artists can create beautiful pieces of work through painting or sculpture.

- 1 What type of 'intelligence' is the main topic of this paragraph?
- 2 What specific examples of skills are mentioned to support the main idea?
- 3 How is 'academic' intelligence different from this type of skill?

Strategy

A good introduction will include clear, relevant information about the topic but should not repeat the question word-for-word. It can also include the view of the writer which will be developed later in the essay.

TIP

Good writers show links *between* paragraphs in an essay and *within* a paragraph. This is shown by **reference** or **lexical links**.

Paragraph 4

5 Read the last paragraph in the main body and then answer the questions.

A final example of another aspect of intelligence is knowledge, which people often acquire through self-study or experience. They may not have done well at school or university but have become 'educated' by learning about a subject independently or by dealing with a variety of real-life situations and problems. Indeed, there are many highly-qualified, successful people who often lack 'common sense' and who would be less able to cope with such difficulties.

Sentence 1: Which phrase introduces a further type of intelligence (and thus provides a link with the previous paragraphs)?

Sentence 2: Which word refers back to the *people* in sentence 1?

Sentence 2: Which words refer back to *self-study* in sentence 1?

Sentence 2: Which words refer back to *experience* in sentence 1?

Sentence 3: Which words refer back to *problems* in sentence 2?

Conclusions

6 Write a conclusion by reading the Introduction and Main Body and then summarizing the line of argument used in this essay.

7 Read this question.

Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Parents and family background have more influence than teachers on a young person's learning and academic achievement.

To what extent do you agree with this statement?

The main body of an answer to this question is provided. First, read it quickly. Then underline the main ideas and supporting information in each paragraph.

Paragraph 2

Many people believe that we inherit intelligence from our parents and it is often the case that children of gifted parents go on to repeat their parent's success at school. However, this is not always the case. In fact, it is far more likely that children who have supportive and interested parents often have higher academic achievement than those who do not receive such support.

Paragraph 3

Early childhood is a key stage in a child's development and experiences at this time can have far-reaching consequences in the child's future. It is usually at this time when a parent's input is most influential. At this stage a parent often has sole charge of their child and therefore their influence is very significant.

Useful language

Introductions

It is true to say that ...
There is no doubt that ...

In recent years ...
Many people consider ...

Conclusions

In conclusion, ...
To conclude, ...
To sum up, ...
Overall, it is clear that ...

Paragraph 4

Later in life, as the child starts school, teachers begin to have a greater influence. Often, one or more teachers can have considerable influence over a child's future, inspiring them in a particular subject or helping them to choose a career path. Teachers can have a particularly important role to play if a child lacks support from home due to emotional or financial difficulties which can have a negative effect on their learning. Therefore, it is definitely possible for a child to succeed academically, even without the help of a supportive family.

Conclusion

8 Work in pairs or small groups. Add an appropriate introduction and conclusion.

Listening skills

Listening and writing simultaneously

1  **15** Listen to part of a tutorial discussion between a student and tutor (Dr Williams). As you listen, complete the notes.

Topic: 'Nature versus Nurture'

Is a child **1** Or do parents, teachers, friends **2**

Length of assignment **3**

Previous studies/research

Comparison between:

Genetic factors

4 factors

Points to remember:

Focus on studies with similar pattern and compare with those that don't follow same trends then analyse why the **5**

Personal opinions – back up statements with clear **6**

Using references – Cite source of information

Include bibliography at end of assignment

Put in alphabetical order **7**

Further questions /points to discuss in **8**