

IELTS Writing Task

Writing Task II: Problem - Solution Essay

Topic 1: 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 ?

The enormous growth in the use of the internet over the last decade has led to radical changes to the way that people consume and share the information. Although serious problems have arisen as a result of this, there are solutions

*One of the first problems of the internet is the ease with which children can access potentially dangerous sites. For example, pornography sites are easily accessible to them because they can register with a site and claim to be adult. There is no doubt that this affects their thoughts and developments which is a negative impact for the children and the society. Another major problem is the growth of online **fraud** and hacking. These days, there are constant news stories about government information falling into the hand of criminals*

*It is important that action is taken to combat these problems. Governments should ensure that **adequate legislation** and controls are in place that will prevent young people from accessing dangerous sites, such as requiring more than simply confirming that you are an adult to view a site. Parents also a part to play. That need to closely monitor the activities of their children and restrict their access to certain sites, which can now be done through various computer programs. Companies must also improve their **onsite IT security system** to make **fraud** and hacking much more difficult by undertaking thorough reviews of their current systems for weakness.*

*In conclusion, the internet is an amazing technological innovation that has transformed people's lives, **but not without** negative impact. However, with the right action by individuals governments and businesses, it can be made a safe place for everyone.*

Writing Task II: Reason - Solution Essay

Topic 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.

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

Overpopulation can lead to overcrowding and poor quality housing in many large cities. **Poorly heated or damp housing** could cause significant health problems, resulting in illness, such as **bronchitis** or **pneumonia**. Another serious consequence of overcrowding is a rising rate of poor living condition may lead young people in particular to take desperate measures and turn to **crime and drugs**.

In term of solutions, I believe the government should be largely responsible. Firstly, it is vital that the state provides essential and healthcare for all its citizens. Secondly, setting up community projects to help foster more community spirit and help keep young people off the street is a good idea. For example, youth clubs or evening classes for teenagers would keep them occupied. Finally, more effectively policing if inner city areas would also be beneficial.

Therefore, it is clear that the problems caused by overpopulation in urban areas are very serious. Yet if governments and individuals share a **collective responsibility**, then it may well become possible to offer solutions.

Writing Task II: Discussion and Opinion

Topic: Some people say that online learning is the most effective and convenient way to learn. Others say that online learning will never be as effective as learning at a real school, in person. Discuss both of view and give your own opinion.

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

It is true that online learning is a rapidly growing phenomenon around the world. It is also that many people prefer to learn **one-on-one** with a real person and in a real classroom. However, for ease and convenience, online learning is an exceptional way for student to learn.

There are a couple of issues that online learning does not adequately satisfy. The biggest issue is that unlike a real classroom in an educational institution, there is often no real people. If a student has a question or needs immediate feedback on a point, in most cases they are not able to get it. A big part of the learning process includes human interaction so the lack of a real, living teacher can be a negative for a student.

While there are few disadvantages with online learning, there are many more advantages. Many people who want to study also have day jobs and schools are often open when they are working. Online learning solves this problem - students can study whenever they have time - study flexibility. Time wastage is another issue. Many hours each day are wasted when a student studies in a traditional school setting. Non-study activities like travelling to school, chatting to classmates throughout a day, and travelling home are time wasters. Another online benefit is the pace of learning. Students can learn without distractions at their own pace. This means that students can really focus on the course and, as the result, achieve better results.

Clearly, there are a number of very good benefits for students who choose to study online. No doubt this type of learning will increase in the coming years.

Writing Task I: Table

The table shows data about underground railway systems in six major cities with data opened, kilometres of route and passenger numbers per year in millions.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, making comparisons where relevant

City	Data opened	Kilometres of route	Passenger per year (in million)
London	1863	394	775
Paris	1900	199	1191
Tokyo	1927	155	1928
Washington	1976	126	144
Kyoto	1981	11	45
Los Angeles	2001	28	50

The table illustrates data regarding underground railways from six large cities in various parts of the world. The information shows when railways were opened, kilometres of route and yearly passenger numbers in millions.

Overall, London and Paris have the oldest underground train system in the world, **compared to** Los Angeles which started service at the turn of 21st century. Passenger numbers for Tokyo are the highest, in contrast to Kyoto, which has the lowest number of yearly passengers and the shortest kilometres of route.

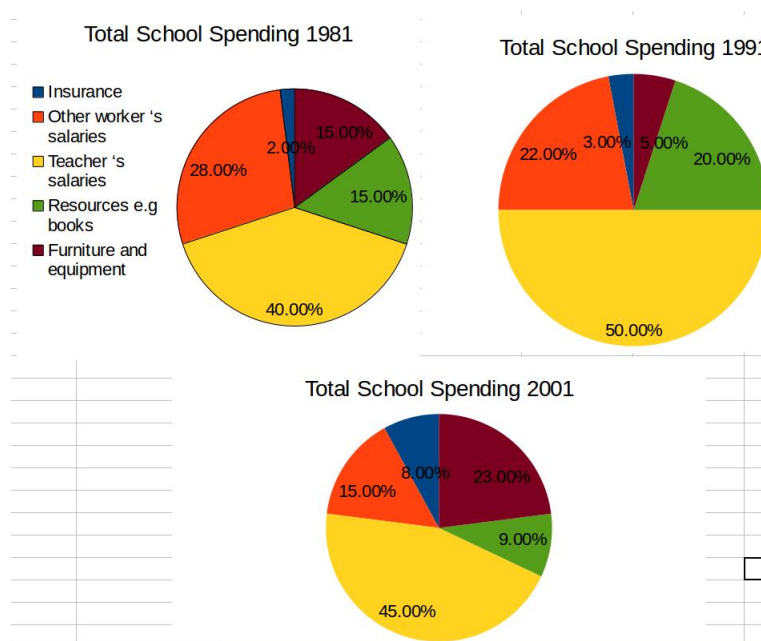
The London underground is **the oldest** network, which opened in the mid 19th century. It is also the **most extensive** with 394 kilometres of route. The railway system in Paris **was opened** in 1900 and it is approximately half the size and serves more passengers. Tokyo's system is **the busiest** with 1928 million passengers yearly, however, when compared to London, it has a **much smaller** route at 155 kilometres.

Regarding the three more modern network, Washington DC was completed in 1976 and **has** the longest route, in comparison, Kyoto has only 1.1 kilometres of route and the lowest passenger numbers of all the cities with 45 million passengers yearly. Following this, Los Angeles, which opened in 2001, has 28 kilometres and serves 50 million passengers per year.

Writing Task I: Pie Chart

Topic: The three pie charts below show the changes in manual spending by a particular UK school in 1981, 1991 and 2001.

Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and making comparisons where relevant.



Model Answer:

The pie chart show how much a UK school spent on different running costs in three separate year: 1981, 1991 and 2001.

In all three years, the greatest expenditure was on staff salaries. But while other workers' salaries saw a fall from 28 % in 1981 to only 15 % of spending in 2001, teachers' pay remained the biggest cost, reaching 50 % of total spending in 1991 and ending at 45 % in 2001.

Expenditure on resources such as books has increased to 20 % by 1991, before decreasing to only 9 % by the end of the period. In contrast, the cost of furniture and equipment saw an opposite trend. This cost decreased to only 5 % of total expenditure in 1991, but rose dramatically in 2001, when it represented 23 % of the school budget. Similarly, the cost of insurance saw a rising trend, growing from only 2 % to 8 % by 2001.

Overall, teachers' constituted the largest cost of the school, and while spending increased dramatically for equipment and insurance, there were corresponding drops in expenditure on things such as books and on other workers' salaries.

Writing Task II: Opinion

The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace, and nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy. The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages.

To what extent do you agree or disagree ?

Model Answer:

Nuclear power is an alternative source of energy which must be carefully evaluated during these times of energy problem. This essay will examine the merits and demerits of nuclear power and writer's opinion.

*Nuclear power is an alternative source and unlike renewables such as solar power, nuclear power is highly effective for industrial purpose as it is reliable and constant. It also has a wide range of benefits. If it is handled correctly, there is **negligible** danger to the public, it is cheap and best of all, it is limitless. However, it is not used widely as a source of energy for people in general, mainly because of the Second World War. Nuclear power is currently limited to a handful of countries, the reason being that it is part of the process required to build nuclear weapons.*

*In addition, there are certainly drawbacks to nuclear technology. It may be limitless and cheap but at the present time it is limited to few countries who regard themselves as **safe military powers**. Moreover, there is one more disadvantage which is of **paramount concern**: if it is mishandled, there is risk for the population around the plant to go under contamination. As is well-known, this happened in Chernobyl in Russia and most recently Hiroshima in Japan.*

In conclusion, nuclear power has helped millions of people already, and will most likely provide energy for many more people in the future. If our leaders ensure that it is safe for nuclear plants and they must keep those plants away from the residential areas, then it might be very important for the energy crisis far ahead.

Writing Task II: Advantage & Disadvantage

Globalization affects the world's economies, in the positive way it can create jobs and share cultures. Many people believe that it can promote worldwide economies while others would say that its negative side cannot be forgotten.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

As trade between countries increases and economies become further interconnected, the process of globalization seems to be unstoppable. Many people think this is a positive force, however others believe that it destroys our traditions and makes our culture bland. This essay will examine the merits and demerits of globalization and writer's opinion.

*A convincing argument can be made about globalization playing a **pivotal** role in the development of technology and the economy. It is globalization that compels many companies to*

be become international, thereby sharing technology and creating employment. For example, when a multinational group establishes a factory in a developing country, the new equipment, the management skills and the job vacancies are all in the best interests of the people who live there.

While it is true, globalization has also had negative impacts upon society. Individual cultures which developed over hundred of years now become increasingly similar. It is common that see young people today, in cities in different countries wearing the same Nike T-shirts, and Adidas footwears, playing Hip-Hop music Apple iPods and eating at KFC. Meanwhile, in some developing countries, sweatshops have become a concerning issue. For instance, investigating journalists work in factories which have terrible conditions and are paid for **appailing wages**.

To sum up, I would concede that globalization comes with some **adverses** effects, such as the potential for loss of culture and child labour. Despite these facts, the benefits for economic development far outweigh the drawbacks. I am convinced that globalization is a positive force in the world and will become common in the near future.

Writing Task II: Opinion & Agree - Disagree

Space exploration is much too expensive and the money should be spent on more important things.

To what extent do you agree or disagree ?

Model Answer:

There is argument that exploring space is a waste of money and that there are more urgent needs to be adressed on earth, such as reducing poverty and preventing environment destruction. However, I completely disagree with this opinion for **two** reasons.

First of all, many of the technologies we **take for granted** today were originated thanks to space research. Take satellite technology, for esample, which we depend on for broadcasting and weather forecasting. Without satellites, we would not be able to follow global events as they happen, nor give populations any warning of approaching storms. Space research has also led to the development of new lightweight materials that offer us heat protectionand protect food preservation. Therefore, the challenge of sending human beings has often driven the development of new technologies that benefits our everyday lives.

Second, we cannot foresee the distant future, so we ought to develop the capability to escape from the earth. Gradually, we are learning how human can survive for long periods in space and even travel to other planets in the future. If space exploration is halted, this valuable knowledge will never be acquired. It is true that environmental destruction is also a serious issue, but it also true that we remain dependent on our environment if we never accept the challenge of exploring new world.

*In conclusion, while we undoubtedly face serious problems on our own planet, it is **imperative** that we continue to explore space. This will promote further technological advances as well as provide a possible mean of escape should earth become uninhabitable in future. Ideally, all nations should cooperate in the advancement of space research.*

Writing Task II: Two-question Essay

Women and men are commonly seen as having different strength and weakness. What jobs might exclude males or females because of their gender ? What do you think about this ?

Model Answer:

There have always been differences in the types of work men and women have done, however the trend in modern times has been for both gender to have greater freedom of choice in terms of employment. Some people might think that there is enough equality already, but I believe that it should be encouraged to go further.

*There are good arguments for allowing certain posts to remain predominantly male and female. Where **all-male** or **all-female** groups exist, there may be a need for related posts to be held by men and women respectively. Patients in all-female hospital wards, for example, would probably appreciate having female nurses to look after them. It could also be argued that certain jobs requiring a great deal of physical strength, like coal mining or logging, should continue to be done mainly by men.*

*However, in the vast majority of situations, making occupations more open to both gender have distinct advantages. Men and women bring different perspectives and approaches to their work. Female police officers, for instance, may have a greater understanding of **domestic violence** and a better range of strategies for dealing with this problem. Male primary school teachers probably have a better understanding of the need of young boys, and can serve as good **role models** for the children they teach.*

In conclusion, the change that results from allowing men into female-dominated occupations and vice versa may be subtle, but they are far-reaching. Although I am convinced that gender equality is a positive step forward, to benefit the most from this development it is important not to expect males and females to approach work in identical ways.

The United Nations recently celebrated its 70th anniversary. What benefits has it brought during this time ? Do you think that the UN will exist another 70 years ?

Model Answer:

The United Nation was established at the end of the Second World War in order to provide a peaceful way to resolve the national differences. Since its formation 70 years ago, there has not been Third World War. Furthermore, The UN has expanded its global role to include many more activities beside peacekeeping. This essay will look at some of the UN's achievement and predict what the future might hold for the organization.

*It is difficult to imagine the world would be without the United Nations. The organization plays a **leading role** in everything from **conflict resolution** and peacekeeping to **emergency food aid** and global public health. Many people trust the UN because it is a **democratic organization** that reflects the interests of all its member states and not just one particular country. In this way, it can be argued that the UN has restricted the influence of powerful countries like the USA, Russia and China, while allowing smaller nations **a say in global affairs**, it is also effective at collecting funds from richer members and redistributing it as economic aid or emergency assistance to parts of the world which need it most.*

*Yet the world is a very different place from how it looked in 1945, which has led to some people a question the need for the powerful organization like the UN. In particular, there are some **proponent** of free trade who argue that competition and not cooperation between nations is the fastest way to pursue economic development. However, I would argue that the more nation become **interdependent**. the more they will require a global forum to resolve their differences. While there are more global organizations that can play a similar role like the World Bank or the **International Crimninal Court**, none has a cope of the UN. For that reason, the UN is sure to exist for decades to come, and possibly for another 70 years.*

*In conclusion, the UN remains the most **viable** organization for dealing with the world's problem, and this is unlikely to change very soon.*