

**UNIT 1: IELTS WRITING TASK 2****Overview of the IELTS Writing Task 2**

- ✓ A formal discussion/ or argument essay
- ✓ Write at least 250 words in 40 minutes
- ✓ 4 main types of questions: Opinion, Discussion, Pros and Cons, Two-part Question

**What does it test?**

- ☐ Expressing and evaluating ideas
- ☐ Use of an appropriate style
- ☐ Grammar, spelling and punctuation
- ☐ Paraphrasing

**4 marking criteria****1. Task Achievement (TA)** = how well you answer the question

To increase score for TA:

- ✓ present the information accurately
- ✓ answer all parts of the task
- ✓ provide a clear overview
- ✓ give a clear position, have a definite opinion

**Example**

Some people say that music is a good way of bringing people of different cultures and ages together. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Poor answer	Good answer
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Music truly plays an important role in our lives. Obviously, music helps connect people coming from different cultural backgrounds together.	Music can certainly reach across cultural and national boundaries and bring people together. Perhaps the best example of this would be the Live Aid concerts that took place back in the 1980s, and which were broadcast to a global audience. The concerts were a huge success, both in terms of the number of people around the world who watched them and their impact on international public awareness of the famine. They demonstrated, I believe, that music truly is the planet's global language.
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## 2. Coherence and Cohesion (CC) = how well is your text structured.

To increase score for CC:

- ✓ manage paragraphing
- ✓ make sure that each paragraph has a central idea
- ✓ use linking words and cohesive devices (firstly, in contrast, thus, in my opinion, in conclusion etc)

### Example

**It is better for students to work before their university study. Do you agree or disagree?**

Poor answer	Good answer
I agree that it is better for students to work before their university study. This is because they can earn money to help their finances when they go to university and also, they meet lots of new people. Learning workplace skills is another good reason for students to	Taking up employment before studying at university has many advantages for students. The most important of these is the practical experience of the workplace that they will gain. As well as learning new job skills, their social skills will also improve as they interact

work before taking up university study. Some of the people they meet may help them find work when they leave university. They also learn new social skills and get work experience.	with other employees. Furthermore, they may make valuable contacts that will be useful when they come to look for a job once their studies are complete. Being able to earn money to help finance their course is an added benefit because many undergraduates find it difficult to make ends meet while they are at college.
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### Some useful linking words

also	as well as	especially
furthermore	because	therefore
for example	although	in contrast
as	however	similarly

### 3. Lexical Resource (LR) = how good is your vocabulary.

#### To increase score for LR:

- ✓ use a wide range of vocabulary
- ✓ use less common lexical items
- ✓ avoid errors in spelling and word formation

#### Example

The use of mobile phone is as antisocial as smoking. Smoking is banned in certain places so mobile phone should be banned like smoking. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Poor answer	Good answer
I don't want to state the obvious but nowadays more and more people use mobile phones for different purposes and mobile phones are more popular. Some say that it is better to ban mobile phones like smoking, but I think it is ridiculous and should not be made.	It is true the use of cell phones has gained in popularity over the past few decades, making a paradigm shift in the lifestyle of every human on Earth. Although some might suggest banning mobile phones like cigarettes due to their presumably antisocial effects, the suggestion is groundless and should not be implemented.

#### 4. Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GRA) = how good is your grammar.

To increase score for GRA:

- ✓ use a wide range of grammatical structures and tenses
- ✓ manage punctuation
- ✓ avoid errors in sentences

Poor answer	Good answer
As tuition fees increase dramtically in recent years, some people are concerned about the possibility of attending university.	As tuition fees have been dramatically increasing in recent years, the affordability of tertiary education has always been a topics of interest.
Such a noisy environment was not conducive to study.	Such a noisy environment was not conducive to studying.
Consumer spending were the primary reason for economic growth in the festive season.	Consumer spending was the primary reason for economic growth in the festive season.

#### Strategies

**A. Read the question**

In many parts of the world there are now more multi-generational households, e.g. where grandparents live with parents and children than in the past.

What do you think are the reasons for this?

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

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

You should spend 40 minutes on this task

Write at least 250 words

**Read the task carefully and answer the following questions**

1. How long are you advised to spend on this task?

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2. What is the general statement on which the task is based on?

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3. How many questions do you have to answer on this task?

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4. What does the word “this” in the task refer to in both questions?

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5. What is the key word in the first question?

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6. What is the key phrase in the second question?

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**B. Plan your answer**

Stage 1: An introduction which gives a clearer explanation of the trend explained in the first task sentence, giving a brief reaction to it

Stage 2: A discussion of the possible reasons for the trend

Stage 3: Your own view of whether this is a positive or negative trend

Stage 4: Your concluding remarks

**? Match these notes for Writing Task 2 above with Stages 1-4**

- a. generally good thing – improves understanding – provide necessary support between generations
- b. most important general point to summarize why I hold my opinion – benefits individuals and communities
- c. lots more extended families than previously in my country, e.g. older generation, adult offspring stay at home
- d. economic pressures – hard to find jobs – child care – people living longer so more help needed.