

IELTS WRITING TASK 2

THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO GET
BAND SCORE 7+

THE
MUST-READ
EBOOK



Foreword

This eBook has been created to briefly summarise the tips needed to excellently take the IELTS task 2 writing exam. The targeted readership are IELTS students who may or may not be fully prepared for IELTS, and are interested in learning ways to write effective essays on the exam day.

The intent behind this eBook write-up is to provide supplement to IELTS students' repertoire of writing resources. Accordingly, this eBook should rather not be used as the only source of guidance for the preparation of a student's IELTS essay writing. It is also important to state that the preparation of an IELTS exam shouldn't be constricted to reading only eBooks that teach about essay writing, for there are other distinct aspects of IELTS that are equally paramount.

This eBook concentrated on important points with regard to essay writing, such as writing of introduction, supporting, and conclusion paragraphs, coherence and cohesion, as well as thesis writing, which when pursued and properly comprehended, will help strengthen the abilities of an IELTS student in the concerned aspect.

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Chapter 1. Things You Must Know Prior to the Exam

1.1 Introduction to the IELTS Writing Exam

Before this eBook starts on tips to write an IELTS effective essay and pass excellently, it should firstly enlighten those who do not know about the Task 2 IELTS exam well enough. Below are eight (8) things you must know before writing the IELTS Task 2 exam:

1. You will be given only sixty minutes to take the writing section of the IELTS examination.
2. The General section and the Academic section are two different sections of the IELTS listening exam.
3. Students are required to complete two tasks in the written section of the Academic training exam.
4. In the first task, students are required to write a descriptive report, based on the information in a graph, picture, or diagram.
5. In the second task, students are required to write an essay, which responds to a given question.
6. The General training exam is not the same as the Academic training exam in Task 1.
7. In the General training exam, students are required to write a letter.
8. For both examinations, it is expected of students to allocate twenty (20) minutes to work on task one and forty (40) minutes to work on task two.

1.2 What It Means to Write an Essay

Before the explanation of what an essay is and what it takes to write one, let's succinctly define the basic English structures, which will be needed for any essay writing.

- ❖ Word: Quite simply, a word is the smallest unit of English structure that comprises letters, which has practical meaning, synonyms, and antonyms.
- ❖ Sentence: A sentence is a textual unit that comprises words, which conveys a statement, command, question, or exclamation.
- ❖ Paragraph: A paragraph is a subdivision of an English composition, which comprises sentences that focus on a specific point or idea.

After understanding the basic English structures, it is time to discuss essay writing. First of all, what is an essay?

An essay is a short formal piece of writing, with a number of paragraphs that generally outlines the perspective of a writer with regard to a certain topic. IELTS exam markers look for and judge based on the following in your IELTS essay:

- ❖ Organised structure with specifically defined and clear paragraphs.
- ❖ Coherent sentences bound with linking phrases.
- ❖ A simple thesis that straightforwardly provides answers to the essay question.
- ❖ Real-life examples supporting the argument.
- ❖ A concise introduction and succinct conclusion.
- ❖ Compliance to the length requirement (min 250 words)

To get an excellent score in the IELTS Task 2 Writing section, one of the easiest and most effective tips is structuring your writing in the most solid format. A great argument essay structure may be divided to four paragraphs, in which comprises four sentences (excluding the conclusion paragraph, which comprises three sentences).

Great essay structure should be looking like this:

First paragraph (Introduction)

- ❖ First sentence – Background statement
- ❖ Second sentence – Details of the background statement
- ❖ Third sentence – Thesis
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Outline sentence

Second paragraph (Supporting paragraph 1)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence – Example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth Sentence – Conclusion

Third paragraph (Supporting paragraph 2)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence – Example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Conclusion

Fourth paragraph (Conclusion)

- ❖ First sentence – Summary
- ❖ Second sentence – Thesis restatement
- ❖ Third sentence – Recommendation or prediction

Our recommended essay structure above comprises fifteen (15) sentences, which will make your essay approximately 250 to 275 words. It is also important to note that every sentence written by you should be brief and clear, and should also connect to the different ideas present in the essay with the use of cohesive phrases. This will be explained further in Chapter Three of this eBook.

Chapter 2 - IELTS Analysis

2.1 Task 2 Essay Questions Analysis

To write a strong essay, it is important to firstly understand an essay question. For every essay question, at the beginning, the three different attributes below should be pinpointed:

- ❖ Scope
- ❖ Keywords
- ❖ Instruction words

Let's take a look at the essay question below:

Technology is becoming progressively universal. In the fullness of time, classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Do you agree or disagree?

Scope has to do with the topics which can and cannot be part of your essay write-up. Based on the essay question above, the SCOPE is “technology” and “education” related topics. Responding to the essay question above, you shall not discuss topics outside of the aforementioned scope. In spite of this being simple, quite a large number of students still fail to adhere to this rule in their writing, and discuss topics that are insignificant to their essay question.

Keywords are basically words in the essay question that depicts how the different ideas are related. An example in the essay question above is “progressively universal.” What does this keyword say about technology?

Another keyword in the essay question is “totally substituted.” How do these keywords connect the essay's ideas? What do these keywords say about the essay question?

Lastly, it is time to identify the **instruction words**. All you have to do is locate where the question is instructing you to do something. In this case:

Do you agree or disagree?

This particular sentence instructs you with a question, and your answer to this question should be direct and concise. To achieve this, you must know about and make use of a thesis.

What exactly is a thesis?

A thesis is an essay is just a single sentence, but it is of the greatest importance in the whole of an essay. This is due to the fact that a thesis is a sentence that states the opinion of a writer with regard to the essay question.

It is quite easy to write, especially because it often reflects and borrow words from a given essay question. Accordingly, your thesis for the above essay question can only be either of the two below:

1. It is agreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology.

OR

2. It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology.

It is important to understand that using a few words from an essay question to write a thesis is effective because it allows an examiner to plainly see the connection that exists between your essay and the given essay question.

Nonetheless, your vocabulary should be varied as much as possible in other parts of your essay.

2.2 Test Your Understanding

For each of the essay questions given below, determine the scope, keywords, and instruction words:

Government investment in the arts, such as music and theatre, is a waste of money. Governments must invest this money in public services instead. Do you agree or disagree?

Scope:

Keywords:

Instruction words:

Education is not a luxury, but a basic human right and as such should be free for everyone irrespective of personal wealth. Do you agree or disagree?

Scope:

Keywords:

Instruction words:

Formal examinations are the only effective way to assess a student's performance. Continual assessment such as coursework and projects is not a satisfactory way to do this. Do you agree or disagree?

Scope:

Keywords:

Instruction words:

Logging of the rain forests is a serious problem and it may lead to the extinction of animal life and human life. Do you agree or disagree?

Scope:

Keywords:

Instruction words:

These days, we are seeing an increasing amount of violence on television, and this is having a negative impact on children's behaviour. Do you agree or disagree?

Scope:

Keywords:

Instruction words:

2.3 Common Keywords and Instruction Words of IELTS

It is of paramount importance to have a clear understanding of the keywords and instruction words of your essay question. It is equally important to understand the relationship between the different ideas introduced in your essay question. The table below shows some common keywords used in IELTS:

Fast increase	Surge, increased rapidly, rapid growth
Fast decrease	Fell, decline, dropped
Slow increase	Increased moderately, gradual
Slow decrease	Declined moderately, gradual
Sudden upward/downward change	Spike, plunge
No change	Unchanging, inertia, stable
Minimum	Bottomed-out
Maximum	Highest, summit, peak
Comparing	Likewise, alike, just as, has in common
Contrasting	In contrast to, unlike, however, differs from
Figures that are similar or the same	Similar, in parallel
Unstable figures	Unstable, volatile, unpredictable
Expected results	As expected
Unexpected results	Unforeseen, strange
Happening at the same time	During, while

The table below shows some common instruction words used in IELTS:

Asking you to support	Support this statement, prove this statement, back this statement
Asking you to refute	Refute this statement, disprove this statement, prove that this statement is not true
Asking you to support or refute	Do you agree or disagree? What is your take on this statement? Where do you stand? Reach a reasoned conclusion
Asking you to compare (Go to chapter 6 to learn about discussion essays)	Compare these ideas, contrast these ideas, discuss these ideas
Asking you to analyse (Go to chapter 6 to learn about discussion essays)	Analyse this topic, discuss this topic

Chapter 3 - The Process of Writing

3.1 Writing of Introduction Paragraph

At this point, let's take a look at our essay question again:

Technology is becoming progressively universal. In the fullness of time, classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Do you agree or disagree?

What exactly is an introduction paragraph all about?

Quite simply, an introduction paragraph is the roadmap for an essay, which introduces the main idea of an essay. That being said, an IELTS examiner should already have a moderately clear idea of what your essay is all about by just reading your essay's introduction. With the structure of an argument essay, which was previously explained in this eBook, we already know an introduction paragraph should look like this:

- ❖ First sentence – Background statement
- ❖ Second sentence – Details of the background statement
- ❖ Third sentence – Thesis
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Outline sentence

A background statement is typically a general statement about the topic of your essay question. It is worthy of note that the background statement should NOT talk about an opinion of the essay question. Using our essay question to explain this better, an essay writer would have to give a general statement about technology. Such as:

In this present world, the usage of technology is constantly on the rise

Using the example above for our essay question, a writer has successfully given a general statement about the main topic in the essay question. The second sentence in an introduction paragraph has to do with providing details of the background statement. For this sentence, you may talk about how plastic shopping bags may affect lands and seas. Therefore, your second sentence may look like this:

Even classrooms are among the many places that enjoy the usage and benefits of technology.

If you have carefully perused this eBook to this point, then you would agree with me that the thesis is the most important sentence in the whole of your essay. The reason is definitely because it gives direct answers to the essay question. For our essay question, we are asked if we agree or disagree that plastic shopping bags should be banned. Let us take our time to carefully think about the question:

What will this mean?

It clearly means that students will have to completely depend on computers to learn.

Is this likely?

It is less likely.

Why not?

Firstly, replacing classroom teachers with technology means that students that misbehave will be unable to be disciplined.

Secondly, each student's individual needs may not be adequately catered to. Thirdly, technology would have limited authority in classrooms.

Lastly, learning strictly with technology may cause boredom and students may lose enthusiasm.

Are your points solid enough to agree or disagree?

Disagree!

At this point that we have made our decision and opinion about the topic, it is time to write our thesis, which would be a direct response to our essay question: **It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology.**

Our introduction paragraph begins to take proper shape after the completion of our background, detailed background, and thesis statement. Nonetheless, this is not the end of our introduction paragraph, for we still need to explain to the IELTS examiner the specific points we will be using to back our thesis statement. This is the essence of an outline sentence. Two points should be used in your IELTS exam essay, and each of them will be distinctly explained in your supporting paragraphs. Think about the best points that support your thesis. In this case, let us pick two that we can later get real-life examples for:

Analysing the incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology, as well as the limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology will prove this.

If you successfully get to this point, congratulations, your first introduction paragraph has been properly written. Let's put them together and see what it looks like:

In this present world, the usage of technology is constantly on the rise. Even classrooms are among the many places that enjoy the usage and benefits of

technology. It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Analysing the incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology, as well as the limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology will prove this.

Evidently, by just skimming through your introduction paragraph, anyone can have an exact idea of what you will be talking about throughout the essay.

3.2 Test Your Understanding

For each of the essay questions given below, discuss a few ideas that support it and few ideas that refute it. Go further to decide either to agree or disagree based on which is easier to prove. Lastly, decide and write down the most appropriate introduction paragraph for each essay:

Government investment in the arts, such as music and theatre, is a waste of money. Governments must invest this money in public services instead. Do you agree or disagree?

Education is not a luxury, but a basic human right and as such should be free for everyone irrespective of personal wealth. Do you agree or disagree?

Formal examinations are the only effective way to assess a student's performance. Continual assessment such as coursework and projects is not a satisfactory way to do this. Do you agree or disagree?

Logging of the rain forests is a serious problem and it may lead to the extinction of animal life and human life. Do you agree or disagree?

These days, we are seeing an increasing amount of violence on television, and this is having a negative impact on children's behaviour. Do you agree or disagree?

3.3 Coherence and Cohesion

What exactly is coherence all about?

Coherence is basically when the words/sentences of your essay are logically ordered, and when the main idea of the essay is easily understandable. Coherence pertains more to how your ideas are presented rather than the language of expression.

What exactly is cohesion all about?

Cohesion is basically when the links that exist between words, phrases, and sentences in your essay are visible and easily understandable. It has to do with linking ideas with clear relationships.

Coherence and cohesion are used to gauge the logic behind your ideas, their relationships, as well as how presentable they are. The best way to achieve coherence is to make use of short grammatically correct sentences which are brief, comprehensive, and straight to the point. On the other hand, cohesion can best be achieved by making use of linking words which create relationships between the many sentences and paragraphs that are in your essay.

Take a look at the table below to know some of the phrases that can be added to the beginning of a sentence to create cohesion:

Similarity	Similarly, as well, likewise, also
Contrast	In contrast, however, conversely, although, on the other hand, but
Series	First, second, thirdly, lastly, finally
Evidence	For instance, for example, such as
Result	As a result, therefore, thus, accordingly, consequently, because of this
Conclusion	In conclusion, to sum up, finally, to summarise, this shows, in the end, therefore
Importance	Most importantly, primarily, notably, above all
Additional	In addition, additionally, also, moreover, furthermore, as well, to add to this

The importance of linking words in essays can never be overemphasised. Making great efforts to use short concise sentences and connect them with linking words is an effective way to score high in your IELTS exam. Almost all the sentences written in your essay should have linking words of some sort. As a matter of fact, only in your background sentences and thesis may you ignore using linking words.

The linking words used in our essay

Our linking words started appearing right from our introduction paragraph. Were you able to identify them? Regardless of what your answer is, take a look at our introduction paragraph again – this time, the linking words are highlighted in green:

In this present world, the usage of technology is constantly on the rise. Even classrooms are among the many places that enjoy the usage and benefits of technology. It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Analysing the incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology, as well as the limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology will prove this.

Let us take a look at how our linking words let the sentences work a team:

- ❖ Even – it is used in English to emphasise comparison. In our introduction paragraph, the comparison was between technology usage in the world and technology usage in classrooms, and the linking word showed that technology usage in classrooms is also constantly on the rise. The linking word ‘even’ linked the idea of our background statement and our detailed background statement together.
- ❖ This – it is perhaps the most used linking word in English. In our introduction paragraph, ‘this’ referred to our thesis and showed that the supporting ideas of incapability of disciplining and learning limitation will be used in providing the validity of our thesis. The linking word ‘this’ linked our outline sentence to our presented idea in the thesis.

Chapter 4 - Proving of Thesis

4.1 Writing of Supporting Paragraphs

Supporting paragraphs are used to prove the thesis using real-life instances and information. If you thoroughly perused this eBook to this point, then you will agree with me that a supporting paragraph should consist of FOUR sentences. Let us take a look at it again:

Second paragraph (Supporting paragraph 1)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence – Example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth Sentence – Conclusion

To teach supporting paragraphs, we are still going to make use of our aforesaid essay question:

Technology is becoming progressively universal. In the fullness of time, classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Do you agree or disagree?

Now, let us read our introduction paragraph one more time, but this time, let us pay close attention to our outline sentence, which is highlighted in blue:

In this present world, the usage of technology is constantly on the rise. Even classrooms are among the many places that enjoy the usage and benefits of technology. It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Analysing the incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology, as well as the limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology will prove this.

The outline sentence shows the topics that must be discussed in our supporting paragraphs, which are listed below:

- ❖ The incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology
- ❖ The limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology

Since getting to this juncture you must have known the topics to be discussed in your supporting paragraphs, then it is time to think about real- life instances that will convince the IELTS marker that your thesis is valid. Let us brainstorm few points:

- ❖ The incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology:
 - Students may decide to disobey a robotic teacher because of the awareness that they can't be punished and there is no consequence.
 - Kids are fond of fooling around in classrooms, and robotic teachers do not possess the means to ascertain that some students are misbehaving.
- ❖ The limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology:
 - Students who do not understand a particular topic typically inform their teachers and expect to be explained in a different comprehensible way. Robotic teachers do not possess the means to do this.
 - Kids are usually taught more effectively when they are motivated, and robotic teachers cannot effectively carry out a motivation task.

Above are two supporting examples for each of the topics in our outline sentence. The next step is to decide which of the examples seems like the strongest. With our brainstorm, let's choose the following:

- ❖ Kids are fond of fooling around in classrooms, and robotic teachers do not possess the means to ascertain that some students are misbehaving.

and

- ❖ Kids are usually taught more effectively when they are motivated, and robotic teachers cannot effectively carry out a motivation task.

After the completion of this step, writing our supporting paragraphs becomes very easy. All that we are required to do is write out the FOUR needed sentences, while we pay close attention to our coherence and cohesion. The first sentence will definitely have to be our topic:

Firstly, a robotic teacher made with artificial intelligence would lack sufficient control over its classroom students.

In the above sentence (the topic sentence), we have simply stated the topic that was declared in the outline sentence of our introduction paragraph. The topic sentence must be clear and have exact meaning that matches the presented meaning in the outline sentence of your introduction paragraph. The next thing to do is to support our claim with our example:

For instance, it is widely known that kids need to be thoroughly watched by their teachers to be sure that they take their classwork seriously and do not fool around when classes are going on.

The example above clearly supports the topic directly by giving facts and real-life information. We made mention of the idea that children are universally known to enjoy misbehaving, and we used this as a strong point to prove robotic teachers won't be a good idea.

It is then time for the example sentence to be linked with our topic sentence. We should make a sentence that explains why this example supports our topic. Take a look at a good one:

Sadly, this is a task robotic teachers will be incapable of carrying.

We are almost done! The last sentence of a supporting paragraph is the conclusion sentence. This sentence has great importance in a supporting paragraph, for it links the presented topic and argument back to the thesis.

Take a look at an excellent conclusion sentence:

Therefore, this makes it clear that classroom teachers will never be totally substituted for technology.

At this point, we are done with the supporting paragraph. When the sentences are put together, it should look exactly like this:

Firstly, a robotic teacher made with artificial intelligence would lack sufficient control over its classroom students. For instance, it is widely known that kids need to be thoroughly watched by their teachers to be sure that they take their classwork seriously and do not fool around when classes are going on. Sadly, this is a task robotic teachers will be incapable of carrying out. Therefore, this makes it clear that classroom teachers will never be totally substituted for technology.

Were you able to realise that the sentences in this paragraph work perfectly well together? Reread the paragraph and try to identify the different linking words present.

4.2 Test Your Understanding

It is time to test if you really understand the points. Review the steps that we used in creating the first supporting paragraph to develop your own second supporting paragraph, and write below. Do not forget that the topic and example of this paragraph have been established. All that you are required to do is to write about how a robotic teacher would limit the learning process of its students by using the motivational needs of children as an instance.

We believe as you are reading this, you must have already written down your second supporting paragraph above. To be sure you did the right thing, compare it to this:

Secondly, the learning process of students would be disrupted if they are taught by robotic teachers, which may slow down some students' ability to comprehend information taught in lessons. For example, kids love to be motivated before lessons are taught effectively. This is a quality that many human teachers have but robotic teachers do not have. Thus it becomes apparent that human teachers will never be replaced with robotic teachers in a classroom.

The two supporting paragraphs are now complete, and our essay at this point should look like this:

In this present world, the usage of technology is constantly on the rise. Even classrooms are among the many places that enjoy the usage and benefits of technology. It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Analysing the incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology, as well as the limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology will prove this.

Firstly, a robotic teacher made with artificial intelligence would lack sufficient control over its classroom students. For instance, it is widely known that kids need to be thoroughly watched by their teachers to be sure that they take their classwork seriously and do not fool around when classes are going on. Sadly, this is a task robotic teachers will be incapable of carrying out. Therefore, this makes it clear that classroom teachers will never be totally substituted for technology.

Secondly, the learning process of students would be disrupted if they are taught by robotic teachers, which may slow down some students' ability to comprehend information taught in lessons. For example, kids love to be motivated before lessons are taught effectively. This is a quality that many human teachers have but robotic teachers do not have. Thus it becomes apparent that human teachers will never be replaced with robotic teachers in a classroom.

It is time to review our essay again and check for different signs of cohesion:

In this present world, the usage of technology is constantly on the rise. **Even** classrooms are among the many places that enjoy the usage and benefits of technology. It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Analysing the incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology, as well as the limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology will prove **this**.

Firstly, a robotic teacher made with artificial intelligence would lack sufficient control over its classroom students. **For instance**, it is widely known that kids need to be thoroughly watched by their teachers to be sure that they take their classwork seriously and do not fool around when classes are going on. Sadly, **this** is a task robotic teachers will be incapable of carrying out. Therefore, **this** makes it clear that classroom teachers will never be totally substituted for technology.

Secondly, the learning process of students would be disrupted if they are taught by robotic teachers, which may slow down some students' ability to comprehend information taught in lessons. **For example**, kids love to be motivated before lessons are taught effectively. **This** is a quality that many human teachers have but robotic teachers do not have. Thus **this** becomes apparent that human teachers will never be replaced with robotic teachers in a classroom.

Were you able to notice that the sentences created cohesion between each other with the use of linking words, which were highlighted in red above? Did you also notice that the paragraphs created cohesion between each other with the use of the linking words 'firstly' and 'secondly.' The conclusion sentences linking us back to our thesis were underlined.

It is another time to test if you really understand the stated points. This time there is an essay that has both an introduction paragraph and a conclusion paragraph, but has no supporting paragraphs. After reading the essay question below, write down the TWO missing paragraphs.

To achieve personal happiness, the relationships we have with other people (friends, colleagues, family) are more essential than every other thing. Issues like wealth and occupations take the second place. Write to support this claim.

The growing pressures of the money driven world we live in widely cause the gravitation towards material items. However, personal happiness is not achieved through things like work, wealth, and success. Though these things may be attractive and coveted, it does not refute the fact that relationships with friends, colleagues, and family members are the genuine secrets to living happily. This will be proven by bringing up the topic of wealthy superstars who steadily live lonely lives and the advice from elderly people based on experience.

As explained above, genuine happiness can never be bought by wealth and everyone gets to realise this when they become old. It is true that the relationships with friends, colleagues, and family members create happiness. Therefore, the greater the love you give, the greater you receive.

It is time to do an exercise that is more difficult. Write down the two supporting paragraphs for the introduction paragraph you must have written in Chapter 3 concerning the question below:

Formal examinations are the only effective way to assess a student's performance. Continual assessment such as coursework and projects is not a satisfactory way to do this. Do you agree or disagree?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Why don't you try another one?

These days, we are seeing an increasing amount of violence on television, and this is having a negative impact on children's behaviour. Do you agree or disagree?

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

Chapter 5 - Compounding of Points

5.1 Writing of Conclusion Paragraph

The easiest paragraph to write in an essay is the conclusion paragraph. This is because the paragraph mostly contains information that has already been presented in the essay – it is just the repetition of some information written in the introduction paragraph and supporting paragraphs. By now, you should know the conclusion paragraph should consist of only three sentences:

- ❖ Summary
- ❖ Thesis restatement
- ❖ Recommendation or prediction

The first sentence, summary, simply restates the topics that have been discussed in the two supporting paragraphs. It typically begins with a linking phrase like 'To summarise' or 'In summary.' Thesis restatement has to do with repeating the thesis statement using different words. For the last sentence, you may write it as a recommendation (what you hope will become true as regards the subject of your essay) or a prediction (a logical guess of what will happen in the future as regards the subject of your essay). In spite of being the easiest paragraph, some students still get confused because they feel they are excessively repeating the same thing. However, it is worthy of note that this is not an error. There should be unity in a properly written essay, and writing your conclusion to reflect your introduction helps to achieve this.

Let us take a quick look at the whole structure of an essay. We believe you are already able to write down the structure offhand. Have you realised the similarity in the essay's introduction paragraph and conclusion paragraph? Have you realised they work to frame the supporting information written in the supporting paragraphs?

First paragraph (Introduction)

- ❖ First sentence – Background statement
- ❖ Second sentence – Details of the background statement
- ❖ Third sentence – Thesis
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Outline sentence

Second paragraph (Supporting paragraph 1)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence – Example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth Sentence – Conclusion

Third paragraph (Supporting paragraph 2)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence – Example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Conclusion

Fourth paragraph (Conclusion)

- ❖ First sentence – Summary
- ❖ Second sentence – Thesis restatement
- ❖ Third sentence – Recommendation or prediction

Let us take a look at the introduction paragraph and the two supporting paragraphs that we wrote for our essay question:

In this present world, the usage of technology is constantly on the rise. Even classrooms are among the many places that enjoy the usage and benefits of technology. It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Analysing the incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology, as well as the limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology will prove this.

Firstly, a robotic teacher made with artificial intelligence would lack sufficient control over its classroom students. For instance, it is widely known that kids need to be thoroughly watched by their teachers to be sure that they take their classwork seriously and do not fool around when classes are going on. Sadly, this is a task robotic teachers will be incapable of carrying out. Therefore, this makes it clear that classroom teachers will never be totally substituted for technology.

Secondly, the learning process of students would be disrupted if they are taught by robotic teachers, which may slow down some students' ability to comprehend information taught in lessons. For example, kids love to be motivated before lessons are taught effectively. This is a quality that many human teachers have but robotic teachers do not have. Thus this becomes apparent that human teachers will never be replaced with robotic teachers in a classroom.

As explained above, the first sentence of our conclusion paragraph should be a summary of the topics that were discussed in our supporting paragraphs. Therefore, these ideas need to be grouped into a single sentence:

- ❖ A robotic teacher's shortness of authority in the classroom
- ❖ A robotic teacher's disservice to the learning needs of students

To summarise, a robotic teacher does not have the necessary discipline to properly give instructions to students and actually works to retard the ability of a student to comprehend new lessons.

The second sentence has to restate the thesis, but this time, in new words. Let us first see our thesis again:

It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology.

Now that we understand the idea, let us replace 'disagree' with 'cannot support' and mildly rearrange other words.

Therefore, it is clear that the idea of running a classroom completely by a machine cannot be supported.

The last sentence can either be written as a prediction or recommendation. In this case, we would go for prediction.

After thorough analysis on this subject, it is predicted that the adverse effects of the debate over technology-driven teaching will always be greater than the positive effects, and because of this, classroom teachers will never be substituted for technology.

At this point, we have completed our conclusion paragraph. It is time to put all the sentences together:

To summarise, a robotic teacher does not have the necessary discipline to properly give instructions to students and actually works to retard the ability of a student to comprehend new lessons. Therefore, it is clear that the idea of running a classroom completely by a machine cannot be supported. After thorough analysis on this subject, it is predicted that the adverse effects of the debate over technology-driven teaching will always be greater than the positive effects, and because of this classroom teachers will never be substituted for technology

If you perform a quick scan for cohesion, you will notice that the conclusion paragraph links both amongst its sentences and amongst the previous paragraphs.

Congratulations! You now have a properly structured, cohesive essay. The complete essay should now be like this:

In this present world, the usage of technology is constantly on the rise. Even classrooms are among the many places that enjoy the usage and benefits of technology. It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Analysing the incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology, as well as the limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology will prove this.

Firstly, a robotic teacher made with artificial intelligence would lack sufficient control over its classroom students. For instance, it is widely known that kids need to be thoroughly watched by their teachers to be sure that they take their classwork seriously and do not fool around when classes are going on. Sadly, this is a task robotic teachers will be incapable of carrying out. Therefore, this makes it clear that classroom teachers will never be totally substituted for technology.

Secondly, the learning process of students would be disrupted if they are taught by robotic teachers, which may slow down some students' ability to comprehend information taught in lessons. For example, kids love to be motivated before lessons are taught effectively. This is a quality that many human teachers have but robotic teachers do not have. Thus it becomes apparent that human teachers will never be replaced with robotic teachers in a classroom.

To summarise, a robotic teacher does not have the necessary discipline to properly give instructions to students and actually works to retard the ability of a student to comprehend new lessons. Therefore, it is clear that the idea of running a classroom completely by a machine cannot be supported. After thorough analysis on this subject, it is predicted that the adverse effects of the debate over technology-driven teaching will always be greater than the positive effects, and because of this, classroom teachers will never be substituted for technology.

Reading the complete essay, were you able to realise that the sentences link together? What of the paragraphs? Did you also notice that the summary links to both the supporting paragraphs and introduction? Did you realise that the introduction paragraph gives a map of the whole essay? Lastly, did you notice the conclusion paragraphs serve as complements to this map and brings the whole essay to a close?

5.2 Test Your Understanding

Now that you have read our essay as a whole, it is time for you to also write a complete essay.

Students generally prefer to choose the period they are supposed to study and the period they are free to have fun. They should be allowed to do their time management. Do you agree or disagree?

[illegible]

Try again, but this time, ensure that you place your major focus on your cohesion.

The internet has become profoundly efficient and popular that people choose it as a platform to learn. Some believe that it would eventually replace the need for books. Do you agree or disagree?

[illegible]

5.3 Compounding of Points – Cohesion

Let us retake a look at our essay as a whole. Apart from having cohesion at a sentence level, were you able to realise that we also have cohesion at an essay level?

In this present world, the usage of technology is constantly on the rise. Even classrooms are among the many places that enjoy the usage and benefits of technology. It is disagreed that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Analysing the incapability of disciplining classroom students with technology, as well as the limitation in the learning process of students taught with technology will prove this.

Firstly, a robotic teacher made with artificial intelligence would lack sufficient control over its classroom students. For instance, it is widely known that kids need to be thoroughly watched by their teachers to be sure that they take their classwork seriously and do not fool around when classes are going on. Sadly, this is a task robotic teachers will be incapable of carrying out. Therefore, this makes it clear that classroom teachers will never be totally substituted for technology.

Secondly, the learning process of students would be disrupted if they are taught by robotic teachers, which may slow down some students' ability to comprehend information taught in lessons. For example, kids love to be motivated before lessons are taught effectively. This is a quality that many human teachers have but robotic teachers do not have. Thus it becomes apparent that human teachers will never be replaced with robotic teachers in a classroom.

To summarise, a robotic teacher does not have the necessary discipline to

properly give instructions to students and actually works to retard the ability of a student to comprehend new lessons. Therefore, it is clear that the idea of running a classroom completely by a machine cannot be supported. After thorough analysis on this subject, it is predicted that the adverse effects of the debate over technology-driven teaching will always be greater than the positive effects, and because of this, classroom teachers will never be substituted for technology.

In blue, we would notice that the topic sentences of our supporting paragraph refer back to the presented information in the outline sentence of our introduction paragraph.

In orange, we would notice that the conclusion sentences of our supporting paragraph directly link each idea of the supporting paragraph back to the thesis.

In purple, we would notice that our summary sentence links back to our introduction paragraph's outline sentence and both of our supporting paragraphs.

Lastly, in green, our thesis restatement brings our essay to a close by strengthening the argument made in the thesis at the start of the essay.

Above makes it easy to see and understand how all the sentences in our essay worked together as a team, and made the essay a cohesive unit.

Chapter 6 - Discussion Essays

6.1 Analysing an Essay Topic

There is the possibility that you will be instructed in your IELTS exam to analyse, discuss, or critique a topic. Fitting these kinds of essay questions into the argument essay format may be difficult, and therefore must be treated differently.

The first thing you must learn is how to identify an essay question that needs to be written in a discussion-style format. In the former part of this eBook, we explained that identifying the scope, keywords, and instruction words makes you understand an essay question. In order to ascertain the kind of essay to write, we only need to read the instruction words and understand what it tells us to do. As usual, let us use our essay question to explain better:

Technology is becoming progressively universal. In the fullness of time, classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Do you agree or disagree?

Our essay question is definitely telling us here to choose a side, which is either to agree or disagree. This clearly tells us that the essay marker wants to read our opinion, and because of this, we must write in an argument- style essay format. Now read the modified question below:

Technology is becoming progressively universal. In the fullness of time, classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Analyse the two sides of this argument.

In the modified essay question above, only the instruction words were changed. What do you think the new essay question is instructing us to do? It

is simply instructing us to look at the two sides of the statement, which is elusive using an argument-style essay format. You must look closely at what you are instructed to do by carefully reading the instruction words of your essay question. Are you being asked for your opinion? Are you rather asked to discuss a topic? Review Chapter 2.2 for a list of possible instruction words usable when you are required to write a discussion essay.

6.2 Differences Between Discussion Essays and Argument

Let us analyse the sentence structure of an argument essay and that of a discussion essay.

Argument essay:

First paragraph (Introduction)

- ❖ First sentence – Background statement
- ❖ Second sentence – Details of the background statement
- ❖ Third sentence – Thesis
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Outline sentence

Second paragraph (Supporting paragraph 1)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence – Example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth Sentence – Conclusion

Third paragraph (Supporting paragraph 2)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence – Example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Conclusion

Fourth paragraph (Conclusion)

- ❖ First sentence – Summary
- ❖ Second sentence – Thesis restatement
- ❖ Third sentence – Recommendation or prediction

Discussion essay:

First paragraph (Introduction)

- ❖ First sentence – Background statement
- ❖ Second sentence – Details of the background statement
- ❖ Third sentence – Statement of points of view that will be discussed
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Outline sentence

Second paragraph (Supporting paragraph 1)

- ❖ First sentence – Point of view 1
- ❖ Second sentence – Supporting example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth Sentence – Conclusion

Third paragraph (Supporting paragraph 2)

- ❖ First sentence – Point of view 2
- ❖ Second sentence – Supporting example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Conclusion

Fourth paragraph (Conclusion)

- ❖ First sentence – Summary
- ❖ Second sentence – Statement of position
- ❖ Third sentence – Recommendation or prediction

It is clearly seen that the two different essays consist of 15 sentences each. It is also clear that most of the sentences are similar or the same. Nonetheless, there is a major difference between both essays, which is that the discussion essay does not have a thesis. You must have learnt in this eBook that a thesis

is the most essential part of an essay. So why would an essay be written without one?

In order to answer this question, we should firstly try to discover the purpose of the essay. The purpose of an argument essay is to state a point of view and prove it. On the other hand, the purpose of a discussion essay is to analyse the points of view of others and reach a conclusion. In an argument essay, the opinion of the writer is stated at the beginning in the thesis sentence, while in a discussion essay, the opinion of the writer is stated at the end in the statement of the position sentence. To some extent, an argument essay and a discussion essay reflect each other.

Let us bring back our new essay question:

Technology is becoming progressively universal. In the fullness of time, classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology. Analyse the two sides of this argument.

The instruction words 'Analyse the two sides of this argument' tells us to write down reasons to support and refute the argument. Take your time to read and understand the suggested response below:

In this present world, the usage of technology is constantly on the rise. Even classrooms are among the many places that enjoy the usage and benefits of technology. The argument that classroom teachers will be totally substituted for technology is an argument that is both agreed and disagreed with by many. The two sides of this argument will be thoroughly analysed and discussed in this essay before drawing a reasoned conclusion.

Firstly, the advancement rate at which technology is capable of mimicking the physical and psychological abilities of humans is quite remarkable. For

instance, the Honda robot Asimov has a movable body and can manipulate objects just as perfect as humans. Thus the prospect of technology being used to teach students in the classroom is considerable. This is why it can be argued that classroom teachers could be totally substituted for technology.

Nevertheless, a robotic teacher made with artificial intelligence would lack sufficient control over its classroom students. For instance, it is widely known that kids need to be thoroughly watched by their teachers to be sure that they take their classwork seriously and do not fool around when classes are going on. Sadly, this is a task robotic teachers will be incapable of carrying out. Therefore, this makes it clear that classroom teachers will never be totally substituted for technology.

To summarise, the two sides of the argument concerning the prospect of robotic teachers in school have strong support. However, after thorough analysis of both sides, it is clear that the idea of running a classroom completely by a machine cannot be supported. It is therefore predicted that the adverse effects of the debate over technology-driven teaching will always be greater than the positive effects, and because of this, classroom teachers will never be substituted for technology.

It is obvious that most areas of the essay remained the same as our argument essay. The major difference is that we ensured that we did not share our opinion until after analysing both sides of the argument.

Chapter 7 - Review of Lessons Learnt

To be sure that you perfectly comprehended all information in this eBook, we strongly propose that you take this brief quiz.

1. Write down the three areas that should be looked for in the IELTS Task 2 writing questions?

2. How many paragraphs should you have in your IELTS Task 2 essay?

3. What part of an essay is the most essential? What does this part do?

4. Write down one difference between an argument essay and a discussion essay.

5. What do you understand by the term 'cohesion'?

6. Write down the information that is missing in the structure below.

First paragraph (Introduction)

- ❖ First sentence –
- ❖ Second sentence – Details of the background statement
- ❖ Third sentence –
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Outline sentence

Second paragraph (Supporting paragraph 1)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence –
- ❖ Third sentence –
- ❖ Fourth Sentence – Conclusion

Third paragraph (Supporting paragraph 2)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence –
- ❖ Third sentence –
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Conclusion

Fourth paragraph (Conclusion)

- ❖ First sentence –
- ❖ Second sentence – Thesis restatement
- ❖ Third sentence –

7. List three different examples of cohesive phrases that could be used to contrast:

8. Write down a thesis for the essay question below:

New York is a large metropolitan city and this is a major reason why it has different means of public transportation. The most effective way to be mobile in big cities like New York is to use a metro system.

7.1 - Review of Lessons Learnt (Answers)

1. Write down the three areas that should be looked for in the IELTS Task 2 writing questions?

Scope, keywords, instruction words.

2. How many paragraphs should you have in your IELTS Task 2 essay?

Four.

3. What part of an essay is the most essential? What does this part do?

Thesis. It directly answers the essay question and states the opinion of the writer

4. Write down one difference between an argument essay and a discussion essay.

In an argument essay, the opinion of the writer is stated at the beginning in the thesis sentence, while in a discussion essay, the opinion of the writer is stated at the end in the statement of the position sentence.

5. What do you understand by the term 'cohesion'?

Cohesion is basically when the links that exist between words, phrases, and sentences in your essay are visible and easily understandable.

6. Write down the information that is missing in the structure below:

First paragraph (Introduction)

- ❖ First sentence – Background statement
- ❖ Second sentence – Details of the background statement
- ❖ Third sentence – Thesis
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Outline sentence

Second paragraph (Supporting paragraph 1)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence – Example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth Sentence – Conclusion

Third paragraph (Supporting paragraph 2)

- ❖ First sentence – Topic sentence
- ❖ Second sentence – Example
- ❖ Third sentence – Discussion
- ❖ Fourth sentence – Conclusion

Fourth paragraph (Conclusion)

- ❖ First sentence – Summary
- ❖ Second sentence – Thesis restatement
- ❖ Third sentence – Recommendation or prediction

7. List three different examples of cohesive phrases that could be used to contrast:

However, on the other hand, conversely

8. Write down a thesis for the essay question below:

New York is a large metropolitan city and this is a major reason why it has different means of public transportation. The most effective way to be mobile in big cities like New York is to use a metro system.

It is agreed that the most effective way to be mobile in big cities like New York is to use a metro system.

or

It is disagreed that the most effective way to be mobile in big cities like New York is to use a metro system.

or

The use of a metro system is not as effective as the use of a bus system for mobility in big cities like New York.

(Definitely, the bus system can be replaced with any system you believe is more effective than a metro system)

Afterword

First, thank you for purchasing the “IELTS Writing Task 2. The Ultimate Guide to Get Band Score 7+”!

Second, congratulations! You are one of the few determined test-takers who are committed to doing whatever it takes to succeed on your IELTS exam. We have developed these study materials with one goal in mind: to provide you the information you need in a concise and easy-to-use format.

Standardised testing is one of the biggest obstacles on your road to success, which only increases the importance of doing well in the high-pressure, high-stakes environment of test day. Your results on this test could have a significant impact on your future, and this guide provides the information and practical advice to help you achieve your desired score on test day.

It's very important to practice as much as possible to overcome the most common pitfalls and to be ready for any turn of events that the test throws at you.

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Thanks again and we wish you continued success!

Sincerely,

Writing9 Team 