

Problem and solution essays

When you write IELTS essays, you need to use the correct style. You can learn and practise some phrases to talk about solutions. These will help your writing to be more academic and better structured.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

These days, in many countries, fewer and fewer people want to become teachers, particularly in secondary schools.

What are the reasons for this, and how could the problem be solved?

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

Write at least 250 words.

A generation ago, teaching in a high school was considered an extremely well-respected and popular job, and in some countries this is still true. However, in many parts of the world, there has been a sharp drop in the number of young people who want to become high-school teachers. This essay will look at the reasons for this and propose some solutions.

One of the main causes of the problem is that teachers' salaries are lower than many other jobs. Teachers' pay has not kept pace with that of other professions, such as law or medicine. In the UK, for example, a doctor with five years' experience will earn far more than a teacher with the same experience. The solution is for the government to raise teachers' pay significantly, which would attract more people into the profession.

Another problem is that many children do not behave well in class. That is to say, teachers often have to deal with pupils who disobey them, which often causes them to give up teaching. This tends to put off potential

teachers as well. To tackle this issue, parents must give their children a sense of respect for teachers, in order to make children behave better in class.

A third cause of the problem is that teachers often have too much work to do. Most teachers are snowed under with marking and paperwork, which means that they have to stay late at school and work at home in the evening. As a result, many teachers are tired and stressed, and their job has a negative effect on their family life. The way forward could be to cut teachers' hours, and to take on more teaching assistants, which would make teaching an easier job.

To sum up, teaching has become a much less popular job in many countries, due to reasons such as the salary, the working hours and pupils' behaviour. This is a serious problem, and unless we can get more talented young people to become teachers, the education of our children will suffer. My view is that the main responsibility for solving the problem lies with parents and the government.

1 Read the model essay and write two more phrases to introduce each of the following.

- 1 a problem: *One of the main causes of the problem is ...*
- 2 solutions: *The solution is for the government to ...*

2 Find the following in the model essay.

- 1 a sentence in the introduction which explains what the essay is going to talk about
- 2 an example from the writer's country
- 3 a linking phrase which means *as a consequence*
- 4 a sentence in the conclusion which summarizes the causes of the problem
- 5 a sentence in the conclusion which says who should solve the problem

3 Write down any other language or ideas in the model which could be useful in your own essays.

Background
statement +
Thesis

Topic sentence
Explain / example

Solution

Summary

Last thought
and opinion

Problems and solutions tasks : Choose one of the following tasks, follow the model and write your essay in at least 250 words within 40 minutes

- Today, many people do not know their neighbors.
Why is this?
What can be done about this?
- Nowadays, not enough students choose science subjects at university in many countries.
Why is this?
What effects does this have on society?
- 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?
- In some parts of the world traditional festivals and celebrations have disappeared or are disappearing.
What problems is this causing?
What measures could be taken to counter this situation?

Introduction – (**Background statement** -rephrase the prompt- + **Thesis Statement** - give a general answer to what you will discuss in your paragraphs)

Body 1

Topic sentence -1st Reason/cause. Explain/example. **Solution** (Who will solve it? What is the solution? What will it solve?)

Body 2

Topic sentence -2nd Reason/cause. Explain/example. **Solution** (Who will solve it? What is the solution? What will it solve?)

Conclusion – summarise , give your final thoughts

Academic Writing task 1 Multi charts

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The table and charts below give information on the police budget for 2017 and 2018 in one area of Britain. The table shows where the money came from and the charts show how it was distributed.

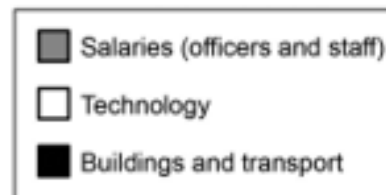
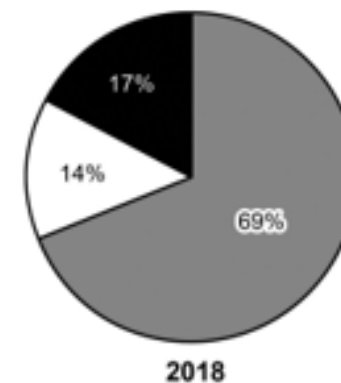
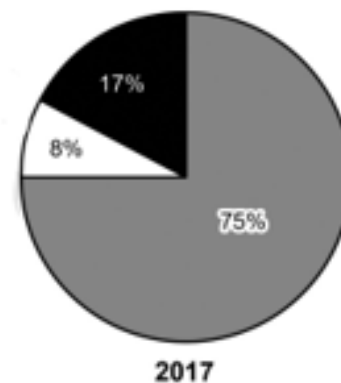
Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Police Budget 2017–2018 (in £m)

Sources	2017	2018
• National Government	175.5m	177.8m
• Local Taxes	91.2m	102.3m
• Other sources (eg grants)	38m	38.5m
Total	304.7m	318.6m

How the money was spent



Vocabulary

details/depicts/ gives/ provides shows
sources of funding for where the money comes from to provide for
police officers, cops
distribution how something is spread out
budget amount of money to spend
Looking from an overall perspective, it is readily apparent that overall
sources where it comes from
local taxes local government
displayed showed
greatest funding growth most of the money comes from
In terms of spending when it comes to money used
marked noticeable
salaries money earned each month
though however
category group
continued to kept on
represent showed
vast majority of the budget most of the money spent

national government federal government
pounds UK currency
slightly below just under
in contrast, however
lower overall less in general
grew considerably increased a lot
other sources different origins
grants money given
largely unchanged mostly the same
rising slightly going up a little
total figure overall number
in terms of concerning
budgetary allocation money supplied to each area
devoted to for
figure declined number went down
the following year the next year
nearly doubled almost 2x
unaltered unchanged
each year surveyed the years detailed

1. Introduction. Rephrase with your own words

1

The table and charts below give information on the police budget for 2017 and 2018 in one area of Britain. The table shows where the money came from and the charts show how it was distributed.

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

Police Budget 2017–2018 (in £m)

Sources	2017	2018
Central Government	120	125
Local Government	10	10
Police and Crime Commissioners	10	10
Police and Crime Panels	10	10
Police and Crime Reform Bill	10	10
Police and Crime Reform Bill	10	10

How the money was spent



The table and pie charts _____

The table _____ , while the pie charts _____ .

2. Overview

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The table and charts below give information on the police budget for 2017 and 2018 in one area of Britain. The table shows where the money came from and the charts show how it was distributed.

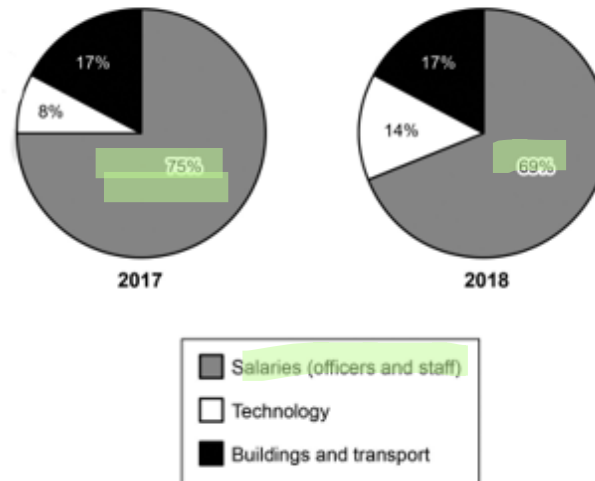
Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Police Budget 2017–2018 (in £m)

Sources	2017	2018
National Government	175.5m	177.8m
Local Taxes	91.2m	102.3m
Other sources (eg grants)	38m	38.5m
Total	304.7m	318.6m

How the money was spent



Overall, the **total** police budget – look at the table - *(increased? decreased? How? moderately, significantly, considerably?, which source was the main provider of the funding?)*

In terms of expenditure – look at the pie charts - *(Where did most of the money go to? In both years?)*

3. Body 1

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The table and charts below give information on the police budget for 2017 and 2018 in one area of Britain. The table shows where the money came from and the charts show how it was distributed.

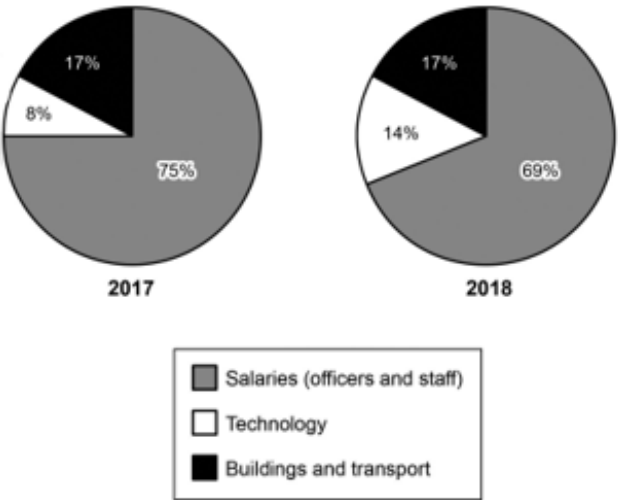
Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Police Budget 2017–2018 (in £m)

Sources	2017	2018
National Government	175.5m	177.8m
Local Taxes	91.2m	102.3m
Other sources (eg grants)	38m	38.5m
Total	304.7m	318.6m

How the money was spent



Look at the table :

In 2017, the police had a total budget of *(figures)* which *(increased? decreased? How much)* to *(figures)* in 2018. The majority of this money *(was sourced from who? with increase? decrease? from how much to how much?)*. Local taxes *(what is significant here compared with the other 2 funders? From how much to how much?)* , while other sources *(what happened here, how much more or less for the following year)*

4. Body 2

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

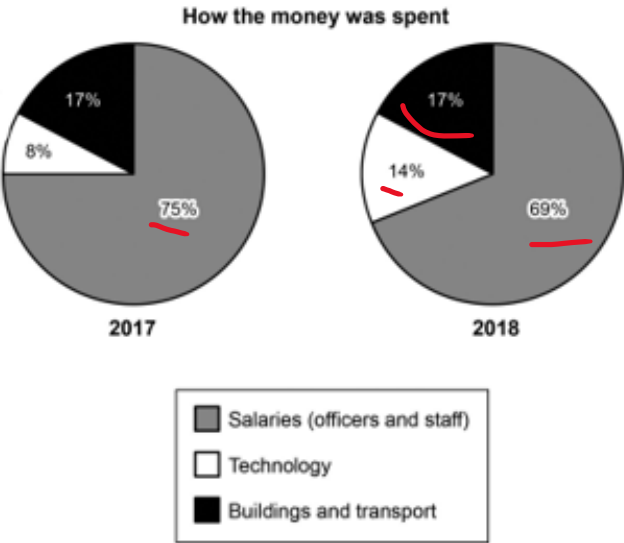
The table and charts below give information on the police budget for 2017 and 2018 in one area of Britain. The table shows where the money came from and the charts show how it was distributed.

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

Write at least 150 words.

Police Budget 2017–2018 (in £m)

Sources	2017	2018
National Government	175.5m	177.8m
Local Taxes	91.2m	102.3m
Other sources (eg grants)	38m	38.5m
Total	304.7m	318.6m



Look at the pie charts:

Expenditure primarily consisted of (biggest spending? Increased? Decreased? From % to %?) However, spending on technology (what happened here? From % to %?) , whereas expenditure on buildings and transport (what happened here? From % to %?)

General training additional extra practice

GT Writing letter 5: Explaining, suggesting (personal style)

A friend who is planning to visit you has asked you to describe the most interesting and enjoyable things to do in the community where you currently live.

Write an email to your friend, telling them about these things. In your email,

Say what these things are

Say why they are interesting/enjoyable

Suggest what you can do together

Begin your letter 'Dear ----'

Do not write any addresses

Write at least 150 words

Band 9 model

Dear Nikolai,

Thanks for your email last week, and I'm so happy that you are arriving next weekend. I'm writing to answer some of your questions.

You asked about the interesting things to do around here. Well, firstly, we have the downtown area, which has many old cafés and bars, and some sights such as the statues and the colonial houses. Apart from that, there is the park, which has a theatre, more eating places, and an outdoor music venue. All in all, these places offer a lot of variety, with options for dining, sightseeing and good quality live entertainment, and all within an easy walk of the central area where I live.

Here is an idea. When you get here, let's have an early night so that you get over the jet lag, and then go to the downtown area in the morning. We can have a traditional breakfast at one of the old cafés and see some of the sights. Then we can see a show at the theatre, have dinner in the park if it's sunny, and finally listen to the music in the outdoor arena. I think we might need another early night after such a long day!

Please get in touch before the weekend just to let me know if that sounds ok, and also your flight number.

All the best,

Mikhail

*You wish to apply for a new college course, but you are unsure about the details of cost, duration and subjects posted on the college website. Write an email to the relevant person in admissions at the college, asking them to clarify these points for you.
In this email,*

*Say what your interest is
Explain why the website is unclear
Request the information that you need*

*Begin your letter 'Dear ——'
Do not write any addresses
Write at least 150 words*

Band 9 model

Dear Mr Smith,

I am interested in the photography course this year, and I have seen your name on the college website as the contact for admission queries. I have several questions for you, and I hope you can help.

Firstly, regarding the cost of the course, is the fee of \$99 per month or for the whole course? Is it possible to pay in monthly instalments, or is the fee paid in full up front? The website says that 'other payment methods are possible,' but there is no explanation.

Secondly, can you tell me what the exact dates of the course are? Your website says, 'Summer to Autumn,' but I cannot see any specific dates relating to this. I would be grateful for the precise dates, including when I need to pay for the course and buy the books and so on.

Finally, I would appreciate some information about the course content itself, including details of the equipment to be used and the wording of the certificate I will receive at the end. The website says that I should contact you for this.

Thank you for your help, and I look forward to receiving the information requested.

Kind Regards,

Aftab Iqbal