



IELTS

Task 2

Academic Writing TASK 2

How to write at a band 9 level



ABBASOVA

Academic Writing Task 2

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Assessment Criteria

Every essay is assessed by a trained examiner according to four assessment criteria:

- Task Response (TR)
- Coherence and Cohesion (CC)
- Lexical Resource (LR)
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GRA)

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Candidate Number:							TR		CC		LR		GRA		
Examiner 2 Number:							Underlength		No. of words		Penalty		Off-topic	Memorised	Illegible

Task Response (TR)

This criterion focuses on the degree to which the task has been answered properly. The examiner has the following questions in mind when assessing this aspect of your essay:

1. Is there a clear and relevant position throughout the response?
2. Are there relevant and well-developed (presented, extended and supported) main ideas? Are any of the points underdeveloped or unclear?
3. Is there a tendency to overgeneralise?
4. Do any supporting ideas (e.g. examples) lack focus?
5. How have the different parts of the task been addressed:
 - a. addresses some parts only
 - b. unevenly addresses all parts
 - c. addresses all parts
 - d. sufficiently addresses all parts
 - e. fully addresses all parts

Coherence and Cohesion (CC)

This criterion is concerned with the overall clarity and fluency of the message: how the response organises and links information, ideas and language. **Coherence** refers to the linking of ideas through logical sequencing. **Cohesion** refers to the varied and appropriate use of cohesive devices (for example, logical connectors, pronouns and conjunctions) to assist in making the conceptual and referential relationships between and within sentences clear.

The examiner has the following questions in mind when assessing this aspect of your essay:

6. Have you organised your information logically?
7. Is there an overall flow or progression in your essay?
8. Have you used linkers correctly, properly and sufficiently without over- or under-using them?
9. Have pronouns been used correctly and do they have clear references?
10. Have you organised the text in paragraphs logically and sufficiently?

Lexical Resource (LR)

This criterion refers to the range of vocabulary the candidate has used and the accuracy and appropriacy of that use in terms of the specific task.

The examiner takes the following points into account when assessing this aspect of your essay:

1. Words
 - a. Range and flexibility
 - b. Level
 - c. Precision
 - d. Style
 - e. Collocation
2. Vocabulary mistakes
 - a. Spelling
 - b. Word choice
 - c. Word formation

Note: when evaluating vocabulary errors, the effect each has on the reader and the intelligibility of your essay is taken into account.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy (GRA)

This criterion refers to the range and accurate use of the candidate's grammatical resource as manifested in the candidate's writing at the sentence level.

The examiner has the following questions in mind when assessing this aspect of your essay:

1. Have you used a wide variety of sentence structures naturally and appropriately?
2. How often have you used complex structures?
3. Errors
 - a. Grammar
 - b. Punctuation

Note: when evaluating grammatical errors, the effect each has on the reader and the intelligibility of your essay is taken into account.

IELTS Task 2 Writing Band Descriptors (Public Version)

Band	Task Response	Coherence and Cohesion	Lexical Resource	Grammatical Range and Accuracy
9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ fully addresses all parts of the task □ presents a fully developed position in answer to the question with relevant, fully extended and well supported ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention • skilfully manages paragraphing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ sufficiently addresses all parts of the task □ presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sequences information and ideas logically • manages all aspects of cohesion well • uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings • skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation • produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a wide range of structures • the majority of sentences are error-free • makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ addresses all parts of the task □ presents a clear position throughout the response presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to overgeneralise and/or supporting ideas may lack focus 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • logically organises information and ideas; there is clear progression throughout • uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under-/over-use • presents a clear central topic within each paragraph 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision • uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation • may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a variety of complex structures • produces frequent error-free sentences • has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others □ presents a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear □ or repetitive presents relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression • uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical • may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately • uses paragraphing, but not always logically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task • attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy • makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms • makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication

5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ addresses the task only partially; the format may be □ inappropriate in places expresses a position but the development is not always clear and there may be no conclusions drawn presents some main ideas but these are limited and not sufficiently developed; there may be irrelevant detail 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression • makes inadequate, inaccurate or overuse of cohesive devices • may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution • may not write in paragraphs, or paragraphing may be inadequate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task □ may make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ uses only a limited range of structures □ attempts complex sentences but these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences may make □ frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ responds to the task only in a minimal way or the answer is tangential; the format may be inappropriate □ presents a position but this is unclear □ presents some main ideas but these are difficult to identify and may be repetitive, irrelevant or not well supported 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response • uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive • may not write in paragraphs or their use may be confusing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task has limited control of word formation and/or spelling; errors may cause strain for the reader 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses □ some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ does not adequately address any part of the task does not express a clear position presents few ideas, which are largely undeveloped or irrelevant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • does not organise ideas logically • may use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/or spelling errors □ may severely distort the message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ attempts sentence forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ barely responds to the task does not express a position □ may attempt to present one or two ideas but there is no development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ has very little control of organisational features 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ cannot use sentence forms except in memorised phrases
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ answer is completely unrelated to the task 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ fails to communicate any message 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ can only use a few isolated words 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ cannot use sentence forms at all
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ does not attend □ does not attempt the task in any way □ writes a totally memorised response 			

Opinion essay

1. Do you agree or disagree?
2. How far do you agree or disagree?
4. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
5. Do you agree ?
6. To what extent do you agree?
7. What are your views / is your view on this?
8. What are your opinions / is your opinion on this?
9. Is this positive or negative development / trend?
10. Direct question

1.1. Opinion essay (apple apple)

New parents should attend parenting classes to learn how to bring up their children well.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Nowadays, people have different views about whether classes related to parenting ought to be attended by newly married couples or not. I think although almost every new parent should visit such classes, it is still unimportant for every new parents to take part in classes concerning parenting.

On the one hand, when parents attend special courses on how to take care of their child, the tension that might have been because of the lack of knowledge gets replaced by clarifications. More importantly, it can be very convenient for new parents to be able to ask certain question and get the answers they need; as the information they obtain will help them next time they face the problem. For example, for parents it can be really difficult to choose a proper punishment when their kid is guilty, at parenting classes they would be given a proper advice that suits on the certain misbehavior. Consequently, better results are likely to be achieved as long as parents face any sort of child closely linked with this issue.

On the other hand, for a potentially large number of parents it is very time-consuming to visit such courses since new parents do have lack of time to dedicate to classes associated with parenting. This means that the addition of a baby to a family highly demands new responsibilities as well as time-consuming actions. For instance, new born baby has no stable sleep schedule in order that parents cannot make a proper plan in prior let alone visit parenting classes that take no less than an hour. Therefore, courses based on parenting are barely an adequate option for all members of families due to hectic schedule related to a baby.

In conclusion, I believe even though it is essential for new parents to obtain specialized help when they need one, it is not a necessity for all families to do so.

1.2. Opinion essay (apple orange)

Some people think that every individual is responsible for their own healthy lifestyle. Others believe that governments should take care of it. What are your views on this?

Nowadays, people have different views about whether healthy way of life should be established by every individual or government. I think although every person ought to take a sense of responsibility of their lifestyle on their own, health related activities should be also regulated by authorities.

On the one hand, by doing it yourself, man gets an opportunity to control every step and also ability of choosing from variety of options. This means that with opting for taking care of yourself, one can consult with friends and medical care workers which opens new gates. For example, if person has to go through a surgery, then one can ask those who already have undergone it or others who is somehow related to the problem. As a result, the potential patient can get real feedback and opt for the option that suits best in order to be prepared before the operation happens.

On the other hand, government should not ignore the health part of citizens' lives. More importantly, If government take responsibility for people's health, it will take "health" related activities on a bigger scale. That should be considered as a wide spreading variant, as it can influence not only individually but also bigger masses. For instance, government can provide specialized lectures and activities in schools, universities and other bigger parties. Therefore, it will help to encourage and teach people to pay careful attention to their well-being.

In conclusion, I believe even though each individual is still supposed to be responsible for their own health without expecting second party to do so. governments can bring health related actions on way bigger scale and much quicker.

2.1. Discuss both sides (apple apple)

Some believe that animal experimentation should be done by scientist but others do not support this view.
Discuss both sides.

Nowadays, people have different views about whether researchers ought to conduct a research on animal kingdom or not. This essay will discuss the positive sides of animal experimentation as well as negative aspects of research based on animal kingdom.

On the one hand, model organisms such as drosophile, mouse, dog and others are widely used in scientific research. Animals play a high and vital role in medicine in order to allow scientists to learn more about human biology and health, also for developing new medicines. For instance, if the use of animals in medical research is stopped and removed them completely from the lab, it will impede scientists understanding of health and disease, and consequently affect the development of new treatments. Moreover, many drugs have to be tested on animals so that scholars be sure of its safety before they can be used in humans during clinical trials.

On the other hand, the use of model animals in scientific research has been the subject of heated debate. This means that it is morally wrong to use animals in this way solely for human benefit. For example, many animals are used for experiment and most of them are killed during this process which is unnecessary to cause pain and suffering to animals when sophisticated computer system and human cell cultures can show us what happens to our bodies. Furthermore, humans and animals do not always react in the same way to a drug in order that the gene of both organisms are completely different according to studies shown in science.

In conclusion, although the using of animal models in medical experiment are significant and undeniable, it is still substantial to reduce these utilization by using new technological opportunities.

2.2. Discuss both sides (apple orange)

Some believe that it is a better idea for people to study through internet while others believe that face to face education is far more important than previous one.

Discuss both sides.

Nowadays, people have different views about whether many governments should provide students with online or offline schooling. This essay will discuss the positive sides of online study as well as education based on face-to-face system.

On the one hand, online learning is one of the greatest revolutions in contemporary education and it made a huge change in the system in order to open great chance for the students who have large enthusiasm to learn anything. This means that the huge flexibility and productivity of this type of education is due to the vast variety of modern online programs and courses which are suitable for people to follow them from their home. For instance, if the use of online programs in educational system is stopped and removed them completely from the structure, it will impede people's pursuit of dreams and interest, and consequently affect the development of new education. Moreover, many prestigious university organizes some possibility so that individuals can obtain an online degree before they can boost their career with the speed of light.

On the other hand, face to face training is the traditional way and still has its strong foundations in the learning process. More importantly, with face-to-face education, students are usually in a classroom with the trainers where it will not allow many distractions in a sense that tutors are created full attention at all times. For instance, the very many teachers try to implement strategies to keep students involved and engaged as well as it is likely to give courage to gain a better result. Furthermore, it is much easier to interact and meet new people with this method in a way that discuss details and debate regarding subject topics.

In conclusion, although the using of the e-learning in teaching system is significant and undeniable, it is still substantial to protect face to face learning for its important advantages.

2.3. Discuss advantages and disadvantages

Children should play online games nowadays.
Discuss advantages and disadvantages.

Multiplayer games nowadays have become very popular especially to the youth of today's generation. This essay will discuss the positive sides of online gaming as well as negative aspect of games based on online system.

On the one hand, thousands of online games are now wide spread at the circles of the World Wide Web which allows players to play in similar game setting at the same time. More importantly, video games allow players to build their own networks of alliance which promotes interaction between the individuals since they need to support each other in order to win the game, also, this will help players to build teamwork. For instance, if children stop playing multiplayer game and remove them completely from their circle of entertainment, as a result, it will impede children's pursuit of interest and enthusiasm and consequently they will be reluctant to study. Moreover, very many games are installed in several levels or missions by the company so that this can help the kids in learning about management in a way that online gaming makes the kid sharper and mentally more active.

On the other hand, online games also have the same missing effects which directly affect the development of kids. This means that they are playing with multiple other players, they cannot just stop from playing because this will affect the network and this will require children to play in long hours. For example, due to the long hours of playing numerous health problems may be acquired such as eye or corporal tunnel syndrome, poor postures and severe stress on nerves. Consequently, young generation is about to have a baneful destruction on their well-being which is a precious gift given by God. Furthermore, this breaks their connection with the environment which can not only diminish their natural social connections, but also leave them more depressed and passive, even vulgar.

In conclusion, although video games allow children to improve their social interaction capacity, it is still important for every kids to spend whole their time on other activities in a health way.

3.1. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion (apple apple)

Computers are being used more and more in education. Some people say that this is a positive trend, while others argue that it is leading to negative consequences.

Nowadays, people have different views about whether education should provide students with artificial intelligence or not. Although some believe that such usage has a negative effect, others, myself included, think that computer introduction is really important.

On the one hand, the long-term usage of electronic devices affects the vision horribly. More importantly, the continuous staring into the computer weakens eyesight and causes severe irritation that should be healed with proper drops. For example, students who already have weak vision will struggle with keeping eyes constantly focused on the screen, as the devices' brightness and screen pixels are way harder to adjust to. Consequently, scholars will have to buy special glasses to protect eyes from the radiation. Moreover, computers require constant proper maintenance, which costs money so that some students cannot afford that type of education.

On the other hand, using computers saves time and space for many students. This means that instead of bringing five books scholar can bring only computer with all necessary books downloaded to it, so that the information student may need would be sorted in one place. For instance, there would be no need in taking pens and notebooks, in turn, as everything can be written on the computer format and then read on any device. Furthermore, teachers will not have problems in understanding ones handwriting as it can be very tricky. All writings can be easily done in required format and with comfortable font type and size.

In conclusion, I believe even though computer devices have negative effects on students' eyes health, they still facilitate many areas of scholars' daily education and bring benefits to it.

3.2. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion (apple orange)

Some people think that e-books are the death of paper books while others think that paper books will never disappear.

Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

Nowadays, people have different views about whether electronic books are likely to be the most popular trend or paper books. Although some believe that with the evolution of e-books, traditional paper books have lost their popularity, others, myself included, think that digital books cannot replace reading printed books.

On the one hand, e-books are one of the greatest revolutions in contemporary worldwide electronic market and it made a huge change in the system in order to open great chance for the people who have large enthusiasm to read something through online. More importantly, it is very simple and easy to purchase and download e-books through the internet and individuals do not have to go to a bookstore to buy them. For instance, if people use e-books or find their online version from the internet, as a result, it will save a lot of their time and money. Moreover, the huge advantages of digital books are due to the vast variety of suitable programs and shareable content which are useful for authors to share them with multiple readers at the same time.

On the other hand, reading paper books is the traditional way and still has its strong foundations in the modern world. This means that while most readers have a good battery life, there will be times where they forget to charge their electronic devices they cannot read at all, but they will never have this problem with a standard book. For example, a majority of people can easily feel a sense of paper smell and enjoy reading in a nostalgic way. Consequently, by reading through conventional way, most individuals are on the verge of instilling these values to the upcoming generation. Furthermore, the book publishing companies use high quality paper and ink tools so that people do not suffer any kind of eye problems, also, they can enjoy the comfort smell of paper or the weight of a good book in their hands.

In conclusion, I believe even though the using of e-books in a modern technology is significant and undeniable, it is still important to protect traditional paper books for its significant advantages.

3.3. Advantages outweigh disadvantages

Do you agree that the advantages cars bring outweigh the disadvantages?

Using cars has been becoming increasingly common in recent years. Although I think that it maintains some obvious harmful consequences, I strongly believe that the advantages of the car can outweigh its disadvantages.

On the one hand, owning cars has a significant influence on the environment. The first reason is that the growth in travelling by car can lead to a rise in pollution, traffic jams, and accidents. More cars are likely to result in rocketing rate of pollution. Secondly, our dependence on cars can lead to decrease in practices, such as walking and cycling. People may have a higher chance of carrying more potential health risks like obesity and heart attack.

On the other hand, there are many reasons why people prefer to own cars. Firstly, it provides people with the freedom of movement. The ease of transportation which a car brings is significant/prominent than any other form of vehicles. For example, you can go from a destination to another destination and no time is wasted waiting for the bus or train. Therefore, time and distance are not barriers anymore. Secondly, personal cars can give comfort while travelling compared to the public transports which are so crowded and disgusting. For instance, you can read books, listen to your favorite songs or even play with kids while you are in your own car but all seems to be impossible on a public transport. Finally, families can go together. This becomes especially helpful when there are elderly, the disabled or even sick members in the families.

In conclusion, having a car can lead to a few obvious problems, but I believe that owning a car is the best choice and the benefits that it brings about can outshine its drawbacks.

3.4. Compare contrast

Some people prefer to live in a house, while others feel that there are more advantages to living in an apartment.

Are there more advantages than disadvantages of living in a house compared with living in an apartment?

The growth in urban populations means more and more people tend to live in apartments, but there are many who still prefer to live in houses. I think when compared with apartments, there are more benefits than drawbacks to living in houses.

Houses usually have yards where children can play and small gardens can be maintained. This makes them very suitable for larger families. In addition, people living in houses often enjoy better privacy and less noise because there are far fewer neighbors. Nevertheless, the costs of maintaining a house, from utility bills to air conditioning to security, almost always exceed those of living in an apartment. This is why even fans of living in houses tend to have second thoughts when deciding on where to live.

Apartments, on the other hand, are usually safer as most apartment buildings have guards and CCTV security systems, besides the fact that the many neighbors keep an eye on each other's residences. That said, most apartments have few or no south-facing windows, resulting in less light penetrating the interior and rendering their residents prone to depression and vitamin D deficiencies. It is also difficult to customize a house to the needs of a family since any structural changes can potentially affect the whole building.

In conclusion, I personally value privacy and silence above all other factors when choosing accommodation. Therefore, I believe a house is a much better place to live, especially for families with children and the elderly who need more peace and quiet. I also believe most citizens nowadays, especially the middle class, earn enough to be able to afford the costs of life in houses.

4.1. Cause solution

In some countries the average weight of people is increasing and their levels of health and fitness are decreasing.

What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?

Nowadays, the levels of healthiness and fitness are declining in some societies due to the increase in the average weight of people. I think this is mainly because of their sedentary lifestyles and the popularity of fast food, but there are some solutions.

A reason why people have generally grown overweight and unhealthy is that almost everyone either drives or takes public transport to work or school. As a result, there has been a serious decline in most people's levels of physical activity, leading them to burn fewer calories and gain weight. Another reason could be the overconsumption of fast food. A cheeseburger has many high-calorie ingredients such as Mozzarella cheese, sauce and bread. This means that eating many cheeseburgers would definitely have negative effects on blood fat levels and increase one's weight.

A possible solution to improve public health and fitness is for people to increase their daily physical activity, for example through walking to work if they live close to their workplaces, jogging in the morning or evening and taking regular exercise at the gym. In addition, what governments can do is to launch publicity campaigns against obesity so that people are informed of the dangers of a high-calorie diet. For example, posters could be designed that illustrate how back pain results from obesity and mounted in public areas and vehicles. This would definitely encourage many to control their calorie intake.

In conclusion, the decline in health and fitness and increase in the weight of many people in various countries owe mainly to a lack of physical activity and the high consumption of fast food. However, these problems can be dealt with if people increase their daily physical activity and are informed of the dangers of eating too much.

4.2. Problem solution

While mobile phones have many advantages, a number of problems have also from them or the ways in which they are used. What are some of these problems?

What solutions can you suggest for solving these problems?

Nowadays cell phones are widely used all around the globe, although the usage of phone devices make our live more comfortable and easier, they have also many problematic issues. I think these will mainly cause communication and distraction from real life, but there are some solutions.

In current time people use phones more than any other device, the problem it can cause is lack of the real life communication. As a result, phones gave us ability to keep in touch with others in any country, meanwhile they surely replaced the real life with virtual one. Another problem is full involvement cell phones require from people, especially the younger ones. When surfing in social media or playing games one can lose the count of time and waste it. This means that phones can pull users into time wasting process.

A possible solution to fix the inconvenience that occurs among youngsters, when it comes to real life conversation, is to balance both types of communication and not only stick to the messaging. For example, instead of typing a message, if possible, give a simple call or video one, even though it is not fully real life interaction, it is still the closest option. In addition to spend less time on the cell phone, one can do time-management, as almost all devices provide the information on how long phone been used during the day. Decreasing the length of phone usage will positively affect all other life activities.

In conclusion, distraction problem with cellphone usage and eye to eye communication uneasiness can be solved if users will precisely control their device activity and balance between online chatting and speaking in person during the day.

4.3. Cause problem

In many countries today insufficient respect is shown to older people. What do you think can be the reasons for this?
What problem might this cause in society?

Nowadays in diverse countries around the globe older people are treated with less respectful manners than there used to be. I think this is mainly because of the morals changing over the time and lack of time to devote, but there are some problems.

As time passes by the mentality changes, new concepts and ideas take over older ones. As a result, younger generation start following the notions that are relevant to their lifetime. Another reason that brings the diverse relationship towards older people is the time flow, as now people do not have much time to spend on careful word selection. That usually happens because we are always running out of time, yet to spend it on precise behavior control.

There are some problems that insufficient respect can bring on us. One of those is completely messed up ideas about the age gap between youngsters and older people. It leads to an ignorant behavior on what life experience means. For example, young people who stick with such notions will not listen and accept any advice from older people because they just discredit the age gap and experience the latter have. Another problem may be the careless attitude towards seniors. Consequently, older people who need more help than younger ones will stay mainly ignored and may suffer without the ability to inform about it.

In conclusion, disrespect is shown towards seniors owe mainly due to rapidly changing ideology and the lack of time people deal with. However, these will mainly cause ignoring attitude towards the age gap meaning and inattention to help older people.

5.1. Mixed question (dependent)

In some parts of the world it is becoming popular to research the history of one's own family.

Why might people want to do this?

Is it a positive or negative development?

It is becoming more and more common for people to seek information about their ancestors and family history. I think this is mainly because they want to have fun or learn about how their families have changed through time, but I personally disapprove of this practice.

One reason why many people are curious about their family history these days is that it is often fun to trace back one's bloodline and find out if one is related to any famous people. I remember a recent story about how a common supermarket clerk in Nevada was discovered to be a descendant of a British king. Many such descendants live completely ordinary lives, to which a discovery like that can bring many thrills. Additionally, it would definitely help people to realize how their families have changed through the years and therefore, learn a thing or two about the causes of failure and prosperity in different generations.

However, many individuals who find themselves related to the nobility tend to consider tiny shares of noble blood as birthright to more respect. They, for instance, often demand seats in public transport when there are more deserving people like pregnant women or the elderly aboard. Apart from that, some of them might overgeneralize the role of factors which have contributed to a former generation's condition, be it inherited wealth or even bad luck, to their own and disregard the value of their own ideas, efforts and current status.

In conclusion, I think the growing trend towards researching family histories owes mainly to people's need for fun, as well as information regarding how their families have developed, but I believe it should be discouraged.

5.2. Mixed question (independent)

Some people think it would be a good idea for schools to teach every young person how to be a good parent.

Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Describe the skills a person needs to be a good parent.

Nowadays, parenting is considered a very important role in almost every society. I think that school students should definitely receive parenting training, and also believe that effective communication and teaching are two of the most important skills a good parent should have.

One reason why parenting should be a school subject is that children spend a lot of time in their schools. For instance, in my country, Iran, they usually spend at least seven hours a day studying at school, which means they are likely to have enough time to learn and practice good parenting. Furthermore, they usually listen to and follow the instructions provided by their teachers much more effectively compared to what their parents or other people tell them because they have to pass courses and receive good scores in exams. Therefore, they can learn about good parenting skills from them more effectively.

I believe that every good parent should be able to communicate with his or her children so that they can be friends with each other and there is no secret between them. So, parents can guide their children better and protect them from the dangers of society. Apart from this, parents ought to be able to teach different things such as the difference between good and bad, social skills and scientific knowledge to their children to help them become better people and have better personalities. This allows their children to do a better job in future as adults.

In conclusion, I agree that students should be taught about the skills and knowledge that lead them to become good parents in future. I also think every good parent ought to be able to communicate well and teach effectively.

How to avoid absolute statements

Making predictions

The use of modern technology **would probably/certainly/definitely** lead to the development of better products.

Children who watch a lot of television in their spare time are **more/highly likely/unlikely** to score low on the school exams.

A university degree **could/may/might possibly** help him find a job at a better company.

It is **highly/very/quite likely/possible/unlikely** that this can improve the situation.

Avoiding "all": ways of saying "some"

many/a lot of/lots of/a large number of
products **the majority of/most** students **some**
people

certain groups in the society

a minority of employers **a**

few/a small number of cities

Avoiding "no" and "none": ways of saying "only a very insignificant number":

few people **only an insignificant**
number of products **almost no**
evidence

Avoiding "always"

Governments **almost always/usually/normally/mostly/generally** support local businesses.

People **sometimes/occasionally/often** try to hide their feelings.

People try to hide their feelings **at certain times**.

Avoiding "never"

Tourists **seldom/almost never/rarely** realise how important local cultures are.

A Quick Guide to Punctuation

Basically, the two punctuation marks you will need to use in IELTS reports, letters and essays are the full stop and comma. Exclamation (!) and question marks (?) might also be used in General Training letters, while parentheses could be used in Academic reports as well as in letters.

You are advised to avoid using the colon (:), semi-colon (;) and dashes (–) if you do not know where they need to be used, since they are unnecessary.

Full Stop (.)

Full stops are generally used to mark the end of a sentence:

There has been a dramatic increase in the population of urban regions.

Comma (,)

Commas are used in longer sentences to separate information into readable units. They also often separate clauses in a sentence and sometimes come before a coordinator (e.g. “and”, “but”, etc.)

- A single comma ensures correct reading of a sentence which starts with a long introductory element:

Following efforts by pioneering scientists in the field of ecology, it has now been generally accepted that the world is gradually becoming warmer.

- A single comma is used after many starting linkers like “however”, moreover”, “basically” and such:

In contrast, water levels in Africa and Australia declined to reach an all-time low.

- Pairs of commas help in the middle of a sentence to set off any string of words which is either a parenthesis, or in contrast, to whatever went before:

A student, whether at school or university, needs to receive guidance and instructions on how to use resources effectively and efficiently.

- Sets of comma act as a means of separating items in a list:

Workplaces like business offices, banks and schools would certainly require a more formal dress code.

- Use a comma at the end of a subordinate clause that precedes its main clause:

Although the government has invested heavily in preparing students for higher education, many university graduates still lack some basic academic skills.

- Non-restrictive relative clauses (relative clauses which provide information that can be left out without affecting the meaning or structure of the sentence) should be separated from the rest of the sentence by a comma or commas:

Note: do not add a comma after “that” at the beginning of a clause:

It has been known for some time that many flaws in children’s behavior have roots in their genes.

Punctuation in compound and complex sentences: a short note

Compound sentences

Use a comma before a coordinating conjunction that connects two independent clauses:

- There are many problems with this approach, and many of its supporters have already voiced their concern.

Note that the comma is not used when both clauses share the same subject:

- Many people are trying to move to larger cities and look for better prospects.

Use a period or semicolon before a transition that connects two independent clauses:

- The problem has become more pressing over the years. However, the government seems to be ignoring it for the moment.
- Companies need younger workforce to replace retiring staff members; nevertheless, some believe that old experienced workforce should be kept in their jobs for as long as they can work.

Complex sentences

Use a comma after an introductory subordinate clause to separate it from the main:

- Although education seems to play a more important role in the development of a country, the role of art should not be overlooked.

Note that the comma is not used when the main clause precedes the subordinate clause unless the clause expresses contrast or exception (although, while, whereas):

- Mobile phones are very useful because they provide their users with a variety of entertainment and communication options.
- Many people think this is the right thing to do, whereas others completely reject it.

Connectors: Usage and Meaning

To Add another Idea

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
and		Furthermore Moreover Besides also in addition

To Restate, Explain or Emphasize an Idea

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
		that is in other words in fact actually namely

To Give an Example

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
		for example for instance to illustrate

To Show a Choice

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
or nor		

To Show a Difference

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
but	While whereas though	in contrast on the contrary on the other hand instead however still otherwise

To Show the Opposite of What You Might Expect

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
yet	although though even though	nevertheless admittedly even so nonetheless

To Show a Similarity

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
	just as as	similarly likewise in the same way

To Show a Cause or Reason

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
for	because since as now that as long as	

To Show a Result or Effect

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
so	so + adjective + that such + ...noun + that	as a result consequently as a consequence therefore thus hence accordingly

To Show a Time Relationship

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
	before after when whenever while as soon as until as since the moment that once	previously subsequently finally afterward meanwhile first, second, etc. after that next since then then, at first,

To Show a Condition

Coordinators	Subordinators	Transitions
or	if even if unless when whenever	