Notes on IELTS essay writing:

Every paragraph comprises three main parts:

1. Topic sentence
2. Main body
3. Concluding sentence (optional)

Topic sentence must be neither too broad nor too specific. It could be at the beginning or the end or even implied in the paragraph but the first form is the clearest one.

You can use categories such as place, time, quality, similarity, differences, number, cause, effect for specification.

Ex:

Soccer has become (increasingly popular) (in the United States) (in the last 10 years)

Compared with earth, the moon is an unusual geological specimen.

Television comedy shows are undermining America’s social values.

Main body: consists of support sentences to clarify the topic sentence.

Some ways to write them:

1. Examples
2. Details
3. Anecdotes
4. Facts
5. Statistics

All of them should support the topic sentence either directly or indirectly.

Note: avoid using personal statements. Essays should be written in an academic impersonal style. So you should avoid using some words:

No: terrible, shocking, disgusting or wonderful, fantastic, brilliant

Yes: regrettable, worrying, inadvisable or admirable, helpful, invaluable

You should never use contractions (e.g. don’t, won’t etc.) or exclamation (!) marks

Sometimes the topics specify certain constraints like: both short and long term effects

Create a plan for your essay (in contrast with task 1):

Refer to Cambridge essay PDF book for more info.

Achieving high band scores requires wide range of grammar. Thereby you should be able to use complex structures (e.g. by creating a complex sentence by connecting two simple ones)

Make sure to check out complex grammar structure pdf.