

# IELTS Writing Task 2 Templates

Master the structure of every major IELTS Writing Task 2 essay type. This guide provides ready-to-use templates, a full Band 7 sample essay, and a quick-reference toolkit for linking words and scoring criteria — everything you need to write with confidence and precision on exam day.

ACADEMIC WRITING

IELTS PREPARATION

BAND 7+

SINCE 2005

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# Opinion Essay Template

*"Do you agree or disagree?" / "To what extent do you agree or disagree?"*

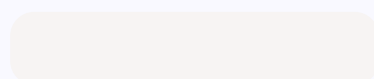
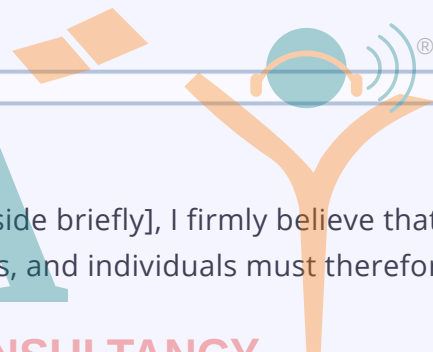
The Opinion Essay requires you to take a clear position and defend it throughout. State your view in the introduction, develop two supporting arguments in the body, acknowledge the opposing view with a rebuttal, and restate your position in the conclusion.

1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>In recent years, [topic] has become a subject of considerable debate. While some people believe that [opposing view], I would argue that [your position] for the reasons outlined below.</p>
2	<p><b>Main Argument</b></p> <p>The most compelling reason to support this view is [main point]. [Explain the point in 1-2 sentences.] For instance, [specific example or data]. This clearly demonstrates that [link back to your argument].</p>
3	<p><b>Supporting Argument</b></p> <p>Furthermore, it is worth considering that [second point]. [Develop the idea with explanation.] A clear example of this can be seen in [real-world reference or scenario]. As a result, [consequence or conclusion of this point].</p>
4	<p><b>Concession + Rebuttal</b></p> <p>Admittedly, some argue that [opposing view]. While this perspective has some merit, it fails to account for [counter-argument]. In reality, [why your position is still stronger].</p>
5	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>In conclusion, although [acknowledge the other side briefly], I firmly believe that [restate your position]. Governments, institutions, and individuals must therefore [recommended action or call to reflection].</p>

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# Discussion Essay Template

*"Discuss both views and give your own opinion."*

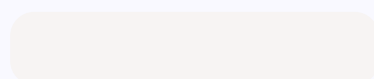
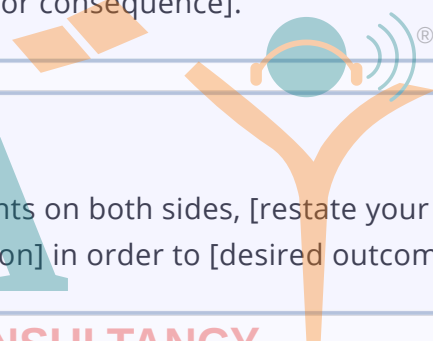
The Discussion Essay requires balanced, fair treatment of both perspectives before you present your own reasoned position. Avoid favouring one side too early — examiners reward objectivity and a well-developed personal opinion in the final body paragraph.

1	<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>The question of whether [paraphrase the issue] is one that divides opinion. Some people maintain that [View A], whereas others contend that [View B]. This essay will examine both perspectives before arriving at a reasoned conclusion.</p>
2	<p><b>View A</b></p> <p>Those who believe [View A] argue that [main reason]. This is largely because [explanation]. For example, [supporting evidence or real-world case]. Consequently, [outcome or effect of this view].</p>
3	<p><b>View B</b></p> <p>On the other hand, proponents of [View B] suggest that [main reason]. They point out that [development of the idea]. A notable illustration of this is [example]. Therefore, [conclusion that supports View B].</p>
4	<p><b>Your Opinion</b></p> <p>Having considered both sides, I am of the opinion that [your position]. Although [View A] raises valid concerns, [View B] is ultimately more persuasive because [your reasoning]. In the long run, [broader implication or consequence].</p>
5	<p><b>Conclusion</b></p> <p>In summary, while there are reasonable arguments on both sides, [restate your overall view]. It is essential that [stakeholders] take [action] in order to [desired outcome].</p>

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# Advantages & Disadvantages Template

*"Discuss the advantages and disadvantages." / "Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?"*

When the question asks whether advantages **outweigh** disadvantages, you must give a clear opinion — not just list pros and cons. Use Paragraph 4 to state which side carries greater weight and justify your judgement with specific reasoning.

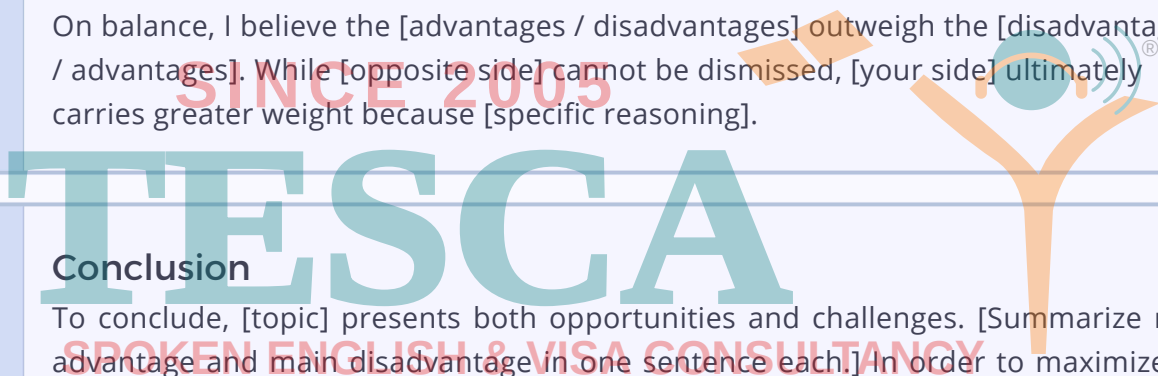
**1 Introduction**  
 [Paraphrase the topic and context.] This development has both potential benefits and significant drawbacks, each of which will be examined in this essay.

**2 Advantages**  
 There are several notable [advantages] and foremost, [Advantage 1 + explanation]. Moreover, [Advantage 2 + development]. For instance, [specific example]. These benefits suggest that [topic] can have a genuinely positive effect on [society / individuals / the economy].

**3 Disadvantages**  
 However, this trend is not without its drawbacks. A primary concern is [Disadvantage 1 + explanation]. In addition, [Disadvantage 2 + development]. For example, [specific case or scenario]. This indicates that [topic] may also lead to unintended negative consequences.

**4 Opinion (if "outweigh" question)**  
 On balance, I believe the [advantages / disadvantages] outweigh the [disadvantages / advantages]. While [opposite side] cannot be dismissed, [your side] ultimately carries greater weight because [specific reasoning].

**5 Conclusion**  
 To conclude, [topic] presents both opportunities and challenges. [Summarize main advantage and main disadvantage in one sentence each.] In order to maximize the benefits while minimizing the risks, [proposed solution or balanced recommendation].



# Sample Essay: Universities – Academic or Practical?

**Question:** Some people believe that universities should focus on providing academic knowledge, while others think they should prepare students for the working world. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

## Introduction

The role of universities has long been a topic of debate in educational circles. While some argue that higher education institutions should concentrate purely on academic and theoretical learning, others contend that universities have a responsibility to equip students with practical, career-oriented skills. This essay will explore both perspectives before presenting my own view.

## View 1 – Academic Focus

Those who favour a purely academic approach argue that the primary purpose of a university is to cultivate critical thinking, intellectual depth, and a love of knowledge. They suggest that a rigorous academic foundation gives graduates the cognitive tools needed to adapt to any profession over time. For example, a philosophy or history graduate may not enter a clearly defined career path, yet the analytical and communication skills developed during their studies prove invaluable across a wide range of industries. Supporters of this view therefore maintain that deep academic knowledge is itself a form of practical preparation.

# Sample Essay: View 2, Opinion & Conclusion

## View 2 — Practical Preparation

On the other hand, many educators and employers believe that universities must do more to bridge the gap between education and employment. They argue that graduates increasingly lack the workplace competencies — such as teamwork, problem-solving under pressure, and industry-specific knowledge — that employers demand. Countries like Germany have demonstrated the value of blending academic learning with vocational training through apprenticeship models, producing graduates who are immediately productive upon entering the workforce. From this perspective, a purely theoretical education risks leaving students underprepared for the realities of modern professional life.

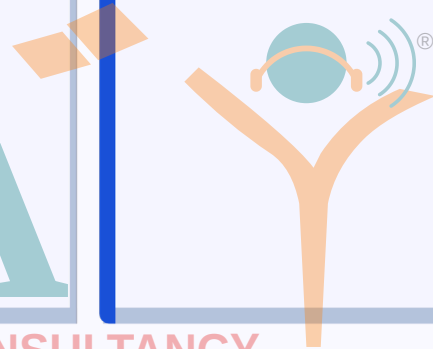
## My Opinion

Having considered both viewpoints, I believe that a balanced approach serves students best. While strong academic grounding remains indispensable, universities should also integrate internships, project-based learning, and industry partnerships into their programmes. The two goals are not mutually exclusive; indeed, the most effective educational systems are those that develop both intellectual rigour and professional readiness simultaneously.

## Conclusion

In conclusion, although traditional academic learning has undeniable value, universities in the modern era must also take responsibility for preparing graduates for the working world. A curriculum that combines theoretical depth with real-world application will ultimately produce well-rounded individuals capable of thriving both professionally and intellectually.

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✔ Word count: approximately 310 words | Estimated Band: 7.0–7.5

# Band Score Quick Reference

To achieve **Band 7**, you must meet specific standards across four assessment criteria. Each criterion carries equal weight, so neglecting any one of them will limit your overall score. Use this reference to identify exactly what examiners are looking for.

## Task Achievement

Address all parts of the question fully. Present a clear, consistent position throughout the essay. Do not go off-topic or leave any part of the prompt unanswered.

## Coherence & Cohesion

Organise ideas logically into clear paragraphs. Use a range of cohesive devices accurately — *however, consequently, in contrast, furthermore* — without overusing them.

## Lexical Resource

Use a wide range of vocabulary with only occasional errors. Avoid repetition by using synonyms and precise word choices. Collocations and topic-specific language score well.

## Grammatical Range & Accuracy

Use a mix of complex and simple sentence structures. Keep errors rare and minor. A variety of tenses, conditionals, and passive structures demonstrates range.



# Useful Linking Words by Function

A varied range of linking words and cohesive devices is essential for achieving Band 7 and above. Use these phrases to guide the reader through your argument with clarity and precision. Avoid repeating the same connector — variety demonstrates control.



## Adding Ideas

- Furthermore
- Moreover
- In addition
- Not only this but also



## Contrasting

- However
- Nevertheless
- On the other hand
- Despite this



## Giving Examples

- For instance
- For example
- A case in point is
- To illustrate



## Showing Cause

- As a result
- Consequently
- Therefore
- This leads to



## Concluding

- In conclusion
- To summarise
- On balance
- Ultimately

# Key Tips for a Higher Band Score

Templates provide structure, but examiners reward genuine language ability and clear thinking. Apply these strategies alongside the templates to maximise your score across all four assessment criteria.

## Structure & Planning

- Spend 5 minutes planning before you write — outline your position and main points
- Write 4–5 clear paragraphs; never merge ideas into one long block
- Aim for 270–320 words — quality matters more than quantity
- Always write a conclusion, even if you are running out of time

## Language & Style

- Paraphrase the question in your introduction — never copy it word for word
- Use topic-specific vocabulary rather than generic words like "good" or "bad"
- Vary your sentence structures: mix complex, compound, and simple sentences
- Leave 2–3 minutes to check for spelling and grammar errors before submitting

⚠ **Common mistake:** Writing an opinion in the introduction but failing to support it consistently in the body paragraphs. Your position must remain clear and coherent throughout the entire essay.



# Your Exam-Day Writing Checklist

Before you submit your essay, run through this quick checklist. Each point corresponds to a scoring criterion — ticking all of these boxes will put you in a strong position to achieve Band 7 or above.

## <sup>Q1</sup> Task Achievement

Have I addressed every part of the question? Is my position clear from the introduction through to the conclusion?

## <sup>Q2</sup> Coherence & Cohesion

Are my paragraphs logically organised? Have I used a range of linking words accurately and without repetition?

## <sup>Q3</sup> Lexical Resource

Have I used varied, topic-specific vocabulary? Have I avoided repeating the same words and phrases?

## <sup>Q4</sup> Grammatical Range

Have I used a mix of simple and complex sentences? Are my errors rare and minor rather than frequent?

## <sup>Q5</sup> Final Review

Have I checked spelling, punctuation, and word count? Is my handwriting (or typing) clear and easy to read?

The difference between Band 6 and Band 7 is often not knowledge — it is structure, consistency, and confidence. Use these templates, practise regularly, and walk into your exam prepared.

