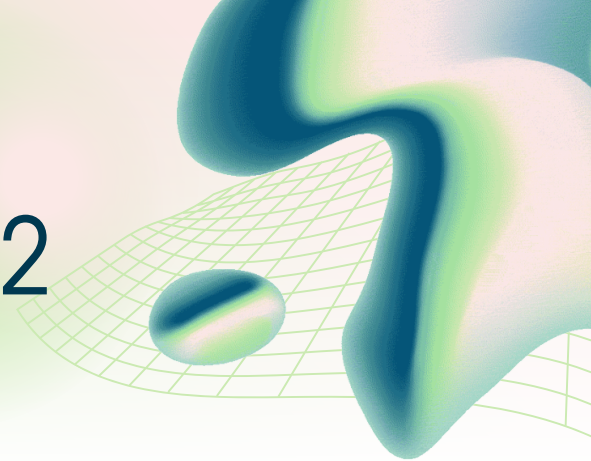


IELTS ACADEMIC WRITING: TASKS 1 & 2

A complete guide



Introduction to IELTS Academic Writing

The IELTS Academic Writing test assesses your ability to write in an academic style. It consists of two tasks:

- **Task 1:** Describing a graph, table, chart, or diagram in your own words.
- **Task 2:** Writing an essay in response to a given argument or problem.

This lesson will provide you with the strategies, tips, and practice needed to excel in both tasks.

Task 1: Describing Visual Information

Task 1 requires you to summarise and describe information presented in a visual format. You need to identify key trends, make comparisons, and write a clear and concise report of around 150 words.

Key Skills:

- Identifying key features
- Comparing data
- Using appropriate vocabulary
- Structuring your report
- Using correct grammar

Step-by-Step Guide:

1. **Understand the Visual:** Analyze the graph/table/chart carefully. Identify the main trends, highest/lowest points, and any significant changes.
2. **Write an Introduction:** Briefly introduce the visual and state the overall trend.
3. **Overview:** Provide a general overview of the main features and trends.
4. **Detailed Description:** Describe the specific data points and make comparisons. Group similar information together.
5. **Conclusion (Optional):** Briefly summarise the key findings.

Example Vocabulary:

- *Increased significantly*
- *Decreased slightly*
- *Remained stable*
- *Fluctuated wildly*
- *The majority of*
- *A minority of*

Sample Answer (Line Graph):

The line graph illustrates the average carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions per person in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Italy and Portugal between 1967 and 2007.

Overall, the UK produced the most CO₂ during the period. While emissions decreased in the UK and Sweden, they increased slightly in Italy and Portugal.

In 1967, the UK had the highest level of CO₂ emissions at 11 metric tonnes. This figure decreased gradually to just over 9 tonnes in 1999, before fluctuating slightly and levelling off at 9 tonnes in 2007. Sweden's CO₂ emissions started at around 8.5 metric tonnes, before falling steadily to approximately 5.5 tonnes in 2007. In contrast, CO₂ emissions in Italy and Portugal were considerably lower. Italy's emissions rose from approximately 4 to 8 tonnes, while Portugal's emissions increased from less than 2 to just over 5 tonnes during the same period.

In conclusion, the UK was the largest producer of CO₂ emissions, and these levels fell over the 40-year period. In contrast, the amount of CO₂ produced by Italy and Portugal increased.

Activity:

Examine the following bar chart showing internet usage and write a 150-word report, following the step-by-step guide provided above. [Insert Bar Chart Image Here]

Task 2: Essay Writing

Task 2 requires you to write a formal essay of at least 250 words, presenting your opinion on a given topic. You will be assessed on your ability to present a clear argument, support your ideas with evidence, and use appropriate language and structure.

Key Skills:

- Understanding the question
- Generating ideas
- Developing a clear argument
- Providing supporting evidence
- Structuring your essay
- Using appropriate vocabulary and grammar

Step-by-Step Guide:

1. **Understand the Question:** Read the question carefully and identify the key words and the type of essay required (e.g., opinion, discussion, problem/solution).
2. **Brainstorm Ideas:** Generate ideas for and against the topic. Choose the side you can best support with evidence.
3. **Plan Your Essay:** Create an outline of your essay, including an introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion.
4. **Write the Introduction:** Introduce the topic and state your thesis statement (your main argument).
5. **Write the Body Paragraphs:** Develop your arguments with supporting evidence, examples, and explanations. Each paragraph should focus on one main idea.
6. **Write the Conclusion:** Summarise your main points and restate your thesis statement in different words.

Example Essay Structures:

- **Opinion Essay:** Introduction, Agree/Disagree Paragraphs, Conclusion
- **Discussion Essay:** Introduction, Arguments For, Arguments Against, Conclusion
- **Problem/Solution Essay:** Introduction, Problem Paragraphs, Solution Paragraphs, Conclusion

Sample Answer (Opinion Essay):

Some people think that schools should concentrate on teaching students academic subjects. Others believe that schools should also teach practical skills. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

_In contemporary society, there is a debate about the role of schools in educating young people. While some argue that schools should primarily focus on academic subjects, others contend that practical skills are equally important. This essay will discuss both perspectives before presenting my own view.

On the one hand, a strong argument can be made for prioritizing academic subjects in schools. Core subjects such as mathematics, science, and literature provide students with a foundational knowledge base essential for higher education and future careers. Moreover, academic study cultivates critical thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills, which are valuable assets in a rapidly changing world. By focusing on these areas, schools can equip students with the tools they need to succeed in a competitive global marketplace.

However, it is equally important to recognize the significance of practical skills. These skills, such as cooking, basic home maintenance, and financial literacy, enable individuals to live independently and

contribute to their communities. Furthermore, practical skills can enhance creativity, resourcefulness, and adaptability. In a world increasingly driven by technology and innovation, individuals who possess both academic knowledge and practical skills are better prepared to navigate the challenges and opportunities of modern life.

In conclusion, while academic subjects are undoubtedly crucial for intellectual development, I believe that schools should also incorporate practical skills into their curriculum. A well-rounded education that encompasses both academic knowledge and practical abilities can empower students to become successful and responsible members of society._

Activity:

Write an essay (at least 250 words) in response to the following question: 'To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? The increasing use of technology in education is a positive development.' Plan your essay first, then write, and finally, review.

Tips for Success

- **Practice Regularly:** The more you practice, the more confident you will become.
- **Manage Your Time:** Allocate your time effectively between the two tasks.
- **Expand Your Vocabulary:** Learn synonyms and phrases related to common IELTS topics.
- **Improve Your Grammar:** Focus on accuracy and range of grammatical structures.
- **Seek Feedback:** Ask a teacher or tutor to review your writing and provide feedback.

Next Steps

To further improve your IELTS Academic Writing skills, consider the following:

- Practice writing Task 1 and Task 2 essays regularly.
- Review sample answers and analyze their structure and language.
- Take practice tests under timed conditions.
- Consult with an IELTS tutor or teacher for personalized guidance.
- Familiarise yourself with a wide range of topics relevant to the IELTS exam.