

1. What is the word limit for Task 2? _____

2. How much time should you spend on Task 2? _____

3. IELTS sometimes uses exactly the same question in more than one exam?

True

False

4. How many different areas will the examiner assess your writing in?

2

4

3

5

5. The introduction and conclusion should be

longer in length than the body paragraphs.

the same length as the body paragraphs

shorter in length than the body paragraphs

What's a body paragraph?

6. How many paragraphs can we have in the body of our essay?

1 or 2

3 or 4

2 or 3

As many as we want

7. An introduction to an essay should introduce both the *general topic* and the *specific topic*.
Match the general topics to the specific topics.

1. Climate change

a) Are borders between countries necessary?

2. Education

b) Is piracy damaging the industry?

3. Advertising

c) Who is responsible?

4. Music

d) Does it really influence our spending habits?

5. Communication

e) When should children start to learn a second language?

6. Crime

f) Should there be fixed punishments for offences?

7. Globalisation

g) Is instant messaging damaging it?

8. How many main ideas should there be in a body paragraph?

1

3

2

It doesn't matter

9-11. Writing a good body paragraph involves three steps. Complete each step with *one* word.

Presenting the main idea in the (9) _____ sentence.

(10) _____ the idea.

Supporting the idea by giving (11) _____.

12-14. All the sentences in a paragraph should be RELEVANT. Look at the essay question and then read the two body paragraphs. Cross out any sentences that are NOT relevant.

Many people play sport when they are young, but then stop when they become adults.

Why do so many adults stop doing physical exercise?

What can be done to solve this problem?

There are a number of reasons why people stop participating in exercise as they get older. Firstly, for a number of people, sport was something that they were forced to do as children. It is no wonder then that they give it up the moment they hit adulthood and have the free will to do so. In fact, this is exactly what my wife did. Moreover, sport is usually an activity that people do in their spare time, which children have plenty of. Unfortunately, as people get older and gain more responsibilities, they have far less spare time to do the things they love, so one by one the hobbies that were previously loved get left behind. Art is another thing that people tend to do a lot of in their childhood, but run out of time for in later life. Finally, cost is also a factor as many gyms charge exorbitant fees for membership, and this simply puts exercise out of the price range of many people.

There are a number of ways that this problem could be tackled. First, I believe that adults would exercise more if they were given the time to do so. Employers could allow their staff members to take longer lunch breaks in order to go to the gym or play tennis. They might also find that this makes employees more productive in the office and boosts sales. Another solution would be for the government to subsidise gym membership costs. I am convinced that more people would be tempted back onto football pitches or netball courts if the price was lower.

15. What should a conclusion NEVER do?

- a. Summarise the main ideas of the text
- b. Contain your opinion
- c. Offer a new idea
- d. Leave the reader with a final comment

16. In which circumstance is it OK to write a concluding comment?

ANSWERS & COMMENTS

1. 250 words *If you got that wrong, you should probably go to bed and start again tomorrow!*
2. 40 minutes
3. False *The same questions are never repeated. You may have a different question on the same topic, but never exactly the same question*
4. 4 *Understanding the band descriptors is the key to achieving a high score – we will look at this in detail in the next video*
5. The introduction and conclusion should be **shorter in length than the body paragraphs**
Remember, the introduction and conclusion are the bread in your essay sandwich, but the body is what gives it flavour
6. 2 or 3 *Remember that IELTS essays are different to essays at school or university. 2 is the most common number of paragraphs, 3 is OK, but any more than 3 and you probably aren't extending your ideas enough to receive a high score. One paragraph is a total disaster – don't even think about it!*
7. 1. Climate change c) Who is responsible?
2. Education e) When should children start to learn a second language?
3. Advertising d) Does it really influence our spending habits?
4. Music b) Is piracy damaging the industry?
5. Communication g) Is instant messaging damaging it?
6. Crime f) Should there be fixed punishments for offences?
7. Globalisation a) Are borders between countries necessary?
8. 1 *Come on, please tell me that you got that right ...*
9. topic
10. Extending / Developing / Explaining
11. examples
12. In fact, this is exactly what my wife did.
This sentence adds nothing to the writer's argument. I don't really care what his wife did!
13. Art is another thing that people tend to do a lot of in their childhood, but run out of time for in later life.
Again, the question is asking us about sport and exercise. Therefore, this argument about art is tangential (look it up in the dictionary – it's a good word!)
14. They might also find that this makes them more productive in the office and can boost sales.
The question isn't about how employers can make their employees more productive! It is about how we can make adults exercise more. Even if this sentence is true, it isn't connected to the essay question, so should be deleted
15. c *NEVER write anything new in a conclusion. We will discuss this more in the coming videos*
16. When you have written less than 250 words!
Otherwise it is a waste of time – it would be much better spending 5 minutes reviewing your essay and correcting mistakes