

# How to Write IELTS task 2 (academic test)

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Sources: Lougheed, L. (2006). *IELTS* (4<sup>th</sup> edition), Barron's Educational Series, New York;  
<https://www.ieltsadvantage.com/2015/03/03/ielts-writing-task-2-essay-structures/>

IELTS Task 2	Time	Minimum word count
	40 minutes	250
<b>Write an essay supported by reasons and examples.</b>		

Although with IELTS task 2 the task will vary, they follow 5 common task-types. First it is important to identify what the task is asking you to do and construct your answer accordingly. Here are the 5 types, *and this guide will provide a good structure for each one.*

- Agree or disagree
- Describe advantages and disadvantages
- Discuss 2 points of view and give them yours
- Answer 2 questions
- Suggest solutions to a problem

## Task type 1: Agree or disagree

### Paragraph 1: Introduction

- Sentence 1- Paraphrase Question
- Sentence 2- Thesis Statement (It is agreed.../It is not agreed.../This essay agrees/disagrees...)
- Sentence 3- Outline (plan) Sentence (This essay will discuss....)

### Paragraph 2: Main Body 1

- Sentence 1- Topic Sentence
- Sentence 2- Explain Topic Sentence
- Sentence 3- Example

### Paragraph 3: Main Body 2

- Sentence 1- Topic Sentence
- Sentence 2- Explain Topic Sentence
- Sentence 3- Example

### Paragraph 4: Conclusion

- Sentence 1- Summary
- Sentence 2- Opinion

Task type 2: Describe advantages and disadvantages

**Paragraph 1: Introduction**

- Sentence 1- Paraphrase Question
- Sentence 2- Outline Sentence

**Paragraph 2: Main Body 1**

- Sentence 1- State One Advantage
- Sentence 2- Expand/Explain Advantage
- Sentence 3- Example
- Sentence 4- Result

**Paragraph 3: Main Body 2**

- Sentence 1- State One Disadvantage
- Sentence 2- Expand/Explain Disadvantage
- Sentence 3- Example
- Sentence 4- Result

**Paragraph 4: Conclusion**

- Sentence 1- Summary
- Sentence 2- Opinion

Task type 3: Discuss 2 points of view and give them yours

**Paragraph 1: Introduction**

- Sentence 1- Paraphrase Question and/or state both viewpoints.
- Sentence 2- Thesis Statement
- Sentence 3- Outline Sentence

**Paragraph 2: Main Body 1**

- Sentence 1- State first viewpoint
- Sentence 2- Discuss first viewpoint
- Sentence 3- Reason why you agree or disagree with viewpoint
- Sentence 4- Example to support your view

**Paragraph 3: Main Body 2**

- Sentence 1- State second viewpoint
- Sentence 2- Discuss second viewpoint
- Sentence 3- Reason why you agree or disagree with viewpoint
- Sentence 4- Example to support your view

**Paragraph 4: Conclusion**

- Sentence 1- Summary
- Sentence 2- State which one is better or more important

### Task type 4: Answer 2 questions

#### Paragraph 1: Introduction

- Sentence 1- Paraphrase Question
- Sentence 2- Outline Sentence (mention both questions)

#### Paragraph 2: Main Body 1

- Sentence 1- Answer first question directly
- Sentence 2- Explain why
- Sentence 3- Further explain
- Sentence 4- Example

#### Paragraph 3: Main Body 2

- Sentence 1- Answer second question directly
- Sentence 2- Explain why
- Sentence 3- Further explain
- Sentence 4- Example

#### Paragraph 4: Conclusion

- Sentence 1- Summary
- your view

#### Paragraph 4: Conclusion

- Sentence 1- Summary

### Task type 5: Suggest solutions to a problem

#### Paragraph 1: Introduction

- Sentence 1- Paraphrase Question
- Sentence 2- Outline Sentence

#### Paragraph 2: Main Body 1

- Sentence 1- State Problem
- Sentence 2- Explain problem
- Sentence 3- Result
- Sentence 4- Example

#### Paragraph 3: Main Body 2

- Sentence 1- State Solution
- Sentence 2- Explain Solution
- Sentence 3- Example

#### Paragraph 4: Conclusion

- Sentence 1- Summary
- Sentence 2- Recommendation or Prediction

### General Tips

- Don't forget to plan before you start writing- you can use the bottom of page 2 of the exam.
- Don't waste time word-counting! Practice enough to know how your 250 words looks like.
- Add personal experiences where possible
- Learn and use the connectors to link sentences and paragraphs. See the ASK documents:  
<http://repository.urosario.edu.co/handle/10336/13395> (long version);  
<http://repository.urosario.edu.co/handle/10336/13883> (short version)

*All of these will have an introduction that requires these components- see these ASK guides for more details and practice:*

- **Paraphrase questions** (rewrite the question in your words)  
<http://repository.urosario.edu.co/bitstream/handle/10336/13865/Synonyms%20for%20paraphrasing.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>
- **Thesis statement** (the main point or argument to the essay)  
<http://repository.urosario.edu.co/handle/10336/13253>