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# **BEGINNER'S GUIDE**

# **IELTS**

**Speaking Writing  
Reading & Listening**

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## IELTS first Steps: A Guide to IELTS for Beginners:

### Contents

1. FRIENDS AND FAMILY .....	7
LANGUAGE .....	7
READING.....	12
LISTENING .....	16
SPEAKING .....	20
WRITING.....	26
2. HOME .....	32
LANGUAGE .....	32
READING.....	37
LISTENING .....	40
SPEAKING .....	44
WRITING.....	47
3. HOMETOWN .....	53
LANGUAGE .....	53
READING.....	59
LISTENING .....	62

SPEAKING .....	65
WRITING.....	69
4. STUDY.....	73
LANGUAGE .....	73
READING.....	79
LISTENING .....	83
SPEAKING .....	87
WRITING:.....	92
5. WORK .....	95
LANGUAGE .....	95
READING.....	100
LISTENING .....	103
SPEAKING .....	107
WRITING.....	111
6. TECHNOLOGY .....	114
LANGUAGE .....	114
READING.....	119
LISTENING .....	123
SPEAKING .....	128

WRITING.....	132
7. HEALTH.....	134
LANGUAGE .....	134
PRACTICE.....	136
READING.....	139
LISTENING .....	143
SPEAKING .....	145
WRITING.....	149
8. ENVIRONMENT .....	158
LANGUAGE .....	158
READING.....	163
LISTENING .....	167
SPEAKING .....	170
WRITING.....	174

## How to use this book

This book is intended as an entry-level preparation book for the IELTS test. The emphasis of this book is on building-up language to be able to deal with the eight most common topics in the test. For each of these topics, vocabulary and grammar are introduced followed by practice activities for all four parts of the test: reading, listening, speaking, and writing.

After completing this book, you will be ready to move on to my more advanced skills books to complete your preparation for the test. This book consists of the following parts:

### **Vocabulary**

Each chapter starts with a list of words related to the topic of the chapter. This is to give you some keywords for the topic and to help you build up language to deal with these topics. Exercise activities are provided to test your knowledge in this area.

### **Grammar**

A short grammar lesson is provided for each chapter. Although grammar is not directly tested in the IELTS test, it is important that you work on basic grammar in order to be able to do well in the speaking and writing sections.

### **Reading**

The first few chapters introduce basic reading skills that are needed for the test. Then, the focus moves on to doing practice questions for the topic of each chapter. A range of question types is covered in order to prepare you for the test.

### **Listening**

The first few chapters introduce basic listening skills that are needed for the test. Then, the focus moves on to doing practice questions for the topic of each chapter. A wide range of accents are used in the recordings you will listen to.

### **Speaking**

A wide range of questions with model answers are provided to help you build vocabulary and to show you how to answer questions for different topics. Recordings are provided so that you can hear the answers.

### **Writing**

Important skills for task 1 and 2 of the writing test are introduced. Practice exercises are designed to teach you how to write a wide range of tasks.

### Supplementary activities

To extend your learning additional material such as audio recordings and videos are available to you for free by scanning the barcode below:



Barcode

<https://www.ieltsanswers.com/first-steps-resources.html>

Password:ielts2021

### IELTS TEST OVERVIEW

The total test time is approximately 2 hours and 55 minutes and consists of the following:

**Listening:** four sections, a total of 40 questions, in about 30 minutes.

**Reading:** three sections, a total of 40 questions taking 60 minutes.

**Speaking:** An oral interview for 11-14 minutes. This is divided into three parts.

**Writing:** two tasks taking 60 minutes. Task 1 is a report of a minimum of 150 words. Task 2 is an essay of a minimum of 250 words.

# 1. FRIENDS AND FAMILY

The topic of friends and family is extremely important for all parts of the test. It is highly likely that you will talk about these relationships in the speaking test. In the writing test, you might give examples of people you know.

## LANGUAGE

Review the words below. Some of these will seem familiar to you and some of these will be new words that you might like to learn. An exercise follows this list to help you remember them.

<b>NOUNS</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
acquaintance	someone you know, but not as well as a friend.
companion	a friend or buddy
extended family	consists of a nuclear family, and other relatives such as grandparents
nuclear family	a family group consisting of two parents and their children
sibling	brother or sister
soul mate	a close friend who you share your secrets and emotions with
social skills	skills to communicate and interact well with others
spouse	husband or wife

<b>VERBS</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
admire	respect and think highly of
befriend	make friends with someone
help out	help [phrasal verb]
gossip	to talk idly, especially about the affairs of others
socialize	to be social or friendly towards others

<b>ADJECTIVES</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
amiable	friendly
casual	relaxed and not following strict rules
Extroverted	out-going personality
Introverted	shy personality
inspirational	motivating
passionate	strong emotional feeling about something

<b>Idiomatic expressions</b>	
<b>a chin wag</b>	= have a chat
<i>Last night I met my best pal and had a bit of a <b>chin wag</b>.</i>	
<b>own flesh and blood</b>	= family member or relative.
<i>We must always take good care of our <b>own flesh and blood</b>.</i>	
<b>sounding board</b>	= a good person to talk to and seek advice from
<i>My soul mate is an excellent <b>sounding board</b> whenever I have a problem.</i>	

**Vocabulary Exercise 1: Match the words below with their meanings**

1. acquaintance		a family consisting of two parents and their children
2. admire		a very close friend
3. befriend		a good person to talk to and seek advice from
4. casual		strong emotional feeling about something
5. gossip		make friends with someone
6. nuclear family		relaxed and not following strict rules
7. passionate		respect and think highly of
8. socialize		someone you know, but not as well as a friend
9. soul mate		to be social or friendly towards others
10. sounding board		to talk idly, especially about the affairs of others

**ANSWERS**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. acquaintance    | [H] someone you know, but not as well as a friend        |
| 2. admire          | [G] respect and think highly of                          |
| 3. befriend        | [E] make friends with someone                            |
| 4. casual          | [F] relaxed and not following strict rules               |
| 5. gossip          | [J] to talk idly, especially about the affairs of others |
| 6. nuclear family  | [A] family consisting of two parents and their children. |
| 7. passionate      | [D] strong emotional feeling about something             |
| 8. socialize       | [I] to be social or friendly towards others              |
| 9. soul mate       | [B] very dear and close friend with                      |
| 10. sounding board | [C] a good person to talk to and seek advice from        |

**Vocabulary Exercise 2: Circle the correct meaning**

1. amiable	friendly / unfriendly
2. chin wag	have a chat / be quiet
3. companion	friend / enemy
4. extrovert	shy / out-going
5. befriend	argue / make friends
6. inspirational	motivating / quiet
7. introvert	shy / out-going
8. own flesh and blood	friend / family member
9. sibling	brother or sister / husband or wife
10. spouse	brother or sister / husband or wife

**ANSWERS:**

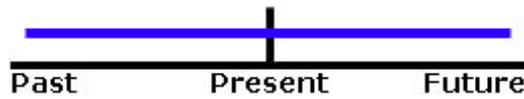
1. sibling            brother or sister
2. companion      friend, buddy
3. amiable            friendly
4. chin wag          have a chat
5. befriend          make friends]
6. spouse            husband or wife
7. inspirational     motivating
8. extrovert         out-going
9. introvert          shy
10. own flesh and blood   family member or relative

## Present Simple Tense



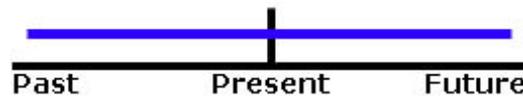
### USE 1 Repeated Actions

Use the Present Simple tense to express the idea that an action is repeated or regular such as a habit regular event. *For example: I play golf every Saturday.*



### USE 2 Facts or opinions

Use the Present Simple tense to describe facts or opinions.  
*For example: It is cheaper to shop online.*



### USE 3: To state our current mood/feelings

Use the Present Simple tense to describe how you feel right now.  
*For example: I feel happy.*

## Present Continuous Tense



### USE 1 Now

Use the Present Continuous for things that are happening now. *For example: You are reading this book right now.*



### USE 2 Actions in Progress Now

In English, now can mean this second, month, or year. Sometimes we use the Present Continuous tense to say that we are in progress of an activity even though we might not be doing it at this exact second. *For example: You are taking an IELTS test this year.*

### Exercise: Present Simple and Present Continuous tenses

Write the correct present tense verb into each of the sentences below. Note that the verbs are in singular form and you might have to make them plural.

1. Every Monday, Sally, (drive) \_\_\_\_\_ her son to football practice.
2. This summer my brother (study) \_\_\_\_\_ French in Paris.
3. Shhhhh! Be quiet! My son, John (sleep) \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Dad, don't forget to take your umbrella. It (rain) \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. My mother-in-law (hate) \_\_\_\_\_ living in Seattle because it often rains.
6. I can't hear what you (say) \_\_\_\_\_ because my siblings are shouting.
7. Currently my uncle, (write) \_\_\_\_\_ a book while traveling in China
8. Every Saturday, I (go) \_\_\_\_\_ to a movie with my family.
9. Every Sunday, I (has) \_\_\_\_\_ a day off work.
10. This delicious cake (be) \_\_\_\_\_ made by my auntie.

#### ANSWERS

1. drives
2. is studying
3. is sleeping
4. is raining
5. hates
6. are saying
7. is writing
8. go
9. has
10. is

## READING

This section gives you important strategies for dealing with unknown words in the reading test. The article below will give you practice with the IELTS reading test, and as an added bonus it will help you to learn how to guess the meaning of words.

### Dealing with unknown words

The reading test uses articles that cover a wide-range of topics and no specialist knowledge is needed to answer the questions. However, you will encounter unfamiliar words and you need to work on strategies to deal with these. You should not waste time reading and re-reading a sentence just because you do not understand one word. Good readers can understand what the general meaning of a sentence or paragraph is without knowing what every word means. The following are some strategies to help you to deal with unknown words.

**STRATEGY 1:** Skip words you do not need to know to answer a question.

Many questions can be answered without knowing the meaning of a word in the sentence that contains an answer. When you are reading and you come across a word that you do not know or understand you should only take time to think about the meaning of the word if it is critical to understand the article or to answer a question. It is also important to note that proper nouns are capitalised and we can often ignore these. For instance, if you read a sentence: *Butterflies come from a family of insects called Papilionoidea*, *ent*, it is clearly not important to know what this word means. We can guess that it is some kind of group of insects but we really do not need to know what this word means or what insects are included.

**STRATEGY 2:** guess the meaning from the context.

Good readers always seek to establish a context for a text they are reading. A context is the circumstances of an event or idea. If we can clearly establish a context then we can guess the meaning of words within the context. For instance, we might guess the meaning of *hatched* based on our knowledge of an egg. *An egg that hatches* means an egg that opens and releases a baby bird.

**STRATEGY 3:** Guess by recognizing parts of the word.

Some words are made up of different word parts. If you can recognise a part of an unknown, word it can give you clues as to the words meaning. For instance, a butterfly has *fly* in it and it is some sort of flying creature. In the sentence that follows, you might notice the word *herbivores* and recognize within the word *herb*. *Most caterpillars are herbivores and only eat leaves*. A herb is a plant and herbivores only eat plants.

## Reading Exercise: establish answers by guessing the meaning of words

Work out the meaning of the emphasised words below.

My father Peter died recently. Peter was born in a little country house in Iowa, USA. His parents had European **roots**. Hans, his father, was half German and half **Cherokee** Indian; and Elena, his mother, came from Holland. Peter had a **twin** brother named David, who was born only one hour before him. Peter decided that Iowa's **climate** was too cold for him, so he decided to **relocate**. He moved to Los Angeles, California. Peter worked for a large bank and fortunately, he was able to get a **transfer** to another branch of the bank. Peter got married a few years later. His **spouse** Claire also worked at the National Bank of America. Claire was an **introvert**, so they would stay at home a lot and seldom socialise. They were both quite **passionate** about cooking and they would spend a lot of time cooking fantastic meals together.

### ANSWERS

Word	Strategy	Meaning
roots	2	place a person is from (think of the roots of a tree)
Cherokee	1,2	a type of Indian (native American)
twin	2	a sibling
climate	2	weather system
relocate	2,3	move again ("re" means again, like in "repeat")
transfer	2,3	to change job from one office to another ("trans" means to change)
Spouse	2	wife or husband
introvert	2, 3	shy (intro means inward)
passionate	2	strong enthusiasm

## SYNONYMS

Synonyms are words that have the same or a similar meaning. Examples of this include *shop* and *store*; *speak* and *talk*; *house* and *home*; and *present* and *gift*. Choosing amongst synonyms is an important skill in the IELTS reading test. In many cases, the correct answer often involves writing a synonym of a given word.

### Practice 1: Match the synonyms below

- |               |                 |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. assistance | A. minimum      |
| 2. establish  | B. try          |
| 3. at least   | C. help         |
| 4. funds      | D. create       |
| 5. attempt    | E. money        |
| 6. like       | F. ancient      |
| 7. really old | G. broken       |
| 8. damaged    | H. core/central |
| 9. good at    | I. excel at     |
| 10. main      | J. enjoy        |

## ANSWERS

1. C    2. D    3. A    4. E    5. B    6. J    7. F    8. G    9. I    10. H

## The Spice Called Cinnamon

Cinnamon is a spice **made** from the bark of trees. This wonderful spice **originates** from India where it was first found over 2000 years ago. It has been used by **mixing it with** oils for rubbing on people's bodies, and also as a **present** given to family and friends. In **Ancient** Europe, people going to weddings burnt cinnamon to create a good **scent**. Often, the spice found its **main** use as flavouring for food and drink. **Rich** Europeans who could afford to buy the spice used it to flavour their food. In ancient times, being able to **buy** this spice also showed that a person had a lot of money to be able to afford something from overseas. Cinnamon was also reported by doctors to have health benefits, and it was thought that it had an ability to **heal** various medical problems, such as stomachaches.

**Practice 2: match words to their meanings. The words on the left appear in the paragraph above.**

1. made		A. gift
2. originates		B. very old
3. mixing it with		C. produced
4. present		D. primary
5. ancient		E. purchase
6. scent		F. wealthy
7. buy		G. adding it to
8. rich		H. cure
9. main		I. smell
10. heal		J. which comes from

### Answers

1.C 2.J 3.G 4.A 5.B 6.I 7.E 8.F 9.D 10.H

## LISTENING

Before the listening test begins, you are given some time to read your test papers. It is extremely important that you use this time wisely. This section will teach you how to read questions and predict answers.

### **Practice: Predicting Answers**

To help you focus, as well as decide what you need to listen for; you should underline the important words in each question. The Wh- questions – who, where, what, when, why, which, how – are all good words to underline and they will also help you to think about what kind of answers you are listening for. Note how these words have been underlined in the questions below.

Another thing you can do before the recording starts is to try to predict answers. Look at the exercise below and try to predict what kind of information you are listening for by looking at the Wh-questions and then matching it to the possible answers A-J. Then, play the recording and check your answers.

### Exercise 1:

1. Predict answers by matching the questions on the left to the answers on the right.

2. Play track 1 and check your answers.

1.	How did he go shopping?		A. 18 years old
2.	How many people went?		B. 10 years
3.	How often did he go?		C. occasionally
4.	What did he buy?		D. by truck
5.	When did he leave home?		E. tennis
6.	Where did he move to?		F. to save money
7.	How long did he live in London?		G. London
8.	Who does he live with?		H. a roommate
9.	Why did he live with another person?		I. Six
10.	What activity did he do with his roommate?		J. groceries

### ANSWERS: Exercise 1

1. D by truck    2. I six    3. C occasionally    4. J groceries    5. A 18 years old  
6. G London    7. B 10 years    8. H a roommate    9. F to save money    10. E tennis

If you made some mistakes, you might like to read the transcript below and see what it is that you missed when doing the listening exercise. This is a great way to learn from your mistakes.

### Transcript

When I was a child, we used to go shopping in my father's truck.  
There would be six of us packed into it.  
We only went occasionally because we lived quite far from the stores.  
We didn't have a lot of money so we usually only bought groceries.  
I left home when I was 18 years old.  
I went to London to study at university.  
I lived in a small flat there for 10 years.  
I got a roommate because the rent was expensive and  
I needed to save money.  
We became good friends and enjoyed playing tennis together.

### **Focusing on nouns**

If you know that an answer requires a number then you may focus on nouns so that when you are listening you can listen out for that noun in the number associated with it. For the questions below the nouns have been underlined to help you focus on catching the answers. Read the questions first and then listen to the recording and try to catch the answers.

### **Exercise 2: listen to the conversation and answer the 5 questions**

1. How many people are the rooms for?
2. How many beds are required?
3. How many nights will they stay?
4. On what date will they leave?
5. What time is the wake-up call?

### **Answers: exercise 2**

1. 4    2. 3    3. 4    4. 16/16th    5. 6:30/6:30 am

### **Transcript:**

- A. Good afternoon. Biggerton's Bed and Breakfast. How may I help you?  
B. Hello, Mrs Biggerton. This is Wayne. I'm calling to reserve 2 rooms for 4 nights from...  
A. Oh Wayne, just a second. Let me write all this down. Now, who are the rooms for?  
B. My parents and my 2 cousins.  
A. So they'll need 2 double rooms. One with a double bed and one with 2 single beds.  
B. That's right.  
A. How long will they stay?  
B. 4 nights, that's 5 days.  
A. Uh huh. Arriving when?  
B. Next Wednesday, the 12th, in the afternoon. They'll leave early on Sunday morning, the 16th.  
A. How nice. Your mother's such a pleasant lady, Wayne. Does she have any special requests again?  
B. Just the usual. Hot water and tea bags in the room and if possible a wake-up call at 6:30.  
A. Of course dear, and English breakfast at 7:00 if I remember rightly.  
B. That's it Mrs. B.  
A. Fine. Then I'll just need some information dear.

### Focusing on signals

Another way to catch an answer is to hear a signal it is coming. You can often know an answer is coming because of the information that you hear before it. For example, in question six below as soon as you hear “Mark Baran” you know that the answer is coming.

### Exercise 3 Listen and write down the answers you hear in the following table

Name of guest: 6. Mark Baran \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: 7. 0916-2027 \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: 8. Thursday the \_\_\_\_\_th of May

Departure Date: 9. Saturday the \_\_\_\_\_th.

Time of Arrival: 10. About 1 pm. No make that \_\_\_\_\_ PM

**Answers:** 6. ski 7. 445 8. 16 9. 18 10. 2.30

### Transcript:

A. Good morning. The Hilton Hotel. My name is Robin. How can I help you?

B. Oh, hello. I'd like to book a room please.

A. Certainly sir. I just have to take a few details.

B. Of course.

A. My I have your name please?

B. Yes. My name is Mark Baranski.

A. Could you spell that please?

B. Mark – M – A – R – K, Baranski – B – A – R – A – N – S – K – I

A. And your telephone number?

B. My landline is 508118. No. Wait. Sorry, let me give you my mobile number. It's 0916-2027445

A. And how many guests will be arriving?

B. I'll be travelling solo for this trip.

A. When will you be arriving Mr. Baranski?

B. Let me see. It's Monday today, so on Thursday. Thursday the 16th of May.

A. And how long will you be staying?

B. Two nights.

A. So leaving on the Sunday?

B. No, leaving on the Saturday? Saturday the 18th.

A. Ah, yes. Thank you. Do you know the time you'll be arriving so that we can make sure your room is ready for you?

B. Yes, about 1 pm. No make that 2.30. I forgot I have a meeting that day.

A. Thank you.

## SPEAKING

### Extending answers

In this section, you are going to learn how to give extended answers in your speaking test. Extending is making something longer. In IELTS it is good to give extended answers to questions. This shows that you understand the question, and gives you more chance to show your language ability and get a higher score. This is illustrated below:

QUESTION: Do you like your brother?

BAD RESPONSE: "Yes"

BETTER RESPONSE: *"Yes, because he is fun, and he helps me a lot."*

GREAT RESPONSE: [by extending the two reasons in the previous answer].

*Well, I like my brother for a few reasons. **The main reason** is that we always have a lot of fun when we hang out together. **I would also like to add** that he helps me out a lot with my homework, as I am quite busy at university.*

### Rephrasing examiners words

A good way to start your answer is by repeating back the question. When you do this, you should ideally change some of the words if possible. You should also use the same tense as the question. For instance, in the example above the examiner asked "Do you like your brother?" The answer started with "Well, I like my brother for a few reasons."

## Structure for answering part 1 questions.

Now we can come up with a useful structure to answer part one questions, as follows:

1. Start with an introductory sentence by rephrasing the question.
2. Give one point in response to the question.
3. Give a second point in response to the question.

Read the model answers below to see how to use this structure. This may seem repetitive but you are going to learn other structures later.

### Part 1 of the speaking test [\[#MP3 available using the barcode\]](#)

#### Let's discuss your family

##### Do you have any brothers or sisters?

I have two brothers. I'm closest to my younger brother as we play soccer together. My older brother is studying economics in Australia, so I don't see him often.

##### Do you usually eat dinner with your family?

Yes, my mother makes dinner for us every day. I sit down with my parents and my younger brother for a meal every day. However, my older brother is abroad so he can't join us.

##### Who do you like most in your family?

I guess I like my younger brother most. That's because we are very similar and have a lot of fun together. As well as this, we are on the same soccer team.

##### Do you prefer to spend your free time with your friends or your family?

I like spending time with my friends more. This is because it's more fun. Not only that, my parents are usually busy working and don't have time to hang out.

## **Now let's talk about family gatherings**

### **How often do you attend family gatherings?**

I seldom go to family gatherings. The main reason is because we don't actually have too many of these. Another reason is that I avoid them because they're boring.

### **Do you enjoy family gatherings?**

No, I don't really enjoy them. As I said, they are quite boring. Moreover, my family often criticizes me about my low grades at university.

### **When was the last time you attended a family gathering?**

It's been a long time since we last got together. I think the last time must've been my cousin's wedding. Or, it might have been when my older brother graduated high school.

### **How popular are family gatherings in your country?**

Family get-togethers are really popular in my country. The main time people get together is for festivals, especially Tet at the start of the year. Other reasons might be weddings or graduations.

## **Let's talk about friends and friendship**

### **Do you have many friends?**

Yes, I have many pals. I have known my best friend Chan since primary school. I've also made many new friends recently at my English language school.

### **What do you usually do with your friends?**

Well, there are quite a few things I like to do. I'm really keen on soccer and many of my friends like that to. At weekends, we like to chill out and play computer games.

### **Do you talk with many friends on social media?**

Yes, I'm quite active on social media. First of all, I belong to a soccer forum where we discuss recent games. As well as this, I spend many hours on Facebook.

### **Do you prefer to go out with one or two close friends or many friends?**

Well, I guess I prefer hanging out with many friends. The main reason is because I think that's more fun. As well as this, it's fun to hang out with my soccer team after matches.

## PART 2

In part two of the test, you are always asked to describe something. There are always four questions and some of these can be answered using our structure from part one questions, by coming up with two or more reasons in response to the questions, as follows:

### Structure

1. Start with an introductory sentence by rephrasing the topic.
2. Answer question 1.
3. Give multiple ideas in response to question 2.
4. Give multiple ideas in response to question 3.
5. Give multiple ideas in response to question 4.

### TOPIC

#### **Describe a family member you spend a lot of time with**

You should say:

- who this person is
- what kind of person he/she is
- what you usually do together

and explain why you spend a lot of time with him/her

### Plan for response

- Who this person is: **my cousin Chan**
- What kind of person he/she is: **extrovert, keen on sports**
- What you usually do together: **soccer; video games**

And explain why you spend a lot of time with him/her: **have fun; family gatherings**

**Model Answer** [#MP3 available using the barcode]

The person in my family who I spend a lot of time hanging-out with is my cousin Chan. I like to spend a lot of time with him because he has a great personality. **First of all**, he is fun to be with. You know, he is one of those fun-loving extrovert types. He cracks a lot of funny jokes and we always have fun together. **As well as this**, he is also very generous. He is always sharing his snacks and drinks with me whenever we are out together.

We seem to do a lot of activities together. I guess **the main activity** we do is play soccer. We often practice after school and at weekends. Recently we both got picked to play for the school team on Saturdays. **Then**, on Sunday's, we really like to chill out and play video games. Usually, we play FIFA Soccer or one of those first-person shooter games like Call of Duty.

I think there are a couple of reasons why we spend so much time together. **The first one is** that we have so much fun whenever we are together. **Another time** that we often hang-out together is at family gatherings. Our fathers are also best friends and so our families often get together for a meal or for a party whenever there is a reason to celebrate. Last weekend we got together to celebrate my brother's graduation from university.

### Part Three [#MP3 available using the barcode]

We can use our strategy from part one to answer part three questions. Part three questions should be almost twice as long as part one questions and one of the ways we can do this is by having two or three main ideas in response to a question.

#### **Let's talk about relationships with family members**

##### **What problems often occur in relationships with family members?**

Well, I think a number of problems happen with relationships. First of all, there may be a rivalry or jealousy between siblings and that causes difficulty to get along. As well as this, there are often misunderstandings between family members of different generations and this leads to arguments. Finally, the most serious problem a family can face is domestic violence.

##### **Do you think relationships between family members are better now than they were in the past?**

Yes, I think they're better. The main reason is because families are smaller these days making it easier for parents to look after their kids. Also, most families are financially much better off these days than in the past and this seems to make everybody happy. Lastly, entertainment like TV is much better and this means families have more fun spending time together.

##### **How can we improve relationships with our family members?**

I think there's a few ways to enhance the relationships. Firstly, it's important for parents to allocate more quality time together for the whole family. In addition, parents should teach their children good ways to resolve conflict and make amends with their siblings. When it comes to the children I think they must always respect their parents.

## WRITING

### Linking words

Linking words help increase your score for *cohesion and coherence* in the writing exam. They help the reader to understand the connection between your ideas. Some of the common types of linking phrases and some examples of them are listed below:

<p><b>TO EXPRESS OPINION</b> in my opinion, I strongly believe .... I totally agree/disagree ... from my point of view, ...</p> <p><b>TO GIVE REASONS</b> the main reason is another reason... because... due to...</p> <p><b>TO GIVE AN EXAMPLE</b> for example/ for instance,...</p>	<p><b>TO ADD IDEAS</b> additionally in addition, moreover as well as this</p> <p><b>TO CONCLUDE</b> to conclude,... in conclusion,...</p>
--	---

**Exercise:**

Use words from the box below to complete the model essay. Make sure you pay attention to **punctuation** such as capital letters!

<b>because</b>	<b>This</b>	<b>because</b>	<b>This is</b>	<b>In conclusion</b>	<b>agree</b>
<b>In addition,</b>	<b>main reason</b>	<b>The reason</b>	<b>For example,</b>	<b>For instance,</b>	

Some people believe preparing and consuming home-cooked food instead of eating out is more beneficial. I totally [1] .....with this [2] .....it is healthier and less expensive.

The [3].....I agree is that dining at home is better for our bodies. [4] .....because people can ensure they use fresh and healthy ingredients to maintain a better diet and focus on their health. Moreover, they can avoid the additives restaurants often add to their food. [5] .....a lot of restaurants in my country add a lot of salt.

[6] ....., it is generally less expensive to eat home-cooked meals. [7] ..... for this is that the price we will pay for ingredients at the supermarkets is much cheaper than the same food we would eat at a restaurant. This is a great benefit to family budgets, and families can reduce their expenses by eating at home. [8] ....., last night I had a steak at home that cost only five dollars but if I ate that in a restaurant it would cost at least twenty dollars.

[9]....., I totally believe that eating at home is the best option. This is because it is healthy and economical.

**Answers**

1. agree 2. because 3. main reason 4. This is 5. For example/For instance  
6. In addition 7. The reason 8. For example/For instance 9. In conclusion 10. This is because

## Writing introductions

The section below will explain how to write an introduction for your essay.

### STEP 1: PARAPHRASING GIVEN WORDS

Earlier in this chapter, synonyms were discussed as an important way of getting answers. They are also important in the writing test. One of the critical skills you require is paraphrasing and paraphrasing involves writing synonyms for given words. Paraphrasing means stating someone else's ideas in your own words. Below you can look at a sample IELTS essay writing task and see how it can be paraphrased in the introduction for the essay.

Many people say that cooking and eating at home is better than eating out in restaurants.  
*Do you agree or disagree?*

The sentence below shows the topic with some key words underlined.

*Many people say that cooking and eating at home is better than eating out in restaurants.*

Below it is paraphrased:

*Some people believe preparing and consuming home-cooked food **instead of eating out** is more beneficial.*

The table below shows how original phrases were paraphrased in the sentence above. Note also, how the *word order* has changed in this sentence. Changing the word order is another way to paraphrase:

<b>original</b>	<b>paraphrase</b>
<u>cooking</u> and <u>eating</u> at <u>home</u>	preparing and consuming home-cooked food
<u>better</u>	more beneficial
than <u>eating</u> out in <u>restaurants</u>	instead of eating out

## **STEP 2: RESPONDING TO THE QUESTION**

The next part of our introduction is to respond to the question. With regards to this, we need to state our opinion and then the reasons for our opinion

*I totally agree with this because it is **healthier** and **less expensive**.*

### **Paraphrasing our opinion**

We should then try to paraphrase the keywords for our opinion so that when we write the body of the essay we are not simply repeating the same words.

*healthier = better for our health, healthy  
less expensive = more economical, cheaper*

## Model essay

Read the essay below and note how keywords from the question as well as our key ideas are paraphrased in the essay. These have been underlined to make it clearer.

Many people say that cooking and eating at home is better than eating out in restaurants.  
*Do you agree or disagree?*

Some people believe **preparing and consuming home-cooked food instead of eating out is more beneficial**. I totally agree with this because it is **healthier** and **less expensive**.

The main reason I agree is that **dining** at home is **better for our bodies**. This is because people can ensure they use fresh and healthy ingredients to maintain a better diet and focus on their **health**. As well as this they can avoid the additives restaurants often add to their food. For example, a lot of restaurants in my country add a lot of salt.

Additionally, it is generally **less expensive** to eat home-cooked meals. The reason for this is that the price we will pay for ingredients at the supermarkets is much **cheaper** than the same food we would eat at a restaurant. This is a **great benefit** to family *budgets*, and families can **reduce their expenses** by eating at home. For instance, last night I had a steak at home that cost only five dollars but if I ate that in a restaurant it would cost at least twenty dollars.

In conclusion, I totally believe that **eating at home** is the **best option**. This is because it is **healthy** and **economical**.

## Exercise on paraphrasing

Try to match the word from the essay on the left to its synonym on the right.

1. consuming	A	completely
2. totally	B	decrease
3. less expensive	C	dining
4. eating out	D	eating
5. ensure	E	eating in restaurants
6. add	F	grocery stores
7. reduce	G	make sure
8. supermarkets	H	more economical
9. eating	I	put in
10. reduce expenses	J	save money

## Answers: Paraphrasing

1. **(D)** eating
2. **(A)** completely
3. **(H)** more economical
4. **(E)** eating in restaurants
5. **(G)** make sure
6. **(I)** put in
7. **(B)** decrease
8. **(F)** grocery stores
9. **(C)** dining
10. **(J)** save money

## 2. HOME

All parts of the test may include questions about your home and its contents. This is a very popular topic in part one of the speaking test.

### LANGUAGE

<b>Nouns</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
apartment complex	an apartment building. Especially when there are multiple buildings.
architecture	the style of the design of a building
ceilings	the inside of the roof
detached house	a house that is separated from other houses by land
exterior	outside
interior	inside
landlord	someone you rent a house from
neighbours	the people who live next to or near someone
neighbourhood	an area that someone lives in
roof	the top of the house's exterior

<b>Verbs</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
commute	regular travel. For instance, commuting to work every day
having access	being able to easily get somewhere or use something
reside	live. E.G.: I reside in a five-storey building

<b>Adjectives</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
built-up	an area with many buildings, especially tall ones
cosy	comfortable
classic	old or traditional style
contemporary	modern
fantastic	wonderful, really good
lofty	tall; E.G.: lofty ceilings

modest	not large or expensive
rooftop	something that is built on a roof. E.G.: it has a rooftop garden
detached	unattached
spacious	a lot of space inside

<b>Idioms</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>bird's eye view</b>	a view from a high point <i>I live on the 25th floor, which gives me a <b>bird's eye view</b> of the city.</i>
<b>feel at home</b>	To feel comfortable in a place <i>Even though it's my uncle's house he really makes me <b>feel at home</b>.</i>
<b>run down</b>	in bad condition <i>My neighbourhood is not so good because many of the houses are owned by poor families and their houses are <b>run down</b> and need to be repaired.</i>
<b>up-market</b>	Expensive <i>I live in an <b>up-market</b> neighbourhood on the east side of the city.</i>

**Exercise 1: Matching the nouns to their meanings**

1. apartment complex		A. a house surrounded by land
2. architecture		B. an apartment building
3. ceilings		C. an area that someone lives in
4. detached house		D. inside
5. exterior		E. outside
6. interior		F. someone you rent a house from
7. landlord		G. the inside of the roof
8. neighbours		H. people living near someone
9. neighbourhood		I. the style of a building
10. roof		J. the top of the house

**Answers: 1 B 2 I 3 G 4 A 5 D 6 E 7 F 8 H 9 C 10 J**

**Exercise 2: Complete sentences using the best adjective from the box below**

Classic	Contemporary	cosy	fantastic	lofty
modest	rooftop	run-down	spacious	up-market

- I don't have a high salary so my apartment is very .....
- I like sitting by the window because it has ..... views
- I often fall asleep on my sofa because it's very .....
- If you don't take care of your home it will become.....
- My house was built many years ago so it has a..... style of architecture
- My house was just built and it has a very ..... style of architecture.
- On top of my house is a ..... garden.
- Tall people like the doors in my house because they are very .....
- The house was in a fashion magazine because it is very .....
- There is lots of furniture in my living room so I'm lucky that it's very .....

## Answers :

- |                |              |          |              |              |
|----------------|--------------|----------|--------------|--------------|
| 1.modest       | 2. Fantastic | 3.cosy   | 4.run down   | 5. Classic   |
| 6.Contemporary | 7. Rooftop   | 8. Lofty | 9. up-market | 10. spacious |

## Grammar: articles

An article is a word that is used with a noun to indicate to the reader whether the noun is a particular and specific noun, or an instance of a noun in general. There are two types of articles, the indefinite (a/an), which refers to the general usage of a noun; and the definite article (the) which refers to a specific noun.

An **indefinite** article indicates that its noun is not a specific one that can be identified by the listener. The word **a** is used before words that begin with a consonant sound (even if the word starts with a vowel, as in a unicorn). **An** is used before words that begin with a vowel sound (even if the word starts with a consonant, as in an hour).

Example: *She had a house so large that an elephant would get lost.*

A **definite** article is used with a noun that refers to something specific the reader should be aware of. It may be used to refer back to something that the speaker has already mentioned, or it may be used with a noun that has only one possible instance such as the Internet.

## Articles exercise

1. John brought \_\_\_apple from to his teacher. The teacher said \_\_\_apple was delicious.
2. My house has \_\_\_big apple tree. I like to climb \_\_\_ tree.
3. I sleep in \_\_\_ small bedroom, but my brother lives in \_\_\_ large bedroom.
4. You did not need to bring me \_\_\_gift. Thank you for \_\_\_gift.
5. Hiring a cleaner is \_\_\_best way to keep \_\_\_ house clean.
6. I watched \_\_\_bird in my backyard for \_\_\_hour.
7. There was \_\_\_ snowstorm in my hometown. We built \_\_\_snowman the next day.
8. In my house, my room is \_\_\_ smallest and my brother's room is \_\_\_biggest.
9. I have \_\_\_big desk but my sister has \_\_\_biggest desk.  
He is \_\_\_Irishman but he lives in \_\_\_USA.

## ANSWERS

1. an, the
2. a, the
3. a, a
4. a, the
5. the, a
6. a, an
7. a, a
8. the, the
9. a, the
10. an, the

## READING

In this section, you are going to learn about keywords and how to identify them. This is an important skill for both the reading and listening test.

### Reading skills and techniques

Read the article below to learn some useful reading skills and then move on to the exercise based on the article.

A	One of the keys to saving time during your test and improving your accuracy is to take a process approach to the reading test. This means developing a step-by-step approach to taking the test. There is no single approach that is suitable for all people, so you should treat the approach I suggest below as a possible approach rather than the best approach for all people. As well as this it can be a good idea to approach different questions types in different ways, and later I show you different ways to approach different question types in the IELTS reading test.
B	Generally speaking, it is better to read the passage first to give yourself an idea of the overall topic and organisation of the text. It then becomes much easier to guess unknown words, understand questions, and know where in an article to start to look for answers. However, the test is only one hour long and so you can not spend too long reading each article. The next paragraph tells you about an important skill to speed up how you read an article.
C	To quickly read through an article you should skim it because this saves time. Skimming is used to get the main idea of an article and its structure. It should be used to quickly get an overall understanding of what an article is about. This understanding provides a context which will make it easier to understand specific facts and guess unknown words. Knowledge of the structure will make it easy to find where answers are located within a text and save you the time of having to look through a whole article when you attempt to find answers to questions.
D	We skim an article by reading it quickly and paying attention to the following parts. First, you should look at the title of the article because this often tells you what the whole article is about. Next, look at any pictures as we can get a lot of information quickly from them. Then, read the first paragraph as this usually introduces what the whole article is about. Finally, read the first sentence of each paragraph as this usually introduces the key idea of the paragraph.
E	When it comes to answering questions scanning helps us find information quickly. Most of us use this skill in our everyday life such as when we look up a word in the dictionary or are looking at the start time of a movie. We can use this skill in IELTS to find the answer to a question.

**Exercise: Match each statement below to the paragraph above**

1. mentions scanning
2. describes why you need reading skills
3. explains why it is often best to read an article before looking at the questions
4. explains why you should skim
5. explains how you should skim

**Answers:**

1. E mentions scanning
2. A describes why you need reading skills
3. B explains why it is often best to read an article before looking at the questions
4. C explains why you should skim
5. D explains how you should skim

**Searching for keywords**

**Scanning exercise: Skim the article below and then try to answer the scanning questions below**

1. What occupation is mentioned?
2. What 3 digit number is mentioned?
3. What year is mentioned in this article?
4. What long word is mentioned?
5. What does skimming help us save?

### Keywords Help us Get Answers!

Any word that you choose from a question sentence to help you find the answer can be called a keyword. The selection of good keywords is an essential part of finding answers to questions more quickly and more accurately. This passage, therefore, will explore in a little more detail how to select good keywords.

The best keywords are the ones that lead us to the answer. These are often question words like *who*, *where*, *when* and *how*. These words tell us what kind of word we need to find. For instance, if the question is "Who is the teacher?" *who* tells us we are looking for a person. There may also be additional information in the question to guide us to the answer; in the question "Who is the teacher?" *teacher* is also a keyword because we must find the person who is also a teacher.

Once you have noted keywords in the question, you can then scan the text for answers. We can also use the information we get from skimming an article to know where we should start looking so that we do not have to scan the entire article.

The easiest words or phrases to scan for are as follows. Numbers are often the easiest, especially when they are written as digits (123) rather than words (one hundred and twenty three) and this makes years easy to find (2011). Next are words that start with capital letters including: names of people, places, cities, countries, companies. Really long words can be easier to find (photography).

Depending on the type of word you are looking for, it might be useful to have a better idea of the structure of the text. In other words, where is the answer more likely to be, at the beginning, the middle or end of the passage? This can be done by skimming an article before you start scanning for answers. This means that skimming an article saves us time.

#### Answers: Scanning exercise

1. teacher   2. 123   3. 2011   4. photography   5. time

## LISTENING

In this section, you are going to continue to learn more about keywords and also to learn about signposts which are words that let us know when an answer is coming.

### Listen for synonyms of keywords in the question

Often you don't hear the exact words given in a question. Instead, you hear a synonym, which means a similar word. For example, if the question contains the word *difficult*, you might hear *hard* or *challenging*.

### Exercise 4: Synonyms

1. Read the text below and try to think of synonyms for the underlined word
2. Listen to the sentences and identify what the synonym for the underlined word is.

Today I went to the local shop. It's very convenient because I can get there with just a five-minute walk. Not only that, they also stock wide-range items and brands. They have lots of fresh veggies including all my favourites. They also sell their goods at fair prices.

1. shop \_\_\_\_\_

2. convenient \_\_\_\_\_

3. wide-range \_\_\_\_\_

4. vegetables \_\_\_\_\_

5. fair \_\_\_\_\_

### Answers Synonyms Exercise

1. store    2. handy    3. many    4. veggies    5. reasonable

## Transcript

Today I went to the local store. It's very handy because I can get there with just a five-minute walk. Not only that, they also stock many items and brands. They have lots of fresh veggies including all my favourites. They also sell their goods at reasonable prices.

## Signposts

A signpost word or phrase is commonly used to connect clauses and sentences. The purpose of a signpost word is to tell you what kind of information is coming next which is very useful if you know the kind of information that you are listening for. For example, if we hear the phrase *in addition* we know to expect another similar additional point, whereas if we hear the word *however* we expect a contrasting point. The more you become aware of these linking phrases and what information they are linking to the more you can anticipate what is coming next.

### Exercise 5: Listen to the sentences and identify what the signpost is.

1. I go to the library \_\_\_\_\_ I love to read.
2. I go to the library \_\_\_\_\_ I go to bookshops.
3. I go to the library \_\_\_\_\_ I don't go to school.
4. I could go to the library \_\_\_\_\_ a bookshop.
5. I needed to buy a book, \_\_\_\_\_ I went to a bookshop.

### Answers Signpost exercise

1. because    2. and    3. but    4. Or    5. so

## Transcript

I go to the library because I love to read.  
I go to the library and I go to bookshops.  
I go to the library but I don't go to school.  
I could go to the library or a bookshop.  
I needed to buy a book, so I went to a bookshop.

**Exercise 6: Use your knowledge of signposts to answer the following questions by writing the word you hear:**

1. or                    the person can be contacted by phone **or** \_\_\_\_\_
2. and                the person studied at the university **and is now** \_\_\_\_\_ there
3. because        the tenant is happy she can bring her fish **because** she \_\_\_\_\_ it
4. but                the minimum rental is six months **but** a \_\_\_\_\_ is also okay
5. but                the tenant likes the large rooms **but** what she likes most is that it is \_\_\_\_\_.

## Answers

1. email    2. working    3. loves    4. year    5. quiet

## Transcript

AGENT: Hello, nice to see you again, have you decided to rent the apartment?  
TENANT: Yes, I would like to go for it. I have been looking for a long time and this place seems ideal.  
AGENT: I'm glad to hear that. Let's fill out a contract. What's your name?  
TENANT: My name is Tina Shen.  
AGENT: Thank you and how do you spell your family name?  
TENANT: It's Shen, that's S-H-E-N.  
AGENT: Thank you and can you tell me a contact phone number, please?  
TENANT: Yes sure, I'll give you the number for my sister's house, it's 04764 776640  
AGENT: Okay, so that's 0-4-7-6-4-7-7- 6-6-4-0... Is that correct?  
TENANT: Yes, that's right.  
AGENT: And do you have an e-mail address?  
TENANT: Oh yes, sure it's tinytina@Hotmail.com.  
AGENT: Thank you for that and it's just in case we can't get you on the phone. And may I ask what your occupation is?  
TENANT: I have just graduated from the University of Adelaide, and now I'm working there as an accountant.  
AGENT: I That sounds like a good place to work. Now, do you know that you're not allowed to keep any cats or dogs in the apartment?  
TENANT: Yes, I know that. Actually, I have a pet goldfish, will it be okay to bring it?  
AGENT: Yeah sure, we don't have any problem with them, they don't cause any trouble with neighbours!  
TENANT: Oh, that's great because I really love my fish.  
AGENT: Now how long would you like to sign a contract for? The minimum is six months, but we can also do it for a year if you like.  
TENANT: To be honest, what would be perfect is if I can rent it for nine months. My contract with the university expires in nine months and it would be good to stay flexible.  
AGENT: Certainly, we can do that for you. And what date would you like to move in.  
TENANT: Well, ...let me see...How about the 5th of August?  
  
AGENT: Yes ok, ...let me just write that down here....5th of August. Well, that is all we need for the contract.  
[pause]  
TENANT: Great that was easy.  
AGENT: And what is it that you like most about this apartment?  
TENANT: Well, I like the large rooms, but what attracted me the most to this apartment is that it is very quiet. I'm a light sleeper, so this is very important to me.

## SPEAKING

In the previous chapter, you learnt how to extend your answers by dividing your response into two or three parts. In this chapter, you will learn a second method of extending your answers by explaining something from general to specific.

Well, I like my home because it is very comfortable. **More specifically**, it is large and has lots of comfortable furniture. **To illustrate**, I just love chilling out on the Italian leather sofa and watching the giant TV screen!

Now read the model answers below and notice how this strategy of general to specific is used.

### PART 1 [#MP3 available using the barcode]

LET'S TALK ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE:

#### **What do you like most about your home?**

I love my apartment because it's really quiet. I think the main reason for this is that it is a semi-detached house, which means that I don't easily get disturbed by the neighbours. As a result, I sleep like a baby every night!

#### **Which room of your apartment do you like most?**

Oh, I'm really fond of the living room. This is because I live on the 25th floor and it has lots of windows that give me a bird's eye view of the city. For example, I love to sit on the sofa and drink my coffee in the morning and enjoy the fantastic view.

#### **What would you like to change about your home?**

There are a couple of things. I guess the thing that I really can't stand is that it has become a bit run down. In particular, my dad really needs to renovate our apartment...you know...paint the walls...that sort of thing.

## **PART 2:**

We can also use our strategy of general to specific to questions for our part two answer. Note how this is achieved with the answer below:

### **Describe a home that you liked**

You should say:

- what the home looks like
- which room you liked most
- what else did you like about this home

and explain how you feel about living in this home

## **Part 2: Plan**

### **Describe a home that you have been in that you liked**

- what the home looks like: *huge.... Six bedrooms... Large outdoor areas*
  - which room you liked most: *living room... Contemporary design... Modern furniture*
  - what else did you like about this home: *huge backyard... Sandpit and barbecue*
- and explain how you feel about living in this home: *lucky , fond memories*

### **Model Answer**

Alright, I'd like to talk about the home I lived in when I went to primary school.

It was a large single storey brick house on a large block of land near the centre of my hometown just outside of Brisbane. I'm a big fan of big houses and this one was huge! There were six bedrooms in all and a large living room. The kitchen, dining room and recreation room were huge and an enormous four-car garage could be accessed via a path passing through a small courtyard with a beautiful lawn and garden.

My favourite room was the huge living room. The large living room was carpeted and had a lot of contemporary furniture. I was especially fond of sitting on the Italian leather couch and watching the state-of-the-art TV. It also had many windows to let the natural light in.

Another thing that I really loved about this house was the enormous backyard. As a child, my friends and I spent many long hours playing all kinds of games in the yard. The backyard had a sandpit, a big black bean tree and a brick barbeque and as a kid I remember spending many Sundays with my family having a barbeque, playing cricket in the backyard and climbing the black bean tree or building sandcastles in the sandpit.

I feel I was lucky growing up in such a big house close to the centre of town with access to so many facilities. I have a lot of fond memories of many fun-filled days we had as kids. There really is no place like home.

## **Part three:**

### **2 points + General to Specific**

One of the best ways to give extended answers in part three is to combine the two strategies you have learnt so far of having multiple ideas and then going from general to specific for each of the ideas. This strategy is summarised below

1. Paraphrase the question
2. Point 1: general to specific
3. Point 2: general to specific

### **Let's talk about owning your own home**

#### **What are the advantages of living in a house instead of an apartment?**

There are many benefits of living in a house. The main one is that you can have more living space. More specifically, houses usually have your own garage, a garden and much more privacy. This means that you can do things like have a backyard barbeque with your family or friends or have friends stay over in spare rooms in your house. Finally, it's much better to raise a family in a home, particularly a bigger home with a lot of land for kids to run around in.

#### **Is it common to own your own home in your country?**

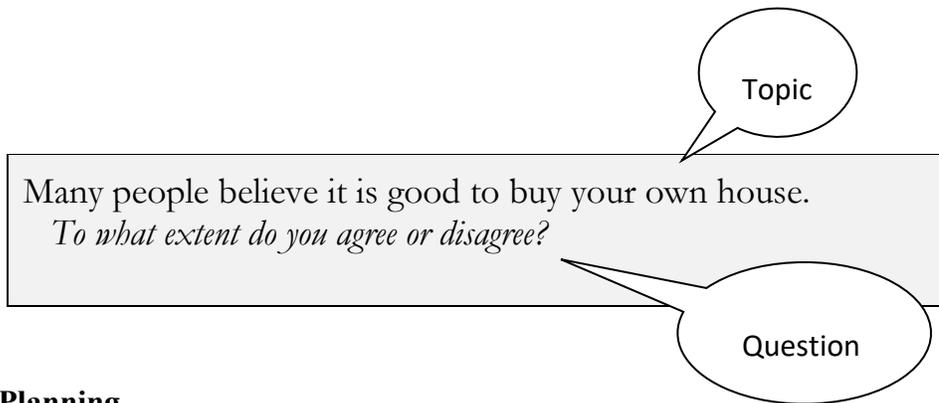
In my country, it is not very common to own your own home. The main reason is because houses are too expensive and people are not fond of borrowing money from banks. I think this is because many people leave their hometown to work in other cities and this means it makes more sense to just rent.

#### **Do you think more people will own their own homes in the future?**

That's a hard question to answer, but my own thinking is that there are going to be fewer people who are able to purchase their own housing in the future. I think more people will rent as housing prices are only going to get worse. As a result of this, owning your own home these days is increasingly becoming a luxury for the well-off. Compounding this issue is that once the interest rates start going up again, which is inevitable, fewer people will consider taking out a mortgage to buy a home.

## WRITING

Writing Task 2 is designed to test your ability to write an essay. In this chapter, you will learn how to make a plan for writing your essay and how to structure it.



### Essay Planning

It is important to realise that every task contains a topic and a question. You must fully address both the topic and the question to score six and above for task response. A plan serves three purposes. First, it helps you think about the main points you will write, so it increases your score for Task Response. Second, it helps you structure your essay better, so it increases your score for Cohesion and Coherence. Finally, it saves you time. That's right! By making a plan first, you will not have to keep stopping to think about what you will write next.

The following steps are used to plan the essay for the sample task above:

**1. Underline key vocabulary in the topic and write words with the same or related meaning.**

*Many people believe it is good to buy your own house.  
beneficial purchase residence*

**2. Decide what kind of response is needed.**

*To what extent do you agree or disagree? = say if you agree or disagree and how much [totally, strongly somewhat] [translate]*

**3. Brainstorm key points for the answer.**

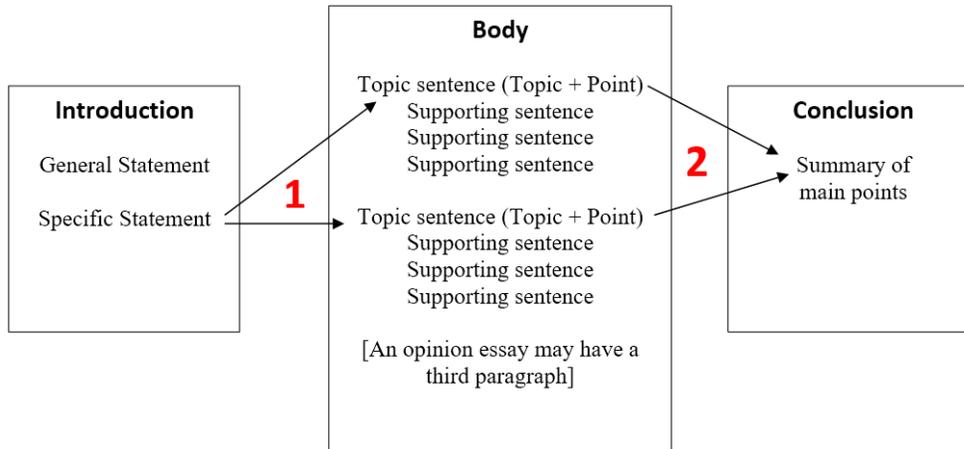
*total agree with buying a home. [1] more freedom [2] good investment*

**4. Decide on the structure of the essay**

This essay will be written with a classic essay structure of four paragraphs as shown below.

## Essay Structure

The overall structure for most types of essays is shown below. You can see that the specific ideas are repeated three times. The specific ideas are introduced at the end of the introduction, at the beginning of paragraphs and then summarised in the conclusion of the essay. Note that this is a general structure for an essay and in order to do well in your test, you should refine the structure for different types of essays.



### Point 1 above:

The diagram above shows how the last part of the introduction functions to influence the main points of each body paragraph. These main points are usually given in the topic sentence.

### Point 2 above:

The diagram shows how the main points from the body get summarised in the conclusion of the essay.

## Writing your Essay

This section will explain how to write the introduction body in conclusion of your essay.

### INTRODUCTION

You only need two sentences for your introduction. I suggest you just write a general statement and specific statement as explained below.

#### General statement

The general statement is the topic that you need to write about. You can write this very easily by just rephrasing the topic you are given. This is the best way to do this. Do not try to be creative here, as you will not be rewarded for this and you risk lowering your score for task response if you misstate the topic: with reference to the topic above:

**Many people believe it is good to buy your own house.**

REPHRASE: *Some people think it is beneficial to purchase your own home.*

#### Specific statement

The specific statement comes from the question part of the task. What you write will depend upon the question. This question asks for your opinion and you should give this here.

**To what extent do you agree or disagree?**

OPINION: *I totally agree.*

BETTER OPINION: *I totally agree because it gives you more freedom and it is a good investment.*

### BODY

The body of the essay should logically fit with the introduction you gave for the essay. The specific statement (last sentence of the introduction) should serve as a guide for the body of the essay. This is because we will have a body paragraph for each of the reasons we give in the introduction.

## Structure of the body of an essay

Agree	Reason
Reason 1 for opinion	freedom
Reason 2 for opinion	investment

The structure of each paragraph needs to be logical and there should be ONE clear focus for each paragraph. The best way to achieve a clear focus and to communicate this to the examiner is by making this clear in the first sentence of each paragraph. This first sentence is called the *topic sentence*. Topic sentences usually have two key parts, which are the topic of the essay and the key point that this paragraph will discuss about this topic.

topic sentence = topic + key point about the topic

### **First body paragraph topic sentence**

*The main reason I agree with buying a house is that it gives you more liberty.*

### **Second body paragraph topic sentence**

*Secondly, purchasing a house is a great way to invest.*

### **CONCLUSION**

You need to start the final paragraph, which is also called the concluding paragraph, by sending a SIGNAL to the examiner that you are making the conclusion to your essay. I like the phrase *in conclusion* best. I suggest you just use this as it can be used for ALL essays. After this, you should 1. Restate your opinion; 2. Summarise the reasons for it.

*In conclusion, I totally agree that people should purchase their own house because of the freedom it brings and because it is an excellent way to build wealth.*

## Sample Essay

You can now read the sample essay below and take note of the key parts discussed above. In the next chapter, how to write the body paragraphs of an essay will be explained in more detail.

Some people think it is beneficial to purchase your own home. I totally agree because it gives you more freedom and it is a good investment.

The main reason I agree with buying a house is that it gives you more liberty. More specifically, when you pay for your own place of residence you are able to customise it to your own liking. For instance, you might want to change the decoration by painting the walls to a colour of your preference. Furthermore, you can choose to make extensions to such as adding new rooms when your circumstances change. Many people like to do this when they have a change in situation such as when a new family member is born.

Secondly, purchasing a house is a great way to invest. Over the years, it seems that house prices have always increased. As a result of this, people who purchase their own home usually benefit from an increase in wealth due to the rising price of their residence. For example, I purchased my home ten years ago and it has now doubled in value. If I just kept money in the bank, it would not have grown to such a great extent.

In conclusion, I completely believe that people should purchase their own residence because of the freedom it brings and because it is an excellent way to build wealth.

### Paraphrasing exercise.

As you may have noticed, our main ideas are repeated in three places: the introduction, topic sentences, and conclusion of the essay. It is important to rephrase these main ideas to score well for vocabulary. Match the paraphrases words below from the sample essay. There are multiple answers for each word.

<b>believe</b>		liberty
		can choose
<b>good</b>		home
		invest
<b>buy</b>		pay for
		residence
<b>house</b>		build wealth
		beneficial
<b>freedom</b>		think
		purchase

### Answers:

**believe:** think

**good:** beneficial

**buy:** purchase, pay for

**house:** residence, home

**freedom:** liberty, can choose

**investment:** invest, build wealth

### 3. HOMETOWN

Questions about your hometown and other places are extremely common in all parts of the test. This topic is particularly popular in part one of the speaking test. In the writing test, you might find it useful to give examples of your hometown to illustrate your key points.

#### LANGUAGE

<b>Nouns</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
downtown	the city centre
green spaces	parks, gardens and areas with trees, plants, or grass
landmarks	a highly noticeable building or place
subway system	an underground train system in a city
suburbs	the residential areas outside of the city centre
traffic congestion	traffic jams

<b>Verbs</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
commute	regular travel. For instance, commuting to work every day
have access	being able to easily get somewhere or use something
humidity	water in the air
plaza	a large public square for walking
promenade	a paved walkway
reside	live in
suburb	an outlying district of a city
surrounded by	encircled [a house is surrounded by trees means the house has trees all around it]

<b>Adjectives</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
built-up	an area with many tall buildings
contemporary	modern
cosmopolitan	containing people from many different countries
distinctive	clear and easy to notice [Taipei 101 is a distinctive landmark ]
hectic	full of activity
industrial	relating to industry. An industrial area has lots of factories.
lively	full of energy and life
metropolitan	relating to a large city. A metropolitan area is a large city.
opposite	on the other side of something
quaint	attractively unusual or old-fashioned
residential	relating to an area for living. A residential area has lots of homes.
rural	relating to the countryside
splendid	wonderful, amazing
sprawling	built over a wide area in a spread out way
trendy	very fashionable or up to date
unique	only one in existence
vibrant	full of energy and enthusiasm

<b>Idioms</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
concrete jungle	an environment dominated by large tall buildings
hustle and bustle	busy and noisy
traffic jams	streets crowded with slow-moving traffic
up-market	fashionable and expensive

**Exercise 1: Match the words on the left to their correct meanings on the right.**

1. green spaces	A. modern
2. suburbs	B. on the other side of something
3. opposite	C. a large public square for walking
4. landmarks	D. water in the air
5. commute	E. wonderful
6. splendid	F. an area with parks and gardens
7. humidity	G. noticeable building or place
8. contemporary	H. regular travel for work or study
9. promenade	I. residential areas outside of the city centre
10. plaza	J. a paved walkway

**Answers: Exercise 1**

**1. F    2. I    3. B    4. G    5. H    6. E    7. D    8. A    9. J    10. C**

## Exercise 2: Chose the correct meaning for each of the words

### 1. Hectic

- (a) sleepy
- (b) tranquil
- (c) full of activity
- (d) an area of land

### 2. Vibrant

- (a) quiet
- (b) energetic
- (c) idle
- (d) average

### 3. Lively

- (a) dull
- (b) livable
- (c) full of energy
- (d) a place where there is no life

### 4. Cosmopolitan

- (a) cultured
- (b) unsophisticated
- (c) relating to the cosmos
- (d) unrefined

### 5. Rural

- (a) urban
- (b) by the sea
- (c) suburban
- (d) countryside

### 6. Sprawling

- (a) spread out
- (b) tiny
- (c) straight
- (d) narrow

7. Metropolitan

- (a) city area
- (b) train system
- (c) country
- (d) provincial

8. Quaint

- (a) modern
- (b) charming
- (c) relaxed
- (d) quiet

9. Suburb

- (a) center area of a city
- (b) outlying area of a city
- (c) urban area of a city
- (d) metropolitan area of a city

10. Trendy

- (a) unstylish
- (b) old-fashioned
- (c) popular
- (d) crowded

**Answers: Exercise 2**

**1. c    2. b    3. c    4. a    5. d    6. a    7. a    8. b    9. b    10. c**

## Grammar: past tense

We use the simple past for situations and actions in the past. One of the big challenges when using the past tense is to get the spelling right.

spelling when adding <i>ed</i>	Example
In most cases just add <i>ed</i>	walk - walked
after a final <i>e</i> only add <i>d</i>	hope – hoped
final consonant after a short, stressed vowel or <i>l</i> as final consonant after a vowel is doubled	admit – admitted
final <i>y</i> after a consonant becomes <i>i</i>	hurry – hurried

**Exercise: Write the verbs in simple past, using the correct spelling.**

1. I (live) \_\_\_\_\_ with my parents before going to university
2. I (hope) \_\_\_\_\_ I would study abroad.
3. I (study) \_\_\_\_\_ at home when I was preparing for my test.
4. I always (hurry) \_\_\_\_\_ home after I finished school.
5. Mom (cook) \_\_\_\_\_ for the family at home before she started working.
6. Last night I (disturb) \_\_\_\_\_ my father when he was trying to sleep.
7. My village has (develop) \_\_\_\_\_ so quickly.
8. Dad (admit) \_\_\_\_\_ he made a mistake last week.
9. My sister (work) \_\_\_\_\_ as a nurse before she became a doctor.
10. I had been playing football when I (injure) \_\_\_\_\_ my foot.

### ANSWERS

- 1.lived      2.hoped      3.studied      4.hurried      5.cooked  
6.disturbed      7.developed      8.admitted      9.worked      10.injured

## READING

### Short Answers

In this section, you going to learn how to respond to short answer questions in the reading test.

This type of question requires you to respond to questions with one to three words that are taken from the text. When answering short-answer questions, you have to pay attention to the instructions regarding the word limit. A lot of IELTS test-takers get caught out by the word limit.

### Approach:

1. Skim the text
2. Read the instructions carefully so you know the maximum number of words/numbers you can write.
3. Read the first question and establish a keyword to search for.
4. Locate the keyword/synonym in the text.
5. Establish the answer.
6. Check the answer doesn't exceed the word limit.
7. Repeat this strategy with other questions. You have about 1 minute for each question.
8. Note that all answers come in consecutive order for this type of question in your test.

Now, try using the approach above for the ten questions that follow the reading passage that follows about Cornwall.

## **CORNWALL**

### **A love affair that lasts a lifetime**

It's hard not to fall in love with Cornwall. For some, it's the happy memories of a childhood seaside holiday. For others, it's the brief fling of a teenage summer. For most it's a passionate affair that lasts a lifetime...so let the affair begin!

### **Where is Cornwall?**

Located in the far west of Great Britain, Cornwall is almost completely surrounded by the sea and has a magnificent 300-mile coastline. It is also the location of mainland Great Britain's most southerly beaches called The Lizard.

### **What's so special about it?**

There are lots of things Cornwall is loved for; the dramatic coastline with its captivating fishing harbours; the spectacular beaches and the pounding surf that provide a natural playground for a variety of water sports; and of course the Cornish pies and cream teas.

### **Expect the unexpected**

But there are also lots of things about Cornwall that may surprise you. For instance, the wilderness of Bodmin Moor with its panorama of big skies. There are also many local artists found mainly in West Cornwall, inspired by the naturally stunning landscapes. More recently, Cornwall has become known for a food scene that is even better than London's.

### **History and culture**

Cornwall also has a tremendous history based on its Celtic roots; its Celtic Cornish culture; the warmth and friendliness of the people; and the unique Cornish language that can be seen in the village names.

Why not visit some of Cornwall's most iconic experiences. From towering castles, beautiful gardens and places steeped in legends and history, you'll be spoilt for choice. Here are a few to get you started.

Trebah Garden - near Falmouth

One of the great gardens of Cornwall and rated among the 80 finest gardens in the world, discover the magic of this beautiful Cornish valley garden with over four miles of footpath.

Lanhydrock - Bodmin

Lanhydrock boasts a magnificent late Victorian country house with gardens and a wooded estate. Discover two sides of Victorian life: those 'below stairs', and those 'upstairs'.

### **Geevor Tin Mine - near Penzance**

Geevor tin mine is one of the largest preserved mine sites in the country and a Cornish Mining World Heritage Site. Housed in two acres of listed buildings, Geevor's collections and guides bring the story of Cornwall's rich industrial past to life.

### Questions 1-10

Complete the sentences below using **ONE WORD** from the passage for each answer.

- 1 Cornwall has the most ..... beaches in Britain.
- 2 Cornwall is famous for .....sports.
- 3 The amazing landscapes have inspired many local .....
- 4 Cornwall is now even better than ..... for its food and amazing chefs.
- 5 Cornwall is different from the rest of England because of its ..... language.
- 6 Cornwall has a lot of tall ..... [towers].
- 7 Trebah Garden is located near ..... [Falmouth]
- 8 Trebah Garden has a very long ..... [footpath]
- 9 The perfect place to discover Victorian lifestyles is .....
- 10 Cornwall has a very large ..... mine.

### Answers:

1. **southerly**: It is also the location of mainland Great Britain's most southerly beaches called The Lizard.
2. **water**: a natural playground for a variety of water sports.
3. **artists**: There's also many local artists found mainly in West Cornwall, inspired by the. naturally stunning landscapes.
4. **London**: More recently, Cornwall has become known for a food scene that is even better than London's.
5. **Cornish**: and the unique Cornish language that can be seen in the village names.
6. **Castles**: From towering castles, beautiful gardens.
7. **Falmouth**: Trebah Garden - near Falmouth.
8. **footpath**: Cornish valley garden with over four miles of footpath.
9. **Lanhydrock**: "Lanhydrock boasts a magnificent late Victorian country house with gardens and wooded estate. Discover two sides of Victorian life: those 'below stairs', and those 'upstairs'."
10. **tin**: Geevor tin mine is one of the largest preserved mine sites in the country.

## LISTENING

Spelling is extremely important in the listening test. This section covers the spelling of some popular place names that often occur in part one of the listening test.

### Exercise 7: Spelling Place Names

Spelling is important for the listening test. You are expected to be able to spell common names of places. Listen to this passage about the UK and complete the notes.

#### What is the UK?

Great Britain consists of **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_, **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_, and **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_. People from these places are called British, or English, Scottish, and Welsh. The name Great Britain is often shortened to **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_. The United Kingdom consists of Great Britain and **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_.



#### Cities

**(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ is the capital and largest city in England. Other important cities include: **(7) Manchest**\_\_\_\_\_, **(8) Liver**\_\_\_\_\_ and Birmingham. The capital of Scotland is Edinburgh but the largest city is Glasgow. Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland, and Cardiff is the capital of Wales. The cities of **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ and **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ are known for their universities.

### Answers: Spelling Place Names

- (1) England,      (2) Scotland,      (3) Wales,      (4) Britain,      (5) Northern Ireland,  
(6) London,      (7) Manchester,      (8) Liverpool,      (9) Oxford,      (10) Cambridge

**Exercise 8.** Listen and complete the notes below.

**The London Underground** Questions 1–10

DATE	EVENT	NOTES
1863	First line opened	Called The metropolitan (1) _____
1900	The Metro opened in (2) _____	Took name from the (3) _____ Underground
WWII	War Cabinet used (4) _____ Street Station	Winston Churchill stayed there
1987	31 people died in a (5) _____ at King's Cross Station	Probably caused by a passenger's (6) _____ Led to (7) _____ escalators being replaced
Today	System continues to grow	275 stations and twelve (8) _____ Mon–Fri. Average weekday number of trips on the tube is three (9) _____ special guest Mr. Simon Norton, (10) _____ enthusiast.

**Answers**

1. Railway      2. Paris      3. English      4. Down      5. fire  
6. match      7. wooden      8. lines      9. million      10. railway

## Transcript

**Fiona:** This is Fiona West and you're listening to Our City. It's my pleasure to welcome railway enthusiast Mr. Simon Norton to our studio, who has kindly come in to give us an introduction to the London Underground or "the Tube" as most Londoners call it.

**Guest:** It's a pleasure to be here.

**Fiona:** Well, let's start at the beginning; what is it that you find so interesting about the Underground?

**Guest:** The history of the Underground is fascinating. It is the world's oldest subway system so there have been so many changes over that time. The first line, which was called the "Metropolitan Railway," began running in 1863. In comparison, the first line of the Paris Metro didn't open until 1900. Actually, there's an interesting connection between the two systems; the Paris underground took its name directly from the English, *Metropolitan Railway*, in French *Chemin de Fer Métropolitain*. This was shortened to *métro*, and the word found its way into English and other languages.

**Fiona:** And as the London Underground has changed through the years, some stations have been abandoned.

**Guest:** Yes, there are about 40 abandoned stations along the Underground. Luckily, some of them are fairly well preserved and are wonderful windows into the past. For example, during the Second World War, many Tube stations were used as air-raid shelters. Most famously, the abandoned station of Down Street was used during the early part of the war by Prime Minister Winston Churchill and his War Cabinet. This was done because its underground location made it safer than buildings above ground.

**Fiona:** Mmm. Running the war from an old Tube station – amazing history, but that's rather part of the current problem with the Tube – too much history. The system is too old and needs enormous investment and modernization.

**Guest:** Yes, that's partly true. The Underground has suffered from a lack of investment over the last few decades.

**Fiona:** And how is the safety record?

**Guest:** Quite good, but there was tragic fire back in 1987 at King's Cross Station. The final number of deaths was 31. The fire was probably started by a match thrown away by a passenger going up an escalator with wooden planks. After that fire, wooden escalators were phased out.

**Fiona:** Was smoking allowed in stations at that time?

**Guest:** No, it had been banned a few years earlier. The problem was that smokers often lit their cigarettes on the escalators as they were exiting the stations.

**Fiona:** Thankfully safety has improved. But how about the quality of service?

**Guest:** I think the Tube is not as bad as many people claim. After all, it is still usually the fastest and easiest way of getting around London. And with 275 stations spread along 12 lines, and an average of three million journeys on the Tube every weekday, there are bound to be some delays and accidents.

**Fiona:** This is Fiona West and you're listening to Our City, with our special guest Mr. Simon Norton, railway enthusiast. We will continue talking about the London Underground after these messages.

## SPEAKING

Many of the questions in the speaking test are about what you like and what you dislike. In this section, we are going to work on how to respond to these types of questions when talking about places.

### Rephrasing “liking”

I’m pretty fond of...

I’m really keen on...

I’m a big fan of...

### Rephrasing “Disliking”

I really can’t stand...

I’m not really fond of...

I’m not much of a fan of...

Well, I like my hometown because I’m really fond of the scenic views.

**More specifically**, it has fantastic natural scenery. This is great for me as

I’m a big fan of going snorkelling in the clear turquoise ocean waters.

## **PART 1**

**Let's talk about your hometown or where you grew up**

**What do you like about the place you grew up in?**

Well, I come from Taipei, which is a big city. I'm a big fan of night markets and the city has plenty. Moreover, I'm really keen on the historic places such as temples.

**Is it a good place for young people?**

It's a fantastic place as there are lots of different types of entertainment. Especially, youths are fond of all the different places to go to eat. For example, there are tons of night markets, up-market cafes, and a wide range of international restaurants.

**Is there anything that you don't like about your hometown?**

Well to be honest, I can't stand a few things about Taipei. I'm really not fond of the traffic because it takes ages to get anywhere. Furthermore, I'm really not keen on the air pollution as it agitates my allergies.

**What would you like to change about your hometown?**

Well, it would be good to have more parks and green spaces. More specifically, I really can't stand that there aren't many places to ride my bike. **For instance**, they could construct some new green spaces along the river for me to ride my mountain bike.

## PART 2

The model answer below will use the liking and disliking language to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of my hometown. Also note how advantages is rephrased to merits and disadvantages is rephrased to drawbacks.

DESCRIBE THE CITY OR TOWN THAT YOU GREW UP IN

You should say:

- describe the town or city
  - what are the advantages of living there
  - what are the disadvantages of living there
- and explain whether you will live there in the future

I'm going to talk about my hometown, Brisbane

Brisbane used to be known as a sleepy city with nothing much to do, it had boring nightlife and shopping compared to Sydney and Melbourne. So, as a teenager, I was not much of a fan of living in this city.

One of the main benefits of living in Brisbane is its sub-tropical climate, so even in the middle of winter, there is virtually no winter. I'm really fond of walking around in shorts and a tee-shirt and this is possible even in the middle of July and August. If you are a fan of long hot summers then Brisbane is the place for you and with its close proximity to the Gold and Sunshine Coasts it is a perfect place for people who are keen to go chill out at the beach. A great place to visit near the downtown is Southbank, which sits alongside the Brisbane River. It features Southbank's Big Wheel, which is also visible all over Brisbane. There is even a man-made beach at Southbank called Kodac Beach which is a popular place to go to take a cool dip in the water on a hot summer's day.

The drawbacks are without doubt Brisbane's hot humid days in summer, which is often broken by a late afternoon heavy downpour and thunderstorms. Because of the heat and high rainfall throughout the year, there is a constant mosquito problem, which I really can't stand. Furthermore, many people are not keen on the heavy rains because it means that Brisbane is prone to heavy flooding. Major floods in previous years have caused many people to lose their homes and caused billions of dollars in damage. Prolonged heavy rainfall and flooding occur around four times a century and this is, without a doubt, the biggest permanent threat to Brisbane's future.

I'm really keen to live in Brisbane in the future because it has a wonderful outdoor lifestyle and there are so many exciting places to visit.

## **PART 3**

We can also often use our liking and disliking language in part 3 of the test. Notice the underlined words in the answers below.

### **Let's talk about hometowns and cultural events**

#### **Why is a person's hometown often special to them?**

I think the main reason for this is fond memories. You know, the place where we grow up and where we spent our youth is often the place where we have done many things for the first time. Moreover, it's where we spent a lot of time with some of the people we are most fond of ... our families. This means that people always hold these places in their heart and are always keen to return.

#### **Why do many people return to their hometowns for special cultural events every year?**

The main reason why people are keen to do this is because it is tradition to do so, especially in Asian countries. This is because it may be one of the few times every year when people are able to get time off from work to visit their families, especially if their hometown is far away. For instance, during Chinese New Year or Tet in Vietnam millions of people flee the places they are working in and return home to spend time with their families.

#### **Why do some people not like to go back to their hometowns?**

Well, I think the most likely reason is that they can't stand all the unhappy memories they have there. You know, a lot of people had unhappy childhoods and going back home can remind them of this. Moreover, I think going back to one's hometown is just not some people's cup of tea. Especially, introverts, I think they just prefer being alone and don't want to meet all their past acquaintances in their hometown.

## WRITING

In the previous chapter, you learnt how to plan and write your first essay. In this chapter, you are going to learn how to 1. Expand your main ideas 2. write body paragraphs. You will be responding to the task instructions below:

**Many people believe life is better in big cities.  
Do you agree or disagree?**

### Expanding Main Ideas

To plan for this essay we need to decide whether we agree or disagree. Then, we need to support our opinion by coming up with main ideas. These main ideas should then be developed by explaining them or giving examples to illustrate them. This section will show you how to support your ideas with explanations and examples.

### Main ideas

A convincing opinion requires logical reasons or main ideas to support it. You don't have to have the absolutely best ideas but you do need ideas that are reasonable. Let's say that we agree with the topic above, we could then come up with some reasons for it as follows:

1. **more job opportunities**
2. **better access to services**
3. **More entertainment**
4. more chances to meet people
5. better shopping
6. better transportation
7. more restaurants

In order to write our essay so we do not need so many main ideas. Two or three will be plenty. Ideally, you should pick the two or three that are the easiest to develop. If you look at the list of potential reasons they start to get weaker as we go down the list. Moreover, some of these points might be better supporting ideas rather than main ideas. For instance, *better transportation* could be a way to support the idea of better access to services and *more restaurants* could be a way to support the idea of more entertainment. For this essay are going to choose the first three and look at how we can develop these more.

## Explanations

An explanation is a statement that makes something clear. This is the easiest way to develop your main ideas. You can see explanations for the main ideas below:

<b>more job opportunities</b>	Cities have more job opportunities because most of the big companies are located in cities.
<b>better access to services</b>	Cities have better access to services because they have a better infrastructure.
<b>more entertainment</b>	Cities have more entertainment choices because there are more restaurants, cinemas, and other places to have fun.

## Examples

Examples usually come after explanations in our paragraph. They function to illustrate the explanations that are given regarding our main ideas. These are shown below:

<b>more job opportunities</b>	For example, Sydney has almost all of the big Australian company headquarters based there.
<b>better access to services</b>	For example, Sydney has the best universities and medical facilities in Australia.
<b>more entertainment</b>	For instance, I never get bored of dining out in Sydney because there are thousands of restaurants to choose from.

## Writing Body Paragraphs

From my experience, one of the biggest problem writers have is not thinking about the reader! Often the writer has an idea in their head but does not communicate it in an effective way to the reader. The most logical way to communicate your thinking to the reader is to go from general to specific. This means stating your main idea, explaining it, and then possibly illustrating it with an example. As you learned in the previous chapter, paragraphs should start with a topic sentence. This topic sentence states the main idea to the reader. Therefore, our paragraph structure is as follows:

**Topic sentence: topic + main idea**

**Explanation**

**Example**

Read the model essay below and note how the body paragraphs have been developed.

## Sample Essay

**Many people believe life is better in big cities.  
Do you agree or disagree?**

Some people think living in large metropolises is best. I totally agree because I think it is better for your career, there are better facilities, and life is more fun.

The main reason why I believe city life is better is because there is a **much wider range of job opportunities**. Cities have more job opportunities because most of the big companies are located in cities. For example, Sydney has almost all of the big Australian companies' headquarters based there, so it is really easy to find an occupation you are keen on.

Another reason why I feel it is better to live in urban areas is because there is **better access to services**. Cities have better access to amenities because they have a better infrastructure due to the population density. For example, Sydney has by far the best universities and medical facilities in Australia.

Finally, city life offers **more entertainment**. Cities have more entertainment choices because there are more restaurants, cinemas, and other places to have fun. For instance, dining out in Sydney is always more enjoyable because there are thousands of restaurants to choose from.

In conclusion, I totally believe that city life is better. This is because we can have better job prospects, better access to services, and more fun. Therefore, I feel that more people will continue to shift from rural areas to cities in the future.

## Paraphrasing exercise.

As you may have noticed, our main ideas get repeated in three places. The main ideas appear in the introduction, topic sentences, and conclusion of the essay. It is important to rephrase these main ideas. Match the paraphrases of these and other words below from the sample essay. There are multiple answers for each word.

<b>Cities</b>		work
		job
		infrastructure
<b>Career</b>		urban areas
		job prospects
		Entertainment
<b>Services</b>		metropolises
		amusement
		enjoyable
<b>Fun</b>		occupation
		facilities
		amenities

## Answers Paraphrasing

**Cities:** urban areas, metropolises

**Career:** job, work, job prospects, occupation

**Services:** facilities, amenities, infrastructure

**Fun:** entertainment, amusement, enjoyable

## 4. STUDY

Studying and education is one of the most important topics for all parts of the test. It is particularly important in Part 1 of the speaking test and Part 2 of the writing test. It is important to build up a wide vocabulary and the ability to paraphrase common words regarding education.

### LANGUAGE

<b>Nouns</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
cram school	specialized school that trains students to pass tests
curiosity	interest in learning or knowing more
curriculum	the entire school program including course materials and testing of students. Everything that a school aims to teach.
degree	a qualification given upon successful completion of studying at a university
graduation	a special ceremony when a student completes a university degree
persistence	not giving up to achieve a goal
lecture	an educational talk, speech or presentation
tuition	the fees for studying a course
tutorial	a small class of about 20 students conducted by a tutor

<b>Verbs</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
enrol	to join a class
excel	to be very good at a particular activity or subject
graduate	to pass a course
nurture	to help grow or develop
revise	to review materials that have already been taught
strive	make great efforts to achieve or obtain something

<b>Adjectives</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
academic	relating to education especially universities
co-educational	when male and female students are taught together in the same school
devoted	to give a large part of one's time or energy to an activity or cause
hands-on	to learn by actually doing. We get hands-on experience by actually doing things.
motivated	have enthusiasm for doing something
prestigious	of high reputation
single-sex	when only male or female students are taught in the same school

<b>Idioms</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
burnt out	to become completely exhausted through overwork. <i>Studying too much can cause you to become <b>burnt out</b>.</i>
head buried in the books	to be studying a lot <i>Tom has his head <u>buried in the books</u> because his test is tomorrow.</i>
up-to-date	<b>the most recent</b> <i>I chose to study there because it has the most up-to-date knowledge in my area</i>

**Matching exercise: Write the words on the left with the phrase it matches on the right**

1. when male and female students are taught together in the same school		academic
2. to review materials that have already been taught		burnt out
3. to help grow or develop		co-educational
4. to become completely exhausted through		cram school
5. to be very good at a particular activity or subject		curiosity
6. the most recent		excel
7. the fees for studying a course		head buried in the books
8. specialized school that train students to pass tests		motivated
9. relating to education especially universities		nurture
10. to be studying a lot		persistence

**Matching Answers**

1. co-educational
2. revise
3. nurture
4. burnt out
5. excel
6. up-to-date
7. tuition
8. cram school
9. Academic
10. head buried in the books

## Prepositions

Prepositions are used to locate something in time and space, modify a noun; or tell when or where or under what conditions something happened.

### Exercise 2: Prepositions

Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions:

1. He has a very good knowledge ..... the subject. [of, off]
2. We had to write an essay ..... educational reform. [in, about]
3. I like to look ..... words that I don't know. [down, up]
4. You should write .....important words that the teacher says. [down, up]
5. Final grades are based .... the final exam and coursework. [in, on]
6. I think students should respect teachers..... class [in, on].
7. I took a course ..... Thai cooking last year. [at, on]
8. She couldn't go to the party because she had to prepare ..... an exam. [from for]
9. Since graduating ..... university, I've been working for my father's company. [from for]
10. My brother has a degree ..... marketing. [from in]

### Answers: Prepositions

- 1.of    2. about    3. up    4. down    5. on    6. in    7. on    8. for    9. from    10. in

## Grammar: Adjectives

### Adjectives ending in '-ed' and '-ing'

#### *-ed* adjectives

Adjectives that end in -ed usually describe how people feel.

I was so **bored** in that lesson. I almost fell asleep.

I was really **tired** and went to bed early.

#### *-ing* adjectives

Adjectives that end in -ing generally describe the thing that causes the way you feel.

I found the lesson so **boring** that I almost fell asleep.

I was **tired** and went to bed early

## Exercise on Adjectives

Complete the sentences below with adjectives from the box.

*relaxed/relaxing    bored/boring    fascinated/fascinating*  
*terrified/terrifying    tired/tiring*

1. I've been ..... by history since I was about eight years old.
2. My job is very ..... as I frequently have to work ten or eleven hours a day.
3. I'm ..... in French class because I think it is not interesting.
4. The restaurant usually plays ..... background music that calms me down.
5. Mr. Brown is a ..... speaker. I almost fall asleep.
6. I love carpentry. Making something with your own hands is very .....
7. When I was young I was absolutely ..... of public speaking.
8. I have been working flat out. I feel .....
9. Watching a movie always helps me feel .....
- 10 I felt ..... because I had just seen a snake.

### Answers:

- |                |              |          |             |               |
|----------------|--------------|----------|-------------|---------------|
| 1.fascinated   | 2 tiring     | 3. bored | 4. relaxing | 5. boring     |
| 6. fascinating | 7. terrified | 8. tired | 9. relaxed  | 10. terrified |

## READING

### Matching Questions

With this type of question, you have to pair up pieces of information to form a perfect match. The biggest problem is the fact that you need to look at the whole text. The answers could be anywhere in the text and they do not come in order, so it takes time.

#### Approach:

1. Skim the text for 3 to 5 minutes. Pay a lot of attention to where the names/terms are located and even make marks on your page to help you later. Avoid, going to the questions to solve an answer while you are skimming as this will break your flow and lead to a poor skim which will cost you time in the long run.
3. Read the instructions carefully, so that you know the maximum number of words/numbers you can write.
4. Read the first question and establish a keyword to search for in the text.
5. Locate the keyword/synonym in the text.
6. Look for the correct answer. It should be somewhere close to the keyword in the same sentence and note that the keyword could occur in other parts of the text. If you are uncertain about an answer you may need to check all instances of the name/keyword in the text.
7. Repeat this strategy with other questions.

*Read the text below and answer Questions 1–10.*

## **Savants**

Super heroes like Superman have powers that are the envy of many children and even adults. Yet, we don't have to read comic books to find people with super powers. These are the savants. They are usually born with these special powers but they usually have severe learning disabilities.

### **A. Leslie Lemke**

Lemke was 15 when he eventually learnt how to walk. When he was 16, he played Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. after hearing this piece of music on the television the previous night. He is now able to play any piece of music simply by listening to it once.

### **B. Orlando Serrell**

He was not born a savant. He was ten years old when he was hit on the head with a baseball. Since then, he has been able to perform complicated calendar calculations and remember the weather every day from the day of the accident.

### **C. Kim Peek**

Kim was the inspiration for the character played by Dustin Hoffman in the Rain Man. His nickname is "Kimputer" because he has read over 12,000 books and remembers everything about them. He reads two pages at once – his left eye reads the left page and his right eye reads the right page – in 3 seconds!

### **D. Stephen Wiltshire**

When he was nine, he learnt to talk but before this he had already developed a love for drawing. After a helicopter ride in Tokyo he drew an accurate and detailed view of the city on a piece of paper 10 metres long!

### **E. Ellen Boudreaux**

Ellen Boudreaux is a blind autistic savant with exceptional musical abilities. She can also walk around without bumping into things. She does this by making little chirping sounds that seem to act like a human sonar.

### **F. Daniel Tammet**

Daniel is exceptionally gifted mathematically and linguistically. He can speak 11 languages fluently and learnt one of them, Icelandic, in 7 days. He appears normal but Daniel contends that he actually had to will himself to learn how to talk to and behave around people.

### **Questions 1-10**

Look at the following statements and the list of savants below.

Match each statement with the correct savant, **A-F**.

- 1 This savant learnt one language very quickly and speaks many more.
- 2 This savant developed extraordinary powers after an accident.
- 3 This savant plays the piano.
- 4 This savant inspired a movie.
- 5 This savant avoids falling over with sonar like ability.
- 6 This savant loves to draw buildings with incredible accuracy.
- 7 This savant can play a piece of music after only hearing it once.
- 8 This savant is blind
- 9 This savant could not walk until he was a teenager.
- 10 This savant learned a language in just one week.

#### **Savants**

**A** *Leslie Lemke*

**B** *Orlando Serrell*

**C** *Kim Peek*

**D** *Stephen Wiltshire*

**E** *Ellen Boudreaux*

**F** *Daniel Tammet*

## Answers

1. **F:** "He can speak 11 languages fluently and learnt one of them, Icelandic, in 7 days."
2. **B:** "He was ten years old when he was hit on the head with a baseball. Since then he has been able to perform complicated calendar calculations and remember the weather every day from the day of the accident."
3. **A:** "When he was 16 he played Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1. after hearing this piece of music on the television ..."
4. **C:** "Kim was the inspiration for the character played by Dustin Hoffman in the Rain Man."
5. **E:** "She can also walk around without bumping into things. She does this by making little chirping sounds that seem to act like a human sonar."
6. **D:** "When he was nine he learnt to talk but before this he had already developed a love for drawing. After a helicopter ride in Tokyo he drew an accurate and detailed view of the city on a piece of paper 10 metres long!"
7. **A:** "now able to play any piece of music simply by listening to it once"
8. **E:** "Ellen Boudreaux is a blind autistic savant"
9. **A:** "Lemke was 15 when he eventually learnt how to walk"
- 10 **F:** "learnt one of them, Icelandic, in 7 days"

## LISTENING

Multiple choice questions can be challenging because it is hard to make a choice while the recording is playing. Have a good read of the questions before you listen to the recording so that you know what information is being presented and what sort of choices you have in response to each question.

### Life in a Public School

**Exercise 9.** Listen to a radio show and choose the correct answer **A B** or **C**

1. Bill comes from the council in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. London  
B. Witherspoon  
C. Council
2. Mrs. Bell's nephew is \_\_\_\_\_ years old.  
A. 30  
B. 13  
C. 2
3. Dr. Witherspoon's favourite school is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Eton  
B. Windsor  
C. Ofwich
4. King's College was founded in the year \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 440  
B. 1440  
C. 1441
5. Seventy scholars received \_\_\_\_\_ education.  
A. three years of  
B. French  
C. free
6. Usually there are about \_\_\_\_\_ students.  
A. 13  
B. 1300  
C. 30
7. Every boy has his own \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. study  
B. bedroom  
C. study-bedroom
8. The maid will \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. play cards  
B. be friendly  
C. tip you
9. All boys may go out with \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. their parents  
B. their House Master  
C. Michaelmas
10. It is now time for a \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. new show  
B. rest  
C. commercial

### Answers

1. A   2. B   3. A   4. B   5. C   6. B   7. C   8. B   9. A   10. C

## Transcript

Host: Good evening and welcome to Tuesday's Tea-Time Tittle Tattle. Here in the studio today we have Dr. Bill Witherspoon of the Outer London Education Council. Er, thanks for coming today Bill.

Bill: Oh, thank you for inviting me.

Host: A Mrs. Madge Bell has called in to ask which first type of school she should send her 13-year-old nephew to, and what information, if any, you can share with her. Actually, that call came all the way from Durban, South Africa about 5 minutes ago. Over to you Bill.

Bill: Well now, in Britain we have lots of very good schools, of which Eton near Windsor is my favourite.

Host: Now, Eton has a long history doesn't it Bill?

Bill: Oh, yes. In 1440 Henry VI founded 'The King's College of Our Lady of Eton beside Windsor' and, a year later, the college in Cambridge, which was to be supplied with scholars from Eton. The school was to be part of a large foundation which included a community of secular priests, 10 of whom were Fellows, a pilgrimage church, and an almshouse. Provision was made for 70 scholars to receive free education.

Host: So, how many boys are we talking about today?

Bill: At any one time there are almost 1300 boys in the School, almost all of whom joined the School at age 13.

Host: And do they live in dorms?

Bill: Every boy at Eton has his own study-bedroom. This is his own private zone that he can decorate as he pleases (within limits set by his House Master) and where he can entertain friends — or exclude them if he wants a bit of peace and quiet. But beware, the Boys' Maid will be a great friend and ally if he plays his cards right, but will not take it kindly if his room is a perpetual tip.

Host: And holidays?

Bill: All boys have the normal school holidays but they can also go home or go out with their parents — with the House Master's permission — whenever they are free from School or House commitments.

Host: I'll stop you there Bill. It's time for a commercial.

In Part 4 of the listening test, you will often hear a university lecturer talking to a group of students.

**Exercise 10:** Write the appropriate letters **A–F** at the end of sentences 1–5. Use each letter once only.

1	Culture shock has been a field of _____.
	Another expression for culture shock is _____.
3	In a new culture most travellers will go through _____.
4	To begin with people feel it is _____ and new.
5	Food from home could become _____.
6	Some people reject things and become _____.

<b>A</b>	highs and lows
<b>B</b>	culture fatigue
<b>C</b>	research
<b>D</b>	opinionated
<b>E</b>	an obsession
<b>F</b>	exciting

Questions 7–12.

**Exercise 11:** Write i–iv in the gaps in the sentences 7–10.

7	Many people immediately feel at home in _____.
8	Some do not have a problem _____.
9	If you are well travelled you are more likely to _____ culture shock.
10	A person in a new country may be treated as _____.

<b>i</b>	in Britain
<b>ii</b>	overcome
<b>iii</b>	settling in
<b>iv</b>	an outsider

### ANSWERS 1-10

1. C 2. B 3. A 4. F 5. E 6. D 7. i 8. iii 9. ii 10. iv

## Transcript

**The Dean:** Thank you, thank you and now for a gentleman who needs no introduction. Please welcome our guest this afternoon – Dr. Gerd Von Conrad. Over to you Doctor.

**GCV:** Thank you. It's always a pleasure to be here. So let's think about culture shock. For over thirty years, culture shock has been a bona fide field of research for European and American anthropologists and psychologists. They have studied the reactions and experiences during the first few months in a new country of travellers and diplomats, business people and international students.

The anthropologist Dr. Kalvero Oberg was the first to use the term. Others have since experimented with 'culture fatigue' and 'role shock' but these have not made it into everyday usage. Culture shock is snappy and somehow we all know what it means to us, although if asked, we may find it as difficult to define as 'jet lag' or 'homesickness'.

Some researchers describe five stages; others believe it is a six or even seven stage process. Not everyone experiences the same exact stages but most travellers will go through the highs and lows, the positive as well as the negative aspects of living in a new culture. The different stages roughly are as follows:

At first, you are excited by the new environment and a few frustrations do not spoil your enthusiasm. When experiencing some difficulties with simple things like, for instance, making telephone calls, or using public transport, you tend to down-play negative emotions.

Then follows a period in which cultural differences in behaviour and values become more obvious. What previously seemed exciting, new and challenging is now merely frustrating. You may feel isolated and become withdrawn from life around you. You seek security in the familiar. Food from home, possibly even what you never particularly enjoyed, becomes a focus, maybe an obsession.

In the next stage, you may reject what is around you, perhaps becoming opinionated and negative. You may feel that everyone is against you and that nobody understands you.

### Part Two

**GCV:** But what about all those many people who immediately feel at home in Britain? What kind of person embraces everything wholeheartedly and enthusiastically? Who experiences no problems in settling in?

Research has shown that the more well travelled and practised at absorbing, accepting and adapting you are, the more easily you overcome culture shock. If you are confident from speaking the language and possess a thorough knowledge of your new home, you can feel settled after a relatively short period.

If you have adjusted well to your new environment, you perform competently the roles that each social context requires and thus avoid the frustrations resulting from inappropriate behaviour.

Some individuals do not seek cultural adjustment, either because they do not agree with the values and behaviour prevalent in the new country, or because they are afraid of losing too much of their own cultural identity. Living in a cultural vacuum may not be easy and can lead to feeling, and being treated, like an outsider.

## SPEAKING

### Speaking About People

In all three parts of the test, you might have to talk about people. This section focuses on how to answer questions related to people. To make your answer more interesting use lots of descriptive vocabulary, e.g. extrovert, slender, and so on. You could talk about the following aspects:

1. appearance
2. personality
3. relationship to you
4. their lifestyle

#### 1. APPEARANCE:

*Audrey Hepburn was a petite woman with short-cropped hair. She's famous for wearing little black dresses that had a way of making her look glamorous.*



*Brian is a senior citizen, with a beard, a moustache, and a short grey ponytail. He always wears sunglasses because his eyes are sensitive to sunlight.*



## **2: PERSONALITY**

You can talk about positive and negative features of a person's personality.

### **Positive:**

*Emma is quite an extrovert. She is always the life of the party because of her warm-hearted and fun-loving nature.*

### **Negative:**

*Steven is rather introverted; he usually sits quietly in the corner at parties. He is also a pain in the neck because he always bothers me when he needs help with his computer.*

## **3. RELATIONSHIP:**

*I have been pals with Peter since high school. I guess you can say that now he is my soul-mate. As well as this, his father has always been a mentor to me, as he is my soccer coach.*

## **4. LIFESTYLE:**

*My sister is a college student and a part-time assistant in an office, so she has little time to socialize at the weekend or play badminton.*

## **PART 1 QUESTIONS:**

### **Let's talk about teachers**

#### **1. What kinds of teachers do you like best?**

The best teachers are those that understand that everyone has a different way of learning. They understand that students learn at different speeds and therefore need to have a lot of patience to deal with slower learners. I think another great characteristic of a good teacher is a sense of humour. Teachers who are extroverts can keep their students interested in their lessons.

#### **2. Have you ever had bad teachers before?**

Yes, I definitely have had bad teachers. Some of the worst I can remember have been university lecturers. For some reason, some of the professors who have excellent knowledge of their respective subject are actually terrible teachers. I think many of them are introverts and shy to stand in front of a class and teach.

#### **3. Who was your favourite teacher when you were young?**

I would have to say it was a young student teacher. Her name was Miss Downing and her family owned the local bakery called Downings. She has a *warm-hearted and fun-loving nature* and even organised a school outing for all of us to go and see the bakery.

#### **4. Would you like to be a teacher in the future?**

No, I have no ambition to be a school teacher. I think I just don't have the patience to be a teacher. Also, I am an introvert and prefer to not deal with people too much.

## PART 2:

### Describe a teacher you liked

You should say:

- Who this person is
- What he/she is like
- What he/she taught you

and explain how you felt about him/her

### PART 2: Model Answer

I'm going to talk about Mr. Jones who was my history teacher in high-school. He was definitely one of the most interesting and **extroverted** teachers in high school. He was our modern history teacher and was very **knowledgeable** due to having lived through a lot of the international and domestic events in his lifetime. He shared a lot of the stories and experiences, which made his classes interesting

He was a very **intelligent** man and his looks reminded me of Einstein, you know he had a **big broad moustache, grey hair**, and he even **smoked a pipe** like Einstein.

One of the main things that has stuck in my mind was his assignment that we should follow the news every day and be prepared to discuss it in class the next morning. His motto was "today's news is tomorrows history". He would **patiently** listen to our descriptions and interpretations of the news articles and then provide his take on the articles.

This not only made history interesting but also encouraged us to keep up to date on current affairs. He was **warm-hearted** and always encouraged everyone to participate in discussions, which helped boost my **confidence** to speak in front of the class. I am not too stressed about public speaking and expressing my opinions. Today I still follow his teachings and follow the news every day and sometimes I will discuss the news with friends and colleagues and exchange opinions.

## PART THREE

### *Let's talk more about learning*

#### **Q1: What qualities do you think a good teacher should have?**

I think the most important quality teachers should have is good communication skills. Even though they might be **knowledgeable** of their subject, teachers need to effectively communicate that knowledge in an interesting and informative way. They should recognize when the class is having difficulties and provide a different approach.

#### **Q2: Do you think young people learn faster than old people?**

It is accepted that children learn faster than adults. A youngster's brain has a natural ability to absorb information as part of their development. They are **curious, creative** and **experimental** in arts, sports and other activities early in life. Adults on the other hand have learned the skills necessary in life and usually focus on their day-to-day activities and work.

#### **Q3: What do you think is the best age for children to go to school?**

I believe children should start school at age three or four depending on their level of mental-development. Rather than day-care, which is essentially a babysitting environment, a good preschool will help the child develop social skills and promote creativity with art and music. Additionally preschool will develop a sense of **pride**, and **self-confidence**. These early developed skills will make the transition to kindergarten easier and less stressful.

## WRITING:

In this section, you going to learn how to write an essay that asks you to write about the advantages and disadvantages of a topic. This is a very common type of question and in order to help you to prepare for it, a template will be introduced below.

### Templates for common types of IELTS essays

An essay template is like an outline of an essay. The advantages of using templates are that they can help you to know how to structure your essay, use appropriate language, and speed up the writing of your essay. In the essay below the template language is emphasised.

### Template for a Two Question Essay about advantages and disadvantages.

Studying online has become a popular method of learning.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of studying online?

Learning over the internet has become prevalent in modern society. **This essay discusses the merits and drawbacks of this phenomenon.**

**There are two main benefits of e-learning. The first of these is** that the study time is more flexible. **This is because** we can learn at any time we choose. **For instance**, if we need to work we can study at night or at the weekend. **Furthermore**, it is easier to take classes. **This is due to** being able to study at home and not having to travel to a school.

**However, there are also drawbacks of this. The most significant is that** it is harder to communicate with teachers and classmates. **This is because** we are not in physical contact with other people. **For example**, I have been studying English online and I have no teacher or classmates to ask questions when I run into difficulty. **Another limitation is there is no one to motivate us. This is due to** there not being anyone to watch us and encourage us to study.

**In conclusion**, online learning is **highly beneficial**, as it allows us to choose when to study **and** to avoid the hassle of traveling to class. **However, it can lead to** poor communication **and also a** lack of motivation.

### Exercise: Two question essay

Practice using the two-question template by using the phrases below to complete the essay on studying overseas.

Studying overseas has become a popular method of learning.  
What are the advantages and disadvantages of studying overseas?

In conclusion	For example	This essay discusses	most significant
However,	two main benefits	Another limitation is	This is due to
drawbacks	Furthermore		

Going abroad for study is common for many students. [1] \_\_\_\_\_ the merits and drawbacks of this phenomenon.

There are [2] \_\_\_\_\_ of studying abroad. The first of these is the chance to learn about another culture. This is because when you go abroad you will be exposed to the culture of the country you visit. For instance, I went to China to study for a year and gained a deep appreciation of Chinese culture by living there.[3] \_\_\_\_\_, you may have opportunities to acquire a new language if the country you visit speaks a different mother language than your own. [4] \_\_\_\_\_ to the many opportunities you will have to interact with locals in their native language, in the country you visit.

[5] \_\_\_\_\_, there are also [6] \_\_\_\_\_ of this. The

[7] \_\_\_\_\_ is that you will face many challenges when going to another country. This is because you will need to get used to the customs of your new home nation.

[8] \_\_\_\_\_, when I studied in China I found it extremely difficult to find an apartment to live in due to it not being common for young people to live off-campus.

[9] \_\_\_\_\_ is that your studies may suffer initially. This is due to having to learn and adjust to the differences in the education systems between nations.

[10] \_\_\_\_\_, studying abroad is highly beneficial, as it gives you exposure to a new culture and it can give you the opportunity to acquire a new language. However, it can lead to day-to-day difficulties and also negatively impact your studies in the short-term.

## **Answers for the exercise above**

1. This essay discusses
2. two main benefits
3. Furthermore
4. This is due to
5. However
6. drawbacks
7. most significant
8. For example
9. Another limitation is
10. In conclusion

## 5. WORK

Work is one of the most important topics for all parts of the test. It is particularly important in part 1 of the speaking test and part 2 of the writing test. It is important to build up a wide vocabulary and the ability to paraphrase common words regarding Work.

### LANGUAGE

<b>Nouns</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
bonus	extra pay in addition to normal salary
colleague	a person who you work with
deadline	to finish a project by a specific time
maternity leave	time off work when having a baby
occupation	type of job
overtime	needing to work beyond your normal working hours
perks	extra benefits you get from a job
shift work	working at different times of the day
social skills	the ability to communicate and interact well with others
morale	team spirit

<b>Verbs</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
be involved in	to be doing
concentrate	to focus attention on an activity or problem
help out	help [phrasal verb]
fired	to lose your job due to poor performance
persevere	to not give up. To keep doing something.
procrastinate	to delay or put off doing something
retire	finish work due to old age

<b>Adjectives</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
casual	relaxed and not following strict rules
exhausting	tiring
formal	observation of conventional forms and rules
hectic	busy
inspirational	motivating
monotonous	boring
passionate	intense or strong emotional feeling about something [positive]
stable	unchanging

<b>Idioms</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>golden opportunity</b>	an excellent opportunity <i>An internship at Google would be a <b>golden opportunity</b></i>
<b>hands-on</b>	to learn by actually doing <i>We can get <b>hands-on</b> experience by actually doing things.</i>
<b>on the go</b>	busy <i>I've been <b>on the go</b> all week so I haven't had a chance to play golf.</i>
<b>wear many hats</b>	someone who has to do many different types of tasks or roles. <i>My job description is very broad so I have to wear many hats.</i>
<b>work flat out</b>	to work hard <i>Sometimes, I have to work flat out to finish my work on time.</i>

**Exercise 1: Complete the sentences with a word from the box below:**

<i>bonus</i>	<i>colleagues</i>	<i>fired</i>	<i>golden</i>	<i>hectic</i>
<i>maternity</i>	<i>monotonous</i>	<i>overtime</i>	<i>retirement</i>	<i>stable</i>

1. Women having babies at my company get about eight weeks of .....leave.
2. Around age 65 many people decide to stop working and start their .....
3. George was ..... by his boss because he kept coming to work late.
4. I don't get paid for the ..... I work, which I feel is unfair.
5. A successful project requires each worker to cooperate with their .....
6. Most employees in China get a ..... before Chinese New Year.
7. Of course, I'd like a job which is well-paid, but I think it is also important that the job is .....
8. Working in Australia is an ..... opportunity to improve my English.
9. Every Monday my job is quite ..... as it always involves doing the same tasks.
10. Every Friday my job is quite ..... as there is a big rush to get everything done before the weekend.

**Answers: Vocabulary building**

1. maternity   2. retirement   3. fired   4. overtime   5. colleagues  
6. bonus   7. stable   8. golden   9. monotonous   10. hectic

## Prepositions for describing our work:

Preposition	Usage	Example
<b>at</b>	<b>at</b> companies	I work <b>at</b> Comtrend.
<b>in</b>	<b>in</b> departments	I work <b>in</b> the marketing department.
<b>on</b>	<b>on</b> projects	I am working <b>on</b> a new manual.
<b>for</b>	<b>for</b> someone	The manual is <b>for</b> my customer.
<b>with</b>	<b>with</b> our colleagues	I am working on it <b>with</b> my team.

**Exercise 2:** Fill the blanks with the correct prepositions from the box.

in for from of on with

1. I work ..... the sales department of a textile company.
2. I resigned ..... my last job in order to prepare for the IELTS test.
3. One of the disadvantages ..... working for a family business is it's difficult to get a promotion.
4. When my company wants to hire new workers it places advertisements ..... websites
5. I enjoy my job as I get along well ..... all the other workers.
6. Parents often want their children to work ..... the government because the work offers stability, good pay and a pension.
7. We have a couple of new colleagues ..... my office.
8. My boss gave me an increase ..... my salary.
9. I got four weeks extra pay ..... my new year bonus.
10. I'm interested in my job because ..... the variety of projects my boss gives me.

### Answers: Prepositions

1. in/for 2. from 3. of 4. on 5. with 6. for/in 7. in/at 8. In 9. for 10. of

## Grammar: relative pronouns

A **relative pronoun** is used to add information about a subject. They are a useful way of forming complex sentences, which can increase your score in the speaking and writing test. Common relative pronouns include: **that, which, who**. Note that **who** can only be used for people and **which** cannot be used for people. **Whose** is used to indicate possession, such as, whose pen is this?

**Exercise on relative pronouns:** Choose the pronoun from the box below to complete the sentences.

who that which whose
----------------------

1. \_\_\_\_\_ are you speaking to?
2. The smart phone \_\_\_\_\_ I got last week is broken.
3. The man \_\_\_\_\_ son caused the trouble has left.
4. The person \_\_\_\_\_ interviewed me was thorough.
5. The employee \_\_\_\_\_ report is on your desk has gone home.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ cat is responsible for this mess?
7. \_\_\_\_\_ is in charge here?
8. We must hire someone \_\_\_\_\_ can do this.
9. Did you see \_\_\_\_\_ report?
10. I have just started working here. \_\_\_\_\_ do I report to?

### ANSWERS

- |               |             |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. who        | 6. which    |
| 2. that/which | 7. who      |
| 3. whose      | 8. who/that |
| 4. who/that   | 9. that     |
| 5. whose      | 10. who     |

## READING

### **Sentence completion**

For this type of question, you have to complete a number of unfinished sentences by adding a word or short phrase from the text. These gaps should be filled with words taken directly from the reading text, and you must not exceed the word limit. Very occasionally, you will have to change the grammar of the word or phrase you have chosen to make it fit the sentence.

Usually, however, if you select the correct word or words from the text the grammar will also be correct.

### **Approach:**

1. Skim the text.
2. Read the instructions carefully so you know how many words/numbers you can write.
3. Read the first question and establish a keyword to search for.
4. Locate the keyword/synonym in the text.
5. Check the sentence in the text has a similar meaning with the question.
6. Establish the words required to complete the sentence.
7. Check the answer doesn't exceed the word limit.
8. Repeat this strategy with other questions.

*Now, look at the text on Job Sharing and answer the questions that follow.*

## **Job Sharing**

Job sharing is the perfect solution for people who want to carry on with their career but also raise a family. Before you do it you need to learn a few things as it can be more difficult than it might seem due to it being a different style of working.

### **Job Sharing Is Like Marriage**

When looking for a job share partner you need to look for someone that is the perfect teammate. You don't need to find someone who is a carbon copy of you but certainly they need to have a similar professional style, work ethic, and standards as you.

### **Job Sharing Relies on Communication**

For a job share to work smoothly and efficiently you must work like one person. The transition from one person to another, from one day to the next must be smooth. Sharing information successfully can be done by setting up a shared email account, and using the same filing system to organise computer and paper files.

### **Be Flexible**

No matter how well organized your schedule is things happen. Maybe your child needs to visit the dentist or a friend flies in to visit you. There are a hundred and one reasons why you can't be at work tomorrow. If you have a good job sharing relationship then your partner will cover for you.

### **Job Sharing Means Less Income**

This might be obvious but when you job share you not only share the work but you also share the income. That's right you will only get half the income maybe even less if you decide to do less than half the work.

### **You Share Accomplishments**

Just as in a marriage many things you do, probably all the things you do, will be achieved because of you and your job share partner. In other words, you must share any praise for accomplishments.

### **Your Circumstances May Change**

No matter how much you like your job, things change and so your commitment to it might also change. Things that you can't predict now might make you think about getting a fulltime job again; for example, your spouse might move to another city, or you decide to go back to university. Who knows what the future might bring?

Therefore, whether or not job sharing suits you or not might depend on your specific life circumstances as well as your personality.

Complete the sentences below.

Choose **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD** from the passage for each answer.

1. This style of working can be challenging because it is .....
2. You don't have to find an exact copy of you when looking for a job share partner but they must have similar .....
3. A successful job share means being able to share information with the same filing system so that each day flows into another in a ..... manner.
4. Sharing information can be made easier by using a ..... email account.
5. One thing is certain and that is no matter how well prepared you are..... will happen.
6. An important thing to remember is that when you job share you won't get the ..... of a fulltime job.
7. In a job share you can no longer accept all the .....
8. You might not always have the same ..... because your life might be moving in another direction.
9. Your wife might move to another.....
10. Whether jobs sharing suits you may depend on your life circumstances and your.....

**Answers:**

1. **different:** paragraph 1: "it can be more difficult due to it being a different style of working".
2. **standards:** paragraph 2: "You don't need to find someone who is a carbon copy of you but certainly they need to have a similar professional style, work ethic, and standards as you."
3. **smooth:** paragraph 3: "The transition from one person to another, from one day to the next must be smooth."
4. **shared:** paragraph 3 "Sharing information successfully can be done by setting up a shared email account"
5. **things:** paragraph 4: "No matter how well organized your schedule is things happen."
6. **income:** paragraph 5: "This might be obvious but when you job share you not only share the work but you also share the income. That's right you will only get half the income maybe even less if you decide to do less than half the work."
7. **praise:** paragraph 6: "In other words, you must share any praise for accomplishments."
8. **commitment:** paragraph 7: "No matter how much you like your job, things change and so your commitment to it might also change."
9. **city:** paragraph 7: "your spouse might move to another city"
10. **personality:** paragraph 8 "job sharing suits you're not might depend on your specific life circumstances as well is your personality"

## LISTENING

### Listening

### A Job Interview

**Exercise 12:** You are going to listen to a job interview. Listen and answer the following questions.

1. Mr. Ludwig lives in .....?  
A. Tasmania B. Wellington C. Canberra
2. Mr. Ludwig wants to leave his job because he wants.....?  
A. to own a company B. more responsibility C. to change careers
3. Mr. Ludwig needs how many weeks to train for his job?  
A. 3 B. 2 C. 4
4. Mr. Ludwig will travel to meetings in Sydney and .....?  
A. Hawaii B. Auckland C. London

**Exercise 13:** Listen and write down the missing word.

5. Mr. Ludwig finds pressure \_\_\_\_\_ challenging.
6. Mr. Ludwig sometimes works \_\_\_\_\_ days a week.
7. Mr. Ludwig likes to play \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Mr. Ludwig's wife worked for a \_\_\_\_\_ company.
9. Mr. Ludwig has \_\_\_\_\_ children.
10. Mr. Ludwig new job has a more than fair \_\_\_\_\_ programme.

### ANSWERS:

1. A      2. B      3. A      4. B      5. positively  
6. 7/seven    7. golf    8. Canadian    9. 2/two    10. retirement

### Transcript

- A. Well now, your C.V. does look impressive Mr. Ludwig.  
B. Thank you sir.

A. Have you always lived here in Hobart?

B. Yes, ever since **we arrived in Tasmania 3 years ago**. We saw Mt. Wellington and knew at once that this could be home, and we've been here in the capital ever since.

A. Mmm. So why do you want to leave your present job?

B. I would like to work for a larger company that can offer me the chance to further my career. **I'd also like more responsibility.**

A. And when would you be available?

B. To be fair to my present employer, I would need to give one month's notice. Shall we say in just over 4 weeks, as I'd need to train someone for my position?

A. Fine, I understand perfectly. However, if we do employ you, you would have to **go to King Island for 3 weeks' training'**

B. No problem at all. Is there a lot of travelling with the job?

A. Quite a bit, Mr. Ludwig. You'll attend meetings all over the island, and also in **Sydney and Auckland**. We used to have a number of conferences in Hawaii but this changed last year. Next year we might ask you to fly to London.

B. Great. I'd love to.

## Part Two

A. Can you work under pressure? Complete deadlines for example?

B. Yes sir. If one is well organized and has a plan, there should be no problem at all. I actually **find pressure positively challenging.**

A. What would you say your strong points are?

B. Well, I'd like to think that I work well in a team, I'm honest and although I don't say it myself, my workmates say I'm hardworking. I **sometimes work 7 days a week**, 8 to 10 hours a day.

A. Then what about your weaknesses?

B. If anything, I tend to be too much of a perfectionist and I do get very irritated if a workmate doesn't do a good job.

A. Uh-uh. Mr. Ludwig err .... Ian, what are your hobbies and interests?

B. I love the arts, ballet, opera and **I enjoy a good game of golf**. I'm also interested in Australian wines as my wife loves to cook. Tasmanian wines are good too.

A. Do tell me a little about yourself and your family Ian.

B. Well, my wife's name is Britney. We met in Hawaii. I was on a surfing holiday and she was working for a **Canadian company there**. We have **2 small kids**, Davey and Linda. Both go to playschool. My wife stays at home.

A. I'm sure your kids are very cute.

B. Very naughty.

A. Tell me. Do you have any questions for me?

B. Not really, your secretary explained everything very clearly in her letter. Although, I was wondering about health insurance for my family.

A. No worries, you'll all be well covered and you can **expect a more than fair retirement programme**. Plus, you'll get sick leave, a 4-week vacation and a savings plan. Look, let's go and look around the premises. There are some people you will like.

### Exercise 14: Habitat Interview

Using no more than one word /number complete the questions 1–10 below:

1. The two guest speakers' names are John and \_\_\_\_\_ Lee.
2. The organisation they worked for is called \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The Dominican Republic has a population of about \_\_\_\_\_ million.
4. They actually build houses for \_\_\_\_\_ days.
5. Most of the work involved \_\_\_\_\_ concrete.
6. They got the water from a \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The work was hard but very \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Most of the Dominicans they worked with were \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The woman were assigned \_\_\_\_\_ duties.
10. Many Dominican men have mistresses as well as \_\_\_\_\_.

#### ANSWERS 1-10:

- |          |              |           |            |           |
|----------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| 1. David | 2. Habitat   | 3. 10/ten | 4. 10/ten  | 5. mixing |
| 6. creek | 7. Rewarding | 8. Men    | 9. Cooking | 10. wives |

## Transcript

Dr. Moss: It's my great pleasure to introduce you all to our distinguished guests for the afternoon, John and David Lee. They have been working for two weeks with an organisation I'm sure you all know – Habitat. No, they weren't selling chairs and tables for two weeks; they were involved in charity work in the Dominican Republic organized by Habitat.

John: Thank you. Yes, we went to the Dominican Republic to do some work with Habitat. The Dominican Republic is a country of about ten million inhabitants in the Caribbean. It's on the island of Hispaniola – the nation of Haiti is in the western third of the island, and the Dominican Republic takes up the other two-thirds of the island.

We spent about 10 of the 14 days of the project actually building houses. This meant constructing concrete block homes about 8 by 6 metres with concrete roofs. Most of the homes we worked on already had walls and the majority of the work involved mixing concrete and pouring the roofs.

Dr. Moss: Did you have any problems when you were building the homes?

David: Well, water was a big problem but we obtained it for the concrete from a creek near the town. Every morning we headed down there in an old pick-up truck and scooped water into oil drums, which we covered with reeds to minimize splashing. Then we headed up the hill to the housing project where we siphoned the water out of the drums to mix with our concrete. It was hot, hard work, but very rewarding.

Dr. Moss: I'm sure it was. Did you get much help from the locals?

David: Habitat's policy is that the recipient family has to work on their own house, plus those of others. This meant that we were working alongside the Dominicans – mainly men – during most of our day.

Dr. Moss: You say, 'Mainly men'?

David: The women were assigned cooking duties – women's lib has not arrived there yet. It was interesting to see the attitudes change towards the women in our group as the weeks wore on. Dominican men, like many Latin Americans, tend to be naturally chauvinistic and were quite surprised at the stamina of the women in our group. Many Dominican males seem to have mistresses as well as wives; very strange considering it's such a strong Catholic country.

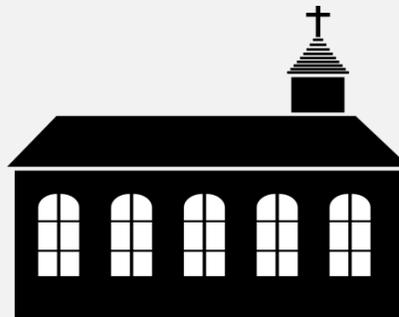
## SPEAKING

### Places

Many of the questions are about places. For instance, if you are answering questions about working you might describe the place you do it. To improve your answers use lots of descriptive vocabulary. You could talk about the following aspects:

1. outside the place, which is the exterior
2. inside the place, which is the interior
3. feeling of the place, which is the atmosphere

St Martin's church is located at the end of a quiet street. It was built using contemporary architecture; the back wall is plain brick, facing a private garden, which gives it a very tranquil ambience. The main entrance is well lit and when you step inside the main building it has giant windows all the way up to the lofty ceilings.



## **PART 1**

### **Now let's discuss breaks from work or study**

#### **Q1: What do you usually do during a break?**

At work, I get two coffee breaks and a mid-shift break. The coffee breaks are short and I like to stretch and grab a cup of tea from the **crowded** cafeteria. Mid shift breaks allow me to have a bite to eat and I usually go out to a quiet restaurant with a **tranquil atmosphere**.

#### **Q2: Where do you like to go on a break?**

Well other than what I just mentioned, sometimes at break time I like to take walk in a lovely park, near my office. I like to walk around the **beautiful green gardens** and enjoy the **picturesque views** before returning to my **brightly lit cubicle**.

#### **Q3: Do you ever miss taking a break?**

Well, it seldom happens, but sometimes I have to continue working through break time to meet deadlines. This often happens at the end of the month, as this is my busiest time. Things often get a little crazy and there is a lot of **hustle and bustle** in my office.

#### **Q4: Why do you need to take a break?**

Breaks are necessary for me to get away from my desk and **uncomfortable** chair because it gives me an opportunity to stretch my muscles. Also, they give my eyes a chance to rest from staring at my computer monitor.

## **PART 2: Task Instructions**

Describe a special hotel you have stayed in

You should say:

- where it is
- what it is like
- why you went there

and explain how you felt about it.

### **PART 2: Model Answer**

A couple of years ago, my cousin suggested a trip to our home to visit with friends and family. I agreed it would be a good time since it was summer, and I miss hanging out with my friends there. My cousin booked a couple of rooms and bus tickets. We went by bus both to save money and enjoy the scenery along the way. The bus trip was uneventful and I watched the world go by and read a book, as there was no Internet service available to use my smartphone. On arrival, in the early evening, we grabbed a taxi and headed to the hotel. I expected a modest place, but to my surprise, it was a four-star hotel.

The building was set back from the road and the grounds were decorated with ornamental trees, which were lit up as darkness set in. It was very impressive. As we entered the lobby, we saw it was spacious with a fountain off to the side and comfortable sofas to sit and relax. We were shown to our rooms, which were not spacious but were clean and had the necessary features including a bed, wardrobe and a desk with a flat screen TV. We called our parents and stated we were weary and would visit them the next day. Then, we called our friends to meet by the pool in the courtyard and hang out and exchange stories.

The hotel food and service were excellent and we booked another night. During the next day, we relaxed and swam in the large pool at the back of the hotel. All in all, it was a great trip and we were able to escape the hustle and bustle of the city and relax.

## **PART 3**

### **Let's talk more about jobs**

#### **Q1: What kind of jobs do young people like doing in your country?**

There are many different types of jobs that young people enjoy based on their education and experience. Many students major in computer science technology and would prefer a job as an IT or computer specialist. Some other popular professions are in the health industry where students have been trained to be nurses, doctors and health professionals. Other popular professions would be in business as managers, supervisors, and marketing executives.

#### **Q2: Do people in your country prefer physical work or mental work?**

I think most young people would prefer to work with their minds rather than their bodies. Office and managerial positions would be most suitable for many graduates. Some people, however, do not have the desire to spend years in University and would prefer to start work and earn a living. Although there are exceptions most of those jobs are more labour-intensive.

#### **Q3: What factors should people take into consideration when choosing jobs?**

When choosing a job people should take into consideration how much education, time and effort is required to qualify for an occupation. The big factor I believe people should consider is will they enjoy and excel at the profession they are choosing. It is difficult to be effective and motivated in an environment or job you dislike. Income and experience would also factor in choosing an occupation.

#### **Q4: Do people in your country like to work in other countries?**

Many people need to work in cities where commuting is difficult and hours of work are long. Additionally, cities are very congested and have high levels of pollution which can be detrimental to a person's health. I know many Chinese people that are working very hard on their English skills to be accepted at a foreign university or obtain employment overseas. They are looking forward to shorter working hours better pay and an opportunity to send money home to their families.

## WRITING

In the previous chapter, you learnt how to write an essay that asks you to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of something. Now you are going to learn how to write an essay that requires you to discuss the advantages and disadvantages, and also give your opinion. A template for this type of essay will also be provided to assist you with structuring and writing this type of essay. The template words are written in bold.

### Template for a both sides and opinion essay.

Due to advances in technology, working from home has become more popular.

*Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of working from home and give your own opinion about it.*

Home-based work has become prevalent due to developments in technology. **This essay discusses the merits and drawbacks of this phenomenon and explains why I believe that the advantages outweigh the disadvantages.**

**There are two main benefits of** working in your own home. **The first of these is** that the workplace is more flexible. **This is because** we can make our own schedule unlike when we are tied to office hours in a traditional job. **For instance,** I work online building websites and often work at night because I find this is the best time I can concentrate. **Furthermore,** we can save a lot of time. **This is due to** not wasting time in traffic to go to an office.

**However, there are also drawbacks of this. The most significant is** that it can be difficult to motivate ourselves. **This is because** we do not have a boss or colleagues looking over our shoulder. **For example,** I often find I waste a lot of time surfing around the Internet because nobody can see I am doing this. **Another limitation** is it is harder to communicate with our colleagues. **This is due to** not being able to meet face-to-face is easily and having to rely on online communication.

**In conclusion, I believe there are merits and drawbacks of** home-based work. **However, overall I think that the advantages of** being able to set our own schedules and avoid the daily commute to the office **outweigh the disadvantages of** sometimes lacking motivation and not being able to meet with our co-workers, in person as easily.

## Exercise: essay structure

Practice using the template by using the phrases below to complete the essay on studying overseas.

Working overseas has become a popular trend.

*Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of working overseas, and give your own opinion on it.*

In conclusion      For example      merits outweigh      most significant  
However,      two main benefits      Another limitation is      This is due to  
drawbacks      Furthermore

Going abroad for work is common for many workers. This essay discusses the merits and drawbacks of this phenomenon and why I believe the [1] \_\_\_\_\_ the drawbacks.

There are [2] \_\_\_\_\_ of working abroad. The first of these is the chance to gain international experience, which can give you a competitive edge in the labour market. This is because when you go abroad you will be exposed to the work culture of the country you visit. For instance, I went to China to work for a year and gained a deep appreciation of how Chinese consumers think which has given me great benefit in my career as an international marketing manager.[3] \_\_\_\_\_, you may also have opportunities to acquire a new language if the country you visit speaks a different mother language than your own.

[4] \_\_\_\_\_ to the many opportunities you will have to interact with locals in their native language, in the country you visit.

[5] \_\_\_\_\_, there are also [6] \_\_\_\_\_ of this. The [7] \_\_\_\_\_ is that you will face many challenges when going to another country. This is because you will need to get used to the customs of your new home nation.

[8] \_\_\_\_\_, when I studied in China I found it extremely difficult to find an apartment to live in due to it not being common for young people to live off campus.

[9] \_\_\_\_\_ is that your studies may suffer initially. This is due to having to learn and adjust to the differences in the education systems between nations.

[10] \_\_\_\_\_, studying abroad is highly beneficial, as it gives you exposure to a new culture and it can give you the opportunity to acquire a new language. However, it can lead to day-to-day difficulties and also negatively impact your studies in the short-term.

## Answers

1. merits outweigh
2. two main benefits
3. Furthermore
4. This is due to
5. However
6. drawbacks
7. most significant
8. For example
9. Another limitation is
10. In conclusion

## 6. TECHNOLOGY

Technology is an important topic for all parts of the test. It is particularly important in part 3 of the speaking test and part 2 of the writing test. It is important to build up a wide vocabulary and the ability to paraphrase common words regarding technology.

### LANGUAGE

<b>NOUNS</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
astronomy	the study of the stars and planets
chemistry	the study of chemicals
cyberspace	Internet
gadget	any small piece of equipment
Mars	the fourth planet from the Sun
invention	an action of inventing something, typically a process or device
revolution	a major change in the way of doing something
robots	a machine looking like a human and able to do some human-like actions
social media	this usually refers to online tools for communication such as Facebook and Twitter
space	the area of the universe outside of the earth
technophile	someone who embraces technology and uses it often
technophobe	someone who has a fear of using technology

<b>VERBS</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
clone	to make an exact copy of something
develop	to make or create
engage in	get involved in
envisage	to conceive or imagine an idea
revolutionize	to make dramatic changes
surpass	to exceed or overtake. For example, technology is developing so fast that it will one day surpass our ability to use it.

ADJECTIVES	MEANING
advanced	ahead in development or progress
computer literate	able to understand and communicate about how to use computers and computer applications
complex	made up of complicated parts
exotic	strange or unusual
incredible	beyond belief or understanding
modern	characteristic of present-day
obsolete	something that is no longer used. Typewriters are now obsolete.
scarce	limited in supply, not common
sophisticated	ahead in development; complex or intricate
technical	involving science
up-to-date	something that is still in fashion
virtual	almost, especially as in almost real. For example, when we play games using virtual reality they seem like they are almost real.
weird	strange or unnatural

IDIOMS	
<b>state-of-the-art</b>	= the latest and most recently available version of a product <i>The latest smartphones incorporate the most <b>state-of-the-art technology</b>.</i>
<b>user-friendly</b>	= easy to use <i>My new tablet is so <b>user-friendly</b> even my grandmother can use it.</i>

### Exercise 1: vocabulary building

Complete the sentences with words from the box below.

invention	space	research	clone	chemistry
Mars	astronomy	user-friendly	satellites	robots

1. I think that the computer was the greatest ..... of the 20th century.
2. Opponents of ..... exploration say that we should solve problems on Earth before going to other planets.
3. Vietnamese manufacturers used to be known for copying products but they now do a lot more .....
4. I think it is highly likely that scientists will try to ..... humans in the next few decades.
5. Vietnamese students usually score very well in science subjects such as .....
6. ...., which is also known as the Red Planet, is the fourth planet from the Sun.
7. .... is concerned with studying the stars and planets.
8. One of the reasons why the iPhone is so popular because of the ..... design.
9. .... in the air are used for a variety of civilian purposes including weather forecasting.
10. One day in the distant future I think every home will have ..... to do housework.

#### Answers

- |              |              |                  |               |              |
|--------------|--------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. invention | 2. space     | 3. research      | 4. clone      | 5. chemistry |
| 6. Mars      | 7. astronomy | 8. user-friendly | 9. satellites | 10. robots   |

## Exercise 2: Comparatives and Superlatives

### Forming comparative and superlative adjectives

We usually add **-er** and **-est** to one-syllable words:

old    older    oldest

new    newer    newest

We use **more** and **most** to make comparatives and superlatives for most adjectives with two or more syllables:

expensive    more expensive    most expensive

efficient    more efficient    most efficient

1. Today's computers are more advanced than in the past. [advanced]
2. Trains are much \_\_\_\_\_ than they were in the past. [fast]
3. This seems like the \_\_\_\_\_ thing I've ever heard. [weird]
4. This phone is \_\_\_\_\_ than that one. [new]
5. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ discovery of the year. [incredible]
6. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ metal in the world. [scarce]
7. Would you like to see something \_\_\_\_\_? [sophisticated]
8. This is \_\_\_\_\_ than I'm used to. [technical]
9. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ thing I've ever seen. [complex]
10. Please give me the \_\_\_\_\_ information. [up-to-date]

### Answers:

- |                    |                 |                                     |          |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------|
| 1. more advanced   | 2. Faster       | 3. Weirdest                         | 4. newer |
| 5. most incredible | 6. scarcest     | 7. more sophisticated               |          |
| 8. more technical  | 9. most complex | 10. more up-to-date/most up-to-date |          |

## Grammar: future tense

When talking about future outcomes we can differentiate between using the verb *will* and *might*. Use *will* when something is almost certain to happen such as: *Apple will release a new I-phone next year.* Use *might* if something is just a future possibility such as: *The new I-phone might have a 3D screen.*

There [1] \_\_\_\_\_ definitely be 5G in my city next month. If I have enough money, I [2] \_\_\_\_\_ be able to buy a new 5G phone. It seems likely that this [3] \_\_\_\_\_ make downloading movies faster. I think there is a good chance that it [4] \_\_\_\_\_ even make me more efficient at work and it definitely means that playing online games [5] \_\_\_\_\_ be more fun.

Electric cars almost certainly [6] \_\_\_\_\_ be popular in the coming decades. This means that there is a possibility that we [7] \_\_\_\_\_ solve global warming. I think most people [8] \_\_\_\_\_ want to buy electric cars, and part of the reason could be that people feel they [9] \_\_\_\_\_ be cheaper to run. I think that there is even a possibility that these cars [10] \_\_\_\_\_ be fun to drive

### Answers:

[Note that *will* or *might* are likely to be grammatically correct for many of the answers below. The purpose of this exercise is to encourage you to identify when it is better to use *might* due to an uncertain predication. The best answers are given below along with words that signal why this is the best answer.

1. **will** [definitely]
2. **might** [if I have enough money indicates only a possibility]
3. **will** [seems likely]
4. **might** [good chance]
5. **will** [definitely means]
6. **will** [almost certainly]
7. **might** [possibility]
8. **will** [most people]
9. **might** [could be that]
10. **might** [possibility]

## READING

### Multiple Choice Questions

These questions may require you to have an overall understanding of the main points of the text, in which case a good skim is very useful so that you can build this overall understanding of the text. Other questions may require you to have a detailed understanding of particular points of the text, in which case you will need to locate and extract specific details.

#### Approach:

1. Skim the text. Pay a lot of attention to the context and how it is developed.
2. Read the instructions carefully so you know the maximum number of words/numbers you can write.
3. Read the first question and establish a keyword to search for in the text.
4. Locate the keyword/synonym in the text.
5. Look for the correct answer. It should be somewhere close to the keyword in the same sentence.
6. Be cautious of distractors. Check the meaning carefully.

Now look at the reading passage about Mars and answer the questions that follow.

## Mission to Mars

### 2011 Mars One Founded

In 2011 Bas Lansdorp and Arno Wienders lay the foundation of the Mars One mission plan. Discussion meetings are held with potential suppliers of aerospace components in the USA, Canada, Italy and the United Kingdom. A design was made for a mission of permanent human settlement on Mars with technology that already existed.

### 2013 Start Crew Selection

In April 2013, the Astronaut Selection Program is launched at press conferences in New York and Shanghai. Round One is an online application open to all nationalities. The selection program proceeds with three additional rounds over the course of two years. At the end of it around six teams of four individuals are selected for training. A new batch of the Astronaut Selection Program begins every year to replenish the training pool regularly. An analogue of the Mars habitat is constructed on Earth for technology testing and training purposes.

### **2015 Start of Crew Training**

Selected candidates from the first batch of applicants enter full-time training groups. This training continues until the launch in 2024. The group's ability to deal with prolonged periods of time in a remote location is the most important part of their training. They learn to repair components of the habitat and rover, learn to grow their own food, and train in medical procedures. The first outpost simulation, a Mars-like terrain that is relatively easy to reach is chosen. A second training outpost is located in an Arctic desert.

### **2018 Demo and Comsat Mission**

A Demonstration Mission is launched to Mars in May 2018; it provides proof of concept for some of the technologies that are important for a human mission. A communication satellite is also launched that is placed into a Mars stationary orbit. It enables 24/7 communication between the two planets. It can relay images, videos and other data from the Mars surface.

### **2020 Rover Mission Launched**

One intelligent rover and one trailer are launched. The rover can use the trailer to transport the landers to the outpost location. On Mars, the rover drives around the chosen region to find the best location for the settlement. An ideal location for the settlement is far enough north for the soil to contain enough water, equatorial enough for maximum solar power and flat enough to facilitate construction of the settlement. When the settlement location is determined, the rover prepares the surface for arrival of the cargo missions. It also clears large areas where solar panels will lie. A second communications satellite is launched into orbit around the Sun.

### **2022 Cargo Missions Launched**

Six cargo missions are launched and two living units, two life support systems, and two supply units are sent to Mars in July 2022. In February 2023 all units land on Mars using a rover signal as a beacon.

### **2023 Outpost Operational**

The six cargo units land on Mars, up to 10 km away from the outpost. The rover picks up the first life support unit using the trailer, takes it to the right place, and deploys the thin film solar panel of the life support unit. The rover can now connect to the life support unit to recharge its batteries much faster than using only its own panels, allowing it to do much more work. The rover picks up all the other cargo units and then deploys the thin film solar panel of the second life support unit and the inflatable sections of the living units. The life support unit is connected to the living units by a hose that can transport water, air and electricity.

The life support system is now activated. The rover feeds Martian soil into the life support system. Water is extracted from the Martian soil by evaporating the subsurface ice particles in an oven. The evaporated water is condensed back to its liquid state and stored. Part of the water is used for producing oxygen. Nitrogen and argon, filtered from the Martian atmosphere make up the other components of the breathable air inside the habitat.

*Write the correct letter in boxes 1-10 on your answer sheet.*

1. What is the plan to have a permanent human settlement on Mars based on?  
**A** new technology      **B** new and old technology      **C** existing technology
2. How many teams are selected for training?  
**A** 2                              **B** 4                              **C** 6
3. A new training program starts?  
**A** annually                      **B** regularly                      **C** monthly
4. The most important part of training is learning the ability to?  
**A** stay in remote locations      **B** grow food                      **C** fix a rover
5. The second training session takes place in?  
**A** Mars                              **B** Mars like terrain                      **C** a desert
6. Part of the mission in 2018 is to ?  
**A** Prove we can get to mars      **B** land a satellite on mars      **C** send a satellite near mars?
7. The rover can transport landers by using?  
**A** a trailer                              **B** an outpost location                      **C** an intelligent rover
8. How is the ideal site for the settlement found?  
**A** GPS                              **B** rover                              **C** by settlers
9. How does the rover recharge its batteries faster than using its solar panels?  
**A** from the living units      **B** from the life support unit      **C** from the sun
10. Where does oxygen come from?  
**A** Nitrogen and argon      **B** water                              **C** Martian atmosphere

**Answers:**

1. **C:** paragraph 1: "A baseline design for a mission of permanent human settlement on Mars achievable with **existing** technology is the result."
2. **C:** paragraph 2: "**six teams** of four individuals are selected for training."
3. **A:** paragraph 2: ". A new batch of the Astronaut Selection Program begins **every year**."
4. **A:** paragraph 3 : "ability to deal with prolonged periods of time in a **remote location** is the most important part of their training."
5. **C:** paragraph 3 : "A second training outpost is located in **an Arctic desert**."
6. **C:** paragraph 4: "A **communication satellite** is also launched that is placed into a Mars stationary orbit." [note it does not LAND on mars]
7. **A:** paragraph 5 : "The rover can use the **trailer** to transport the landers to the outpost location."
8. **B:** paragraph 5: "On Mars, the **rover** drives around the chosen region **to find the best location** for the settlement."
9. **B:** paragraph 7: "The rover can now connect to the **life support unit** to recharge its batteries much faster than using only its own panels, allowing it to do much more work."
- 10.**B:** paragraph 8: "Part of the **water** is used for producing oxygen."

## LISTENING

### Question type: Notetaking

This type of question focuses on listening to a speech and writing down the main points from it. Before playing the recording have a look at the questions and try to build up a context for the speech. You might be able to predict some of the answers from the information you are given.

### TED Talks

**Exercise 15:** Listen and complete the notes.

Complete the notes using **NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS**.

- *TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and (1) \_\_\_\_\_.*
- Talks became available online in 2006.
- The time limit for talks is (2) \_\_\_\_\_ minutes. Some talks are only four minutes long.
- Videos of the best talks are available for free on the website TED.com.
- All of the talks have English subtitles, and many are subtitled in (3) \_\_\_\_\_ languages.
- TEDx events are similar but organized (4) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Popularity due to public demand for (5) \_\_\_\_\_ content, and their optimistic nature.
- Many talks focus on new discoveries and (6) \_\_\_\_\_ that can help make the world a better place.

**Exercise 16:**

**Questions 7–10**

Complete the notes using **NO MORE THAN ONE WORD/NUMBER**.

**TED's Most Popular Talks**

Rank	Speaker	Topic
1st	Ken Robinson	The most popular video has been viewed <b>(7)</b> .....million times. The need to encourage creativity in schools and the need for educational <b>(8)</b> .....
2nd	Bolte Taylor	Insights the neuroscientist gained into the brain after having a massive <b>(9)</b> .....
3rd	Pranav Mistry	New <b>(10)</b> ..... computer technologies

**Answers**

- 1.**Design** “TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design”
- 2.**18 / eighteen** “they are limited to 18 minutes in length”
- 3.**various** “many are subtitled in various languages.”
- 4.**independently** “TEDx events follow a similar format to TED talks but they are organized independently”
- 5.**intelligent** “the public was hungry for something intelligent”
- 6.**technologies** “The focus of many talks is on exciting new discoveries and technologies”
- 7.**9/nine** “has been viewed nine million times.”
- 8.**reform** “and the need for educational reform”
- 9.**stroke** “experience of having a massive stroke”
- 10.**interactive** “new technologies making computers more interactive.”

## Transcript

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, and Design. It started in 1984 as a conference bringing together people from these three areas, but since then its scope has broadened. Things really took off after 2006 when the talks were made freely available on the Internet. There are two main annual TED conferences, one in California and one in Britain. These conferences bring together some of the world's most cutting-edge thinkers. One of the unique aspects of the talks is that they are limited to 18 minutes in length. Many speakers are used to speaking for about 50 minutes – the length of a lecture – but the 18-minute limit forces the speakers to be more creative and concise. Many of the TED talks are actually much shorter, some just four minutes or so. The best of the talks are available for free on the website TED.com. There are currently over a thousand videos of talks available. New talks are added each week. All of the talks are subtitled in English, and many are subtitled in various languages. This translation work is done by volunteers around the world. Viewers can click on the transcript button under the videos and follow the transcript while they watch or listen to the talk. Because of the phenomenal success of the TED talks, there have been many spin-off events such as TEDx. TEDx events follow a similar format to TED talks but they are organized independently.

Why are TED talks such a big Internet hit? There is so much poor quality content on the Internet. After years of watching YouTube videos of singing cats and assorted stupidity, the public was hungry for something intelligent. Another reason for the success of TED talks is that they are optimistic. This makes a nice change from the doom and gloom news we usually hear. The focus of many talks is on exciting new discoveries and technologies that promise to solve the world's problems. The basic philosophy is to change the world for the better.

Currently, the most viewed talk on the TED website is by British creativity expert Ken Robinson. It has been viewed nine million times. Ken Robinson's talk is about how the traditional school system kills creativity, and the need for educational reform. The second most popular talk is by neuroscientist Jill Bolte Taylor, who describes her experience of having a massive stroke and what that experience taught her about how the brain works. The third most viewed talk comes from a TEDIndia conference. The speaker, computer engineer and inventor Pranav Mistry looks at new technologies making computers more interactive.

**Listening – Part Two**

**The West's Debt to Chinese Science**

**Exercise 17:** Choose the correct letter, A–C.

1. What percentage of Western inventions are estimated to have come from China?

- A. 50%                      B. 15%                      C. 60%

2. Which Chinese invention do few people know about?

- A. the compass              B. paper                      C. wheelbarrows

3. What did Chinese masts and sails allow ships to do?

- A. sail to Europe              B. to sail without wind      C. sail into the wind

4. What were the voyages of Michelin and Columbus enabled by?

- A. three ships                      B. Ships with masts              C. three masted ships

5. Chinese shipping technology often came to the West indirectly through

- A. Arabs                      B. India                      C. Portuguese sailors

6. Which Western country was the first to use the Chinese plough?

- A. America                      B. Holland                      C. England

7. What does a share cut through?

- A. soil                      B. oil                      C. moldboard

8. What does a moldboard do to the plough?

- A. reduces soil                      B. reduces friction                      C. produces soil

9. Which advantage of the Chinese plough is mentioned?

- A. long                      B. depth                      C. strong

10. Chinese farmers could plough with a single?

- A. person                      B. ox                      C. team

**ANSWERS:**

1. A    2. C    3. C    4. C    5. A    6. B    7. A    8. B    9. C    10. B

## Transcript:

Last week we looked at the transfer of science from Ancient Greece to Ancient Rome and how this knowledge resurfaced later during the Renaissance. Today I am going to move to the East, and look at Chinese science. Actually, the West owes a great deal to Chinese science. By this, I mean that a lot of Western technology is actually built upon Chinese science. In fact, it was estimated by the great Sinologist Joseph Needham that more than half of the basic inventions and discoveries upon which the modern world depends come from China. This transfer of technology also shows how closely humanity is connected, and that the world has always been more of a global village than is commonly thought.

Most people know that fireworks, the compass, paper, and printing were first invented in China but they do not realise how many other ordinary things such as wheelbarrows, fishing reels and playing cards were also invented there. Many seemingly simple Chinese inventions, like the iron plough and rudder, changed the course of history.

European exploration and the colonization of the world that followed the Age of Discovery were built on Eastern nautical technology. Shipping is not usually an area of expertise associated with China, yet except for the last few centuries its nautical technology was superior to the West's. European ships were simple one-masted boats without rudders and fitted with ineffectual square sails. Chinese masts and sails allowed ships to sail into the wind. European ones couldn't. The adoption of Chinese technology, particularly the development of three-masted ships, enabled the great voyages of Magellan and Columbus. Much of this shipping technology was transferred by diffusion; in other words, it came to the West indirectly, in this case by Arab sailors.

One of the greatest gifts China gave the world was a good plough. The plough was taken back to Holland in the early 1600s, from where it spread through Europe and across the Atlantic to America. The introduction of the new plough has been described as "the single most important element in the European agricultural revolution." Chinese ploughs had a cast-iron share (the share is the blade that cuts through the soil) and a moldboard (that is, a curved plate of iron attached above the share that turns the soil to the side and thereby greatly reduces friction on the plough). Chinese ploughs were strong and allowed the ploughing depth to be adjusted. European ploughs had a crude share attached to a piece of wood, couldn't be adjusted for depth, and had no moldboard. The difference in muscle power required to work the two types is incredible: Chinese farmers could plough with a single ox, but Europeans needed a large team of oxen. To recap, the Chinese ploughs were more efficient, stronger, and could be adjusted for depth.

## SPEAKING

### Objects

Many questions require you to describe an object. As well as this, when you answer other types of questions it may be useful to describe an object. For instance, if you are describing a sport you might describe some of the objects that are required to play this sport. Some of the aspects you can think of when discussing an object are the object's size, colour, texture, weight:

#### 1. size

Small: tiny, miniscule,

Big: enormous, gigantic

#### 2. color

Magenta = a bright pinkish purple

Turquoise = bluish-green

#### 3. texture

Coarse = rough

Smooth = flat

#### 4. weight

Heavy: weighs a ton [idiomatic expression]

Light: lightweight, feather light

My smartphone has a tiny camera just above the screen, on the front of the phone for taking selfies. On the back of the phone, there is a slightly larger camera, for taking high-resolution photos of things like scenery.



## **PART 1**

### **Let's talk about Robots**

#### **1. Are you interested in robots?**

Well, kind of. These days, robots seem to come in all shapes and sizes. The ones I find most fascinating are the tiny ones that are used by doctors to conduct surgery. It is amazing what we can do these days!

#### **2. Have you ever seen any TV shows or movies about robots?**

Oh yes, I remember watching a Japanese TV show. They are building really strong robots out of metals like titanium that are almost indestructible. Then, they have competitions where the robots fight each other. That is a really cool show!

#### **3. Would you ride in a car driven by a robot?**

That's quite an interesting question. It would take a lot to convince me that a robot can handle all the unexpected variables that the driver of a car has to calculate. Take the airbus planes which are supposed to be computer controlled yet they still fall out of the sky; so, I prefer a car driven by humans for now.

#### **4. Do you think you will buy a robot in the future?**

I just cannot see the need for it. Maybe one of those robotic vacuum cleaners that run around cleaning the floor but at this stage, I have yet to see a use for a robot that would justify the expenditure. But who knows, things could change, I remember when computers came out, I was never going to buy one.

**Describe a website that you often look at**

You should say:

What the website is

What kind of content it has

How often you visit the site

and explain why you often look at it

**PART 2: Model Answer**

One website that I often look at is the BBC website, which is a news website and a guide to the BBC's numerous radio stations and television channels.

The website has an incredible variety of content; it has world news and sport, and there is also information about TV and radio programmes.

Most of the content is articles with text and photos, but there are also many links to radio programmes you can listen to, and some short video clips that you can watch. The website has many different language versions; I usually look at the English version. In addition, there is a section called Learning English with simplified articles and exercises for students.

I usually visit the website several times a day. I have an office job, which means most of my day is spent sitting in front of a computer. When I'm bored or have free time I like to browse the BBC website and read news stories. I also look at the website at home during the weekend. I guess I probably spend about four or five hours per week watching it.

I really like the BBC website because it has varied, interesting and high-quality content. It's so much better than CNN's website which is too American. In contrast, the BBC has an international focus and you can learn a lot about what is happening in countries all around the world. I've also found the website very useful for the IELTS test and my preparation for studying in the U.K. as the radio programmes give me an opportunity to get used to British accents.

## **PART 3**

### **Let's talk about mobile phones**

#### **Q1: Is it necessary to have laws on the use of mobile phones?**

It has been proven around the world that laws are necessary to prohibit the use of cell phone in different circumstances and places. The main danger is the use of smartphones while driving as it distracts many drivers causing accidents and fatalities. Regulations are already in place that cell phones cannot be used when an aircraft is taking off or landing. Another rule that would be beneficial is the restriction of using a telephone in quiet areas such as a theater.

#### **Q2: Should young children have mobile phones?**

I believe young children in primary school have no practical use for a cell or mobile phone. There does become a time, however, when they have more independence and participate in many after school activities that may need to be in contact with their parents to arrange pick up times and transportation. There are phones specifically designed for this age group with tracking applications so parents can know where their children are and they provide simple functions like texting and calling.

#### **Q3: Do people in your country prefer to use a computer or a mobile phone?**

Most of the population in my country use smartphones as they are convenient, easy to carry, and have many features that a computer does not have such as voice recording and video. Computers however are the technology of choice at home where children and adults can do homework, research and enjoy multimedia with the convenience of a larger screen and keyboard.

#### **Q4: Do you think mobile phones could totally replace computers in the future?**

Technology has advanced so much in the Past 20 years that it is hard to predict what might be available in the future. Will smartphones or mobile phones replace computers? It is a difficult question as there may be alternate technologies. That being said, I don't believe that smartphones will completely replace computers because computers have more power and storage space.

## WRITING

Many tasks in the writing test have two questions. You have already seen this in a previous chapter. You saw questions that asked you to state the advantages and disadvantages of studying online and studying overseas. In this chapter, we will adapt that structure to answer two-question essays about problems and solutions. The template words are written in bold.

In many countries, people are becoming addicted to social media.

*What problems does this cause?*

*What actions should be taken in response to it*

Addiction to social media **is becoming increasingly serious in many nations. Although** obsession with social media **threatens many people, its effects can also be combated successfully. This essay looks at some of the problems caused by** addiction to social media **and suggests some solutions to the problems.**

People getting addicted to social media **causes multiple problems.** The physical health **effects are very obvious. For example,** many people are suffering from poor eyesight. **In some cases, such as** people who watch it over eight hours a day **it even leads to people becoming** short-sighted. **The second effect is** on people's mental health. **People who** become addicted to social media **become** unable to concentrate on their daily work or studies.

**However, the menace** of becoming obsessed with social media **can be fought. Education is the main way to tackle this issue. Schools need to make students aware of the harmful effects so that they can avoid this problem. In addition, the government could also require** social media sites, such as Facebook, to limit the amount of time a person spends on their site. **This is a good approach because** this can make it impossible for someone to spend more than a certain time per day on a particular site.

**In conclusion,** obsession with social media **is a serious issue because it causes harmful effects on** people's physical health **and** mental health. **The best approaches to deal with it are to** educate people about its damaging effects, **and also** for the government to place regulations on social media companies **Although the problem is unlikely to be entirely eliminated in the short term there are concrete steps to reduce the effects it is having on the current society.**

**Exercise: Fill in the missing words below to complete the essay.**

In many countries, many children are becoming addicted to violent video games and movies.  
What problems does this cause?  
What actions should be taken in response to it

Addiction to games and films with a lot of violence is **becoming increasingly serious in many nations. Although** obsession with violent media **threatens many young people, its effects can also be combated successfully. This essay looks at some of the**[1]\_\_\_\_\_ **caused by** addiction to violent games and movies, **and suggests some**[2] \_\_\_\_\_ **to the problems.**

Youngsters getting addicted to films and games with violent content[3] \_\_\_\_\_ . The behavioural **effects**[4] \_\_\_\_\_. **For example,** many youths are becoming more violent in their daily lives interacting with others.[5] \_\_\_\_\_, **such as** teenagers who engage in shooting games so often that it becomes reality **it even leads to people becoming** mass-murderers. **The second effect is** on people's mental health. **Students who** become addicted to violent content become restless and easily bored making them unable to concentrate on their daily studies.

[6]\_\_\_\_\_, **the menace** of obsession with violent media **can be fought. Education is the main way to tackle this issue. Schools need to make students aware of the harmful effects so that they can avoid this problem.**[7] \_\_\_\_\_, **the government could also require** makes of violent content to only sell to adults. **This is a** [8] \_\_\_\_\_ this can prevent young people from having access to content that is too violent for them.

[9]\_\_\_\_\_, obsession with violent games and films **is a serious issue because it causes harmful effects on** youths' behaviour **and** mental health. **The best approaches** [10] \_\_\_\_\_ **are to** educate people about its damaging effects, **and also** for the government to place regulations on companies to prevent them from selling overly violent content to children. **Although the problem is unlikely to be entirely eliminated in the short term there are concrete steps to reduce the effects it is having on the current society.**

**Answers:**

1. problems 2. Solutions 3. causes multiple problems 4. are very obvious 5. In some cases  
6. However 7. In addition 8. good approach because 9. In conclusion 10. to deal with

## 7. HEALTH

Health is an important topic for all parts of the test. It is particularly important in part 3 of the speaking test and part 2 of the writing test. It is important to build up a wide vocabulary and the ability to paraphrase common words regarding health.

### LANGUAGE

<b>NOUNS</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
addiction	the condition of not being able to stop doing something. Especially something harmful like drinking alcohol or playing video games.
allergy	a strong physical reaction to something such as an allergy to a certain food.
anxiety	stress
cold	a common viral infection typically causing a runny nose and sneezing
diagnosis	an opinion of a patient's health condition or illness
diet	1. everything that we eat 2. a plan to eat carefully to reduce weight
fast food	quickly prepared foods such as McDonald's
genes	the characteristics we receive from our parents at birth
insomnia	inability or difficulty to get to sleep
life expectancy	the age a person is expected to live until
pharmacy	a shop that sells drugs
physician	a doctor
treatment	a way of curing an illness or medical condition
vaccine	a substance to protect a person from getting a disease

<b>VERBS</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
cure	healing or restoring to health; provide a remedy
diagnose	to work-out what is wrong with a patient
eliminate	to get rid of something
injured	to get hurt
prescribe	to recommend the use of a drug or other remedy
prevent	to stop something happening
remedy	cure
trigger	to cause something to happen. E.g., certain foods may trigger an allergy

<b>ADJECTIVES</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
acute	very serious
chronic	long-lasting

harmful	something that causes harm or damage to us
hazardous	very dangerous
nutritious	used to describe food that is healthy such as fruit
vital	very important

IDIOMS	
<b>back on one's feet</b>	=physically healthy again <i>My brother is <b>back on his feet</b> after being sick for two days.</i>
<b>burned out</b>	= to become very tired and almost sick from doing something for a long time or from working too hard <i>After working long hours for many years the man finally <b>burned himself out</b>.</i>
<b>feel on top of the world</b>	= to feel very healthy <i>I have been <b>feeling on top of the world</b> since I started exercising.</i>
<b>under the weather</b>	= not feeling well <i>My brother has been <b>under the weather</b> all day and has not gone to work.</i>

## PRACTICE

### Vocabulary Building

#### Exercise

Complete the sentences with words from the box below.

1. <i>vaccine</i>	2. <i>genes</i>	3. <i>pharmacy</i>	4. <i>injured</i>	5. <i>harmful</i>
6. <i>insomnia</i>	7. <i>nutritious</i>	8. <i>expectancy</i>	9. <i>colds</i>	10. <i>fast food</i>

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ is used to protect a person from getting a disease.
2. My family seems to have pretty good \_\_\_\_\_. My grandparents, on both sides of my parents, are in their 70s and 80s and in good health.
3. I need to visit a \_\_\_\_\_ because I need to buy some medicine.
4. We often feel a lot of pain when getting \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Drinking sugary drinks is \_\_\_\_\_ for your health.
6. I often suffer from \_\_\_\_\_, which makes me feel tired in the morning.
7. To be healthy you should eat \_\_\_\_\_ food .
8. By the end of the century, average life \_\_\_\_\_ will probably be about 120 years.
9. My health is worse during the winter. I have less energy and tend to get a lot of \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The government should tax \_\_\_\_\_ because it is unhealthy.

#### Answers:

- |             |               |               |            |               |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 1. vaccine  | 2. genes      | 3. pharmacy   | 4. injured | 5. harmful    |
| 6. Insomnia | 7. nutritious | 8. expectancy | 9. colds   | 10. fast food |

## Exercise 2

Fill the blanks with the correct prepositions from the box below.

*from in on out to under up*

1. I'm ..... a lot of stress at work because we don't have enough employees.
2. My girlfriend suffers ..... migraines.
3. I had a sharp pain ..... my stomach.
4. During the boat ride I got seasick and threw .....
5. I'm allergic ..... seafood. If I eat it, my face swells up and my skin turns red
6. That hospital needs new equipment; everything there is ..... of date.
7. I was ..... agony all night with toothache.
8. My boyfriend has put .... a lot of weight recently.
9. If you don't stick .... a diet it won't work.
10. A pharmacy will give medicine .... you.

**Answers: prepositions**

1. under    2. from    3. in    4. up    5. to    6. out    7. in    8. on    9. to    10. to

## Grammar: conditional 1 & 2

Conditional sentences are sentences that express how one thing is dependent on something. Below you will learn about the 1<sup>st</sup> conditional, which is used for something that is likely to happen and the 2<sup>nd</sup> conditional which is used for something that is unlikely to happen. Conditional sentences increase your score for grammar but they must be used well!

The first **conditional** describes something that is possible, and likely to happen.

**1st conditional** = likely situation in the future

If I have enough money, I will go to Australia.

[If + present tense] + [future tense + verb]

The second **conditional** describes something that is imagined or unlikely to happen.

**2nd conditional** = unlikely situation in the future

If I had enough money, I would go to the moon.

[If + past tense] + [would + verb]

**Exercise on conditionals:** Answer the questions below by filling in the correct word

1. If I eat Peanuts, I (will/would) \_\_\_\_\_ get sick.
2. If he shows up, I (will/would) \_\_\_\_\_ call you.
3. If you (come/came) \_\_\_\_\_ to the gym, we will workout together.
4. If I didn't have to work, I (will/would) \_\_\_\_\_ be very happy to stay home.
5. If you go too close to the fire, you (will/would) \_\_\_\_\_ get burnt.
6. If I were taller, I (will/would) \_\_\_\_\_ buy this dress.
7. If I have time, I (will/would) \_\_\_\_\_ meet up with you.
8. If I won the lottery, I (will/would) \_\_\_\_\_ buy a big house.
9. If you (eat/ate) \_\_\_\_\_ less, you will lose weight.
10. If you exercise carefully, you (will/would) \_\_\_\_\_ have fewer accidents.

### ANSWERS

1.will 2.will 3.come 4.would 5.will 6.would 7.will 8.would 9.eat 10.will

## READING

### Matching

You did this question type in chapter three. With this type of question, you have to pair up pieces of information to form a perfect match. The biggest problem is the fact that you need to look at the whole text. The answers could be anywhere in the text and they do not come in order, so it takes time.

### Why can't we live forever?

The only two certainties in life, said **Benjamin Franklin**, are death and taxes. Don't expect either to disappear anytime soon. The prospects for a longer life currently seem rosy, at least if you are a laboratory mouse. This year has seen headlines about mice, engineered to produce lots of antioxidants, who can live 20 per cent longer than usual, and equally impressive gains for animals altered to produce high levels of a peptide hormone known as Klotho (after the minor Greek deity). Ultra-low-calorie diets, big doses of vitamin E, and even transferring ovaries from a younger mouse into elderly females also seem to extend lifespan.

So what are the prospects for a rather larger mammal that normally lives 70-80 years, rather than the mouse's two, and very occasionally makes it to 120 before keeling over? Will what works in mice work in humans?

There are well-publicised optimists who think it will. The most often quoted is **Aubrey de Grey** of Cambridge, a proponent of a big expansion of research on what he has called Strategies for Engineered Negligible Senescence. He is also one of the leading lights of the Methuselah Mouse Prize, which is offered to the scientific team that develops the longest-lived mouse.

But for all his energy and revolutionary zeal, **Professor de Grey** is not actually doing the research - his day job is as a computer expert in a genetics lab. And many researchers in biogerontology are sceptical about his predictions. That scepticism came through recently when Tom Kirkwood of the University of Newcastle's Institute for Ageing and Health asked in *Nature*: "Why must advocates of life extension make preposterous claims about imminent longevity gains if they are to gain public notice?"

**Professor Kirkwood** states the body decays because there is little genetic interest in keeping it going beyond reproductive age. This means that he sees no programmed limit to lifespan, in mice or people. So perhaps we could block whatever is doing the damage and live a little longer. But, he stresses, "this does not imply that major increases in lifespan are imminent. Many people are making silly claims about how we may live forever in the future."

Others in the field tend to agree. One reason is simply that ageing is very complex and we do not know enough to make sensible predictions. **Caleb Finch** of the University of Southern California says: "I have a simple view: we don't know enough about ageing processes to predict how long people will live in the future."

**Linda Partridge**, well known for work on fruit flies, backs Professor Kirkwood. In any case, she adds, "I think it is more important to work on health during ageing rather than trying to live longer." Either way, she believes that "progress will be gradual and based on existing promising areas of work, rather than saltatory and based on unproven approaches."

Her colleague **David Gems**, who does his studies on nematode worms, is optimistic that the basic biology of ageing will be understood in the next decade or two. But he stresses that how easily this translates into treating or preventing ageing-related diseases depends on what ageing really turns out to be: "There's a huge margin of uncertainty." He suggests that cancer treatments are a better historical guide than, say, antibiotics - and most cancers remain incurable.

**Martin Brand** of the Medical Research Council's Dunn Human Nutrition Unit in Cambridge also urges caution. "There have been spectacular increases in lifespan caused by simple treatments and mutations in model organisms," he concedes. But he is mindful that flies and mice in the laboratory tend to live shorter lives than wild strains. "I worry that these results can be explained as putting right bad husbandry of the model organisms rather than affecting ageing itself."

## Questions 1– 10

Match each statement with the correct person.

You may use any answer more than once.

<p>1.The condition of the body starts to decline when we can't reproduce.</p> <p>2.Only two things are predictable in life.</p> <p>3.Living longer is less important than how healthy we are as we age.</p> <p>4.Restricted diets seem to result in a longer life for mice.</p> <p>5.People make ridiculous statements about how long we can live.</p> <p>6. We can't predict the future because we don't know enough about the ageing process.</p> <p>7.Does research using worms.</p> <p>8.There is a lot of uncertainty about what ageing is really about.</p> <p>9.Simple treatments have led to some big increases in people's life expectancy.</p> <p>10.Believes that laboratory mice don't live as long as those living in the wild.</p>	<b>List of People</b>		
	<b>A</b>	Aubrey de Grey	
	<b>B</b>	Caleb Finch	
	<b>C</b>	David Gems	
	<b>D</b>	Linda Partridge	
	<b>E</b>	Benjamin Franklin	
	<b>F</b>	Martin Brand	
	<b>G</b>	Tom Kirkwood	

## Answers

- 1.**G:** “**Professor Kirkwood** states the body decays because there is little genetic interest in keeping it going beyond reproductive age”
- 2.**E:** “The only two certainties in life, said **Benjamin Franklin**, are death and taxes.”
- 3.**D:** “I think it is more important to work on health during ageing rather than trying to live longer.”
- 4.**A:** “offered to the scientific team that develops the longest-lived mouse.”
- 5.**G:** “Many people are making silly claims about how we may live forever in the future”
- 6.**B:** “we don't know enough about ageing processes to predict how long people will live in the future.”
- 7.**C:** “David Gems, who does studies on nematode worms”
- 8.**C:** “depends on what ageing really turns out to be: “There's a huge margin of uncertainty.”
- 9.**F:** “There have been spectacular increases in lifespan caused by simple treatments
- 10.**F:** “mice in the laboratory tend to live shorter lives than wild strains”

## LISTENING

### Sentence completion

For these types of questions, it is incredibly important to use your skills of predicting answers.

**Exercise 17:** Listen and write the missing words in the blanks. There are two words for each blank.

#### A. In what ways has health care changed in your country?

Health care is (1)\_\_\_\_\_ high-tech now. There are a lot of machines such as scanners. In addition, people go to hospitals more often than before, (2)\_\_\_\_\_ simple things, because the government's national health insurance has made visiting hospitals so cheap. I also think that in the past, western medicine was (3)\_\_\_\_\_ than Chinese medicine. Nowadays, most people prefer western medicine, especially for serious medical problems.

#### B. What problems have changes in the health care system caused?

Because medicine has become more high-tech, it has also become more expensive. Only big hospitals in large cities can afford the best equipment. (4)\_\_\_\_\_ is that the gap between rural and urban areas has grown. (5)\_\_\_\_\_ is that too many people are going to hospital for minor problems because the national health insurance system has made it so cheap for patients. This overuse is expensive for the government and (6)\_\_\_\_\_ doctors spend less time with patients.

#### C. What are some possible solutions for these problems?

Well, I'm (7)\_\_\_\_\_ how we can narrow the rural-urban gap in medical equipment but the government has been trying to increase the quality of medical personnel in rural areas; many medical school graduates who have studied on government scholarships are now required to serve in remote areas for at least one year. (8)\_\_\_\_\_ the problem of overuse, the solution is relatively simple; the government needs to increase the cost of medical care at hospitals.

#### D. What are some of the most serious health problems in the developed world?

People in the developed world tend to eat, drink and smoke too much. As a result, the most serious health problems are heart disease, cancer, especially lung cancer, and diabetes. Traffic accidents are also a (9)\_\_\_\_\_ of injuries and deaths. Mental health is a big problem, too; depression and stress (10)\_\_\_\_\_ increasingly common in developed countries.

### Answers

- |               |             |                 |                |                    |
|---------------|-------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. much more  | 2. even for | 3. less popular | 4. The result  | 5. Another problem |
| 6. means that | 7. not sure | 8. As to        | 9. major cause | 10. have become    |

## Aboriginal Bush Medicine

**Exercise 18:** You are going to hear a short extract on Aboriginal Bush Medicines. First, look at the gaps and try to guess what type of word is missing. Then you will be ready to begin.

Aboriginal people traditionally were much **1** \_\_\_\_\_ than they are today. Living in the open in a land largely free from disease, they benefited from a better **2** \_\_\_\_\_, more exercise, less stress, a more supportive society and a tight-knit social structure. Nonetheless, Aboriginal peoples often had need of bush medicines. Sleeping at night by fires meant they sometimes suffered from burns. **3** \_\_\_\_\_ sunshine and certain foods caused headaches, and eye infections were common. Feasting on sour **4** \_\_\_\_\_ or rancid meat caused digestive upsets, and although tooth decay was not a problem, coarse gritty **5** \_\_\_\_\_ sometimes wore teeth down to the nerves. Aborigines were also occasionally stung by jellyfish or bitten by snakes and **6** \_\_\_\_\_. In the bush there was always a chance of injury, and **7** \_\_\_\_\_ usually ended in severe bruises and gashes.

Unfortunately, much of the knowledge of traditional Aboriginal medicine has been **8** \_\_\_\_\_. Very little is known of medical practice in **9** \_\_\_\_\_ and eastern Australia, where traditional Aboriginal culture was largely obliterated more than a **10** \_\_\_\_\_ ago.

### ANSWERS

- |              |             |           |             |             |
|--------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 1. healthier | 2. diet     | 3. Strong | 4. fruits   | 5. food     |
| 6. spiders   | 7. Fighting | 8. lost   | 9. southern | 10. century |

## SPEAKING

### Useful phrases to help you deal with problems in your test.

The phrases below are useful for when you run into problems in your test such as hesitating to think of what you want to say or to continue after you've made a mistake. These phrases are used in the model answers that follow the table so that you can see how they get used.

FUNCTION	PHRASE
<b>buying time</b>	<i>Let me see now, this is quite a tricky question for me. Well, I suppose I would have to say that...</i>  <i>Oh gosh! I'm really not sure about that ...</i>
<b>restarting</b>	<i>What I'm trying to say is...</i>  <i>Let me start over...</i>  <i>Oh, I seem to have lost my train of thought a bit, let me see, oh yes, that's right, what I mean to say is...</i>

## **PART 1**

### **Let's talk about running**

#### **Q1: How often do you run?**

*Let me see now, that really is quite a tricky question. Well, I suppose I would have to say that because I have a busy life, I only have time for a jog about three times a week. On the weekends, I have a longer run to help me lose weight and keep fit.*

#### **Q2: Where do you go running?**

*Oh gosh! I'm really not sure about that, because there are so many different choices of places to go running near where I live, but I often go jogging in my local park. It offers a lot of green spaces where joggers get together and run around the park.*

#### **Q3: Did you like running when you were a child?**

*Well, when I was very young I broke my [unable to continue] *What I'm trying to say is I couldn't run for about a month* when I was in elementary school because I broke my leg playing soccer. But, otherwise, I loved the running and although I wasn't the best runner, I was competitive and enjoyed the company and interactions with the other kids.*

#### **Q4: Do you think running is a good way to stay healthy?**

*It could help your [unable to continue] *Let me start over...* I believe running is an excellent way to stay healthy and improve your fitness. Not only does it help you stay healthy, it is also a good way to lose weight. However many people have difficulties when running with their knees and other exercises such as swimming may be better suited for them.*

## PART 2

You might find the phrases at start of this section useful in part 2 of your test as well. Some of these have been used in the model answer that follows.

### PART 2: Task Instructions

**Describe an article on health you have read**

You should say:

- what it was about
- where you found it
- why you read it

and explain how you felt about it

### PART 2: Model Answer

*Let me see now, this is quite a tricky question for me because I don't read a lot about health. Well, I suppose I would have to say that the healthy article I am going to talk about was about how to exercise outdoors. It provided lots of ways to improve your health through exercise in outdoor places.*

*All exercise workouts start with a warm up by stretching, and light jogging to warm up your muscles. The article suggested you then... [speaker gets stuck]... Oh, I seem to have lost my train of thought a bit, let me see, oh yes, that's right, what I mean to say is the article suggested you then move on to some more energetic exercise such as going on a run or climbing stairs. I finished the rest of the article and found it very interesting.*

*I found this article on ...{unable to continue}. What I'm trying to say is I did a google search and I found an article on outdoor exercises as opposed to a gym workout. The article outlined the advantages of outdoor exercise. For example, it said that it would be more enjoyable, and cheaper than going to a gym.*

*The reason why I looked at this article was because I don't like the way I look. What I'm trying to say is I know I am overweight. I know I need to exercise more and I read this article to try and find some interesting ways to work out. Basically, I know I am lazy as well, and so I need to find a way to exercise that is effective but also interesting.*

## **PART 3**

### ***Let's talk more about health***

#### **Q1: Do you think people in your country are generally healthy?**

*Oh gosh! I'm really not sure about that ...*Overall, I would say the vast majority of people in my country are healthy. Physical activity and good dietary habits are promoted through advertising and lots of areas are available for exercise, for example, parks and green spaces. However, there are many people that do not take care of themselves. Some bad habits include smoking, drinking in excess, eating fattening food and not exercising enough.

#### **Q2: What can governments do to improve people's health?**

*Let me see now, this is quite a tricky question for me. Well, I suppose I would have to say that* the government should advertise healthy lifestyles to educate the population about the necessity of good health and what healthy habits including nutrition and exercise can provide. The government should also strictly enforce nonsmoking regulations and sale of alcoholic beverages to minors. Another deterrent would be to implement taxes on unhealthy snacks and beverages to encourage better alternate foods.

#### **Q3: What activities can schools organize for children to keep fit?**

Healthy food and exercise are very important for a child's growing body. *What I'm trying to say is* that schools should provide physical education and health classes to promote a good lifestyle. Schools can provide opportunities for children to exercise, such as sports days, team sports and hiking or walking trips. For example when I was in high school we had a number of physical and running challenges that I competed in against fellow schoolmates.

#### **Q4: Do you think people are healthier now than in the past?**

I believe people were healthier in the past than they are today. In the past work was usually more [speaker gets stuck] *Oh, I seem to have lost my train of thought a bit, let me see, oh yes, that's right, what I mean to say is* people would walk to many places and food was more natural and not processed. Today we consume a lot of manufactured and unhealthy food. In addition, air and water pollution has made our environment toxic leading to many health issues.

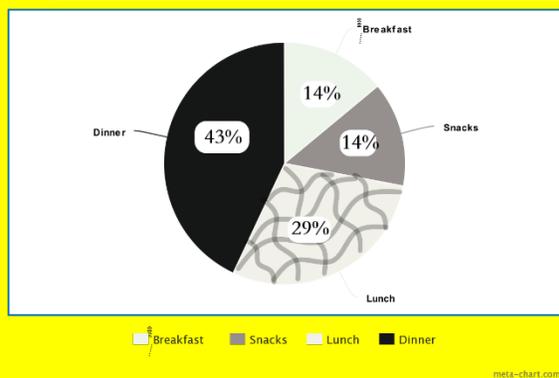
# WRITING

## Task one: single time

Writing Task 1 is designed to test your ability to write a report explaining information shown in different types of graphs and diagrams. This unit focuses on the tasks with a single time period.

The charts below show the average percentages in typical meals, of three types of nutrients, all of which may be unhealthy if eaten too much.

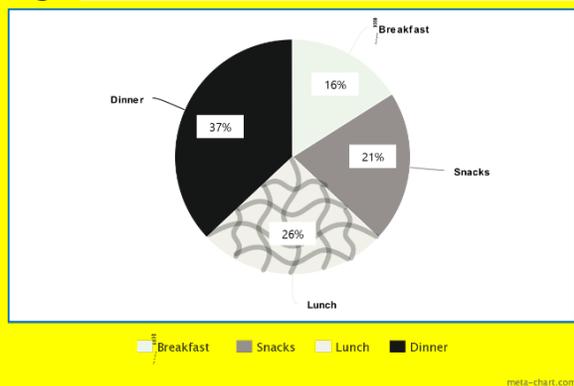
### Salt



The pie charts give information regarding the three types of unhealthy ingredients for four different types of common meals, which are not healthy when too much of them are consumed. Overall, dinner accounted for the highest levels of salt and fat, whereas snacks accounted for the highest levels of sugar.

Looking first at salt, the highest percentage was consumed for dinner at 43%. The amount of salt consumed for lunch was lower at 29%. Breakfast and snacks accounted for the lowest proportion at 14% for each.

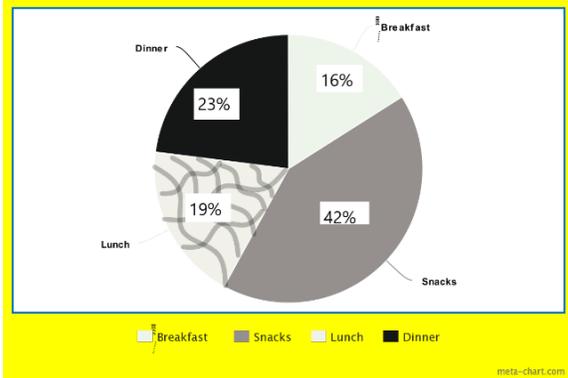
### Sugar



Turning to fat, as with salt, the highest proportion was eaten for dinner at 37%. The amount of salt for lunch was higher than snacking at 26%, and 21%, respectively. The lowest percentage was from breakfast with only 16%.

Regarding sugar, it had roughly the opposite consumption patterns to salt and fat. Forty-two percent of the sugar was consumed from

### Fat



snacks. The next highest was dinner at 23% which was more than lunch at 19%. Breakfast accounted for the lowest percentage at only 16%.

**Exercise 1: Synonyms:** Match the word on the left to its synonym on the right

1. chart		percent
2. unhealthy		regarding
3. three types		pupils
4. typical		not healthy
5. eaten		most
6. percentage		pie chart
7. highest		different types
8. %		common
9. turning to		consumed
10. students		proportion

**Answers**

- 1. chart      pie chart
- 2. unhealthy      not healthy
- 3. three types      different types
- 4. typical      common
- 5. eaten      consumed
- 6. percentage      proportion
- 7. highest      most
- 8. %      percent
- 9. turning to      regarding
- 10. students      pupils

1. Comparative adjectives are used to compare two things. Example: *I eat **more** for lunch than dinner.* Superlative adjectives are used to compare one thing with the rest of the group it belongs to. Example: *I eat **the most** for breakfast.*
2. Use the word **number** for things that can be counted like meals, and **amount** for things that cannot be counted like salt, fat and sugar.

**Exercise 2: Sentence structures:** Choose the correct words to complete the sentences. Note the two points above to help you make the correct decisions.

The pie charts give information regarding the three types of unhealthy ingredients for four different types of common meals, which are not healthy when too much of them are consumed. Overall, dinner accounted for the highest levels of salt and fat, whereas snacks accounted for the [1] **highest/higher** levels of sugar.

Looking first at salt, the [2] **higher/highest** percentage was consumed for dinner at 43%. The [3] **amount/number** of salt consumed for lunch was [4] **lower/the lowest** at 29%. Breakfast and snacks accounted for the [5] **[lower/lowest]** proportion at 14% for each.

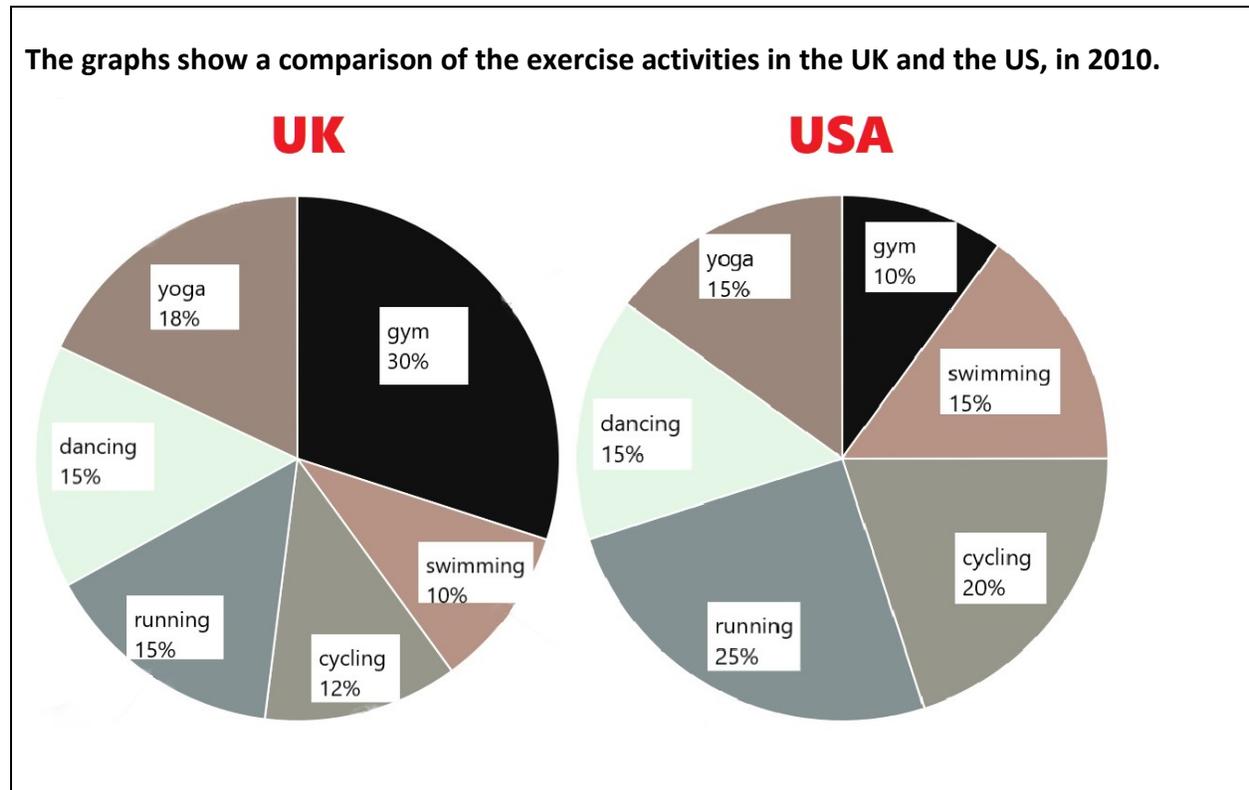
Turning to fat, as with salt, the highest [6] **amount/proportion** was eaten for dinner at 37%. The [7] **[amount/number]** of salt for lunch was higher than snacking at 26%, and 21%, respectively. The lowest percentage was from breakfast with only 16%

Regarding sugar, it had roughly the opposite consumption patterns to salt and fat. Forty-two percent of the sugar was consumed from snacks. The next [8] **[higher/highest]** was dinner at 23% which was [9] **[more than/the most]** lunch at 19%. Breakfast accounted for the lowest [10] **[number/percentage]** at only 16%.

### Answers

1. highest
2. highest
3. amount
4. lower
5. lowest
6. proportion
7. amount
8. highest
9. more than
10. percentage

Steps in completing the model task below:



1. Read and underline key vocabulary in the question and write words with the same or related meaning.

The graphs below show a comparison of the exercise activities in the UK and the US, in 2010.

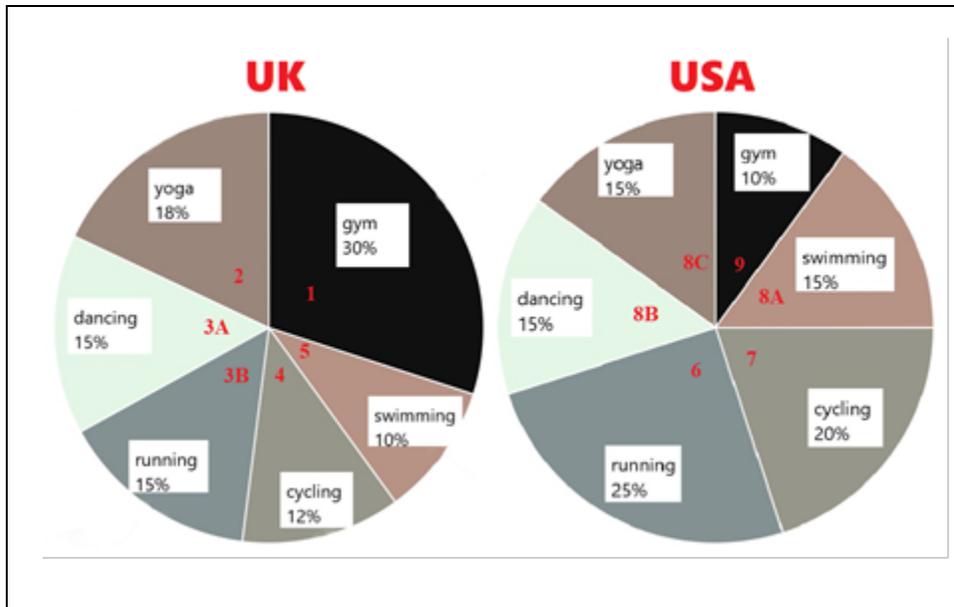
*Pie charts      illustrate   differences   exercises   United Kingdom   America*

2. Work out the overall summary.

For this task, the best summary is to point out that people in the UK tended to do indoor activities relatively more, while people in the US tend to do outdoor ones.

### 3. Plan how to answer the question.

The numbers below represent the order that the activities will be covered for each graph from highest to lowest percent.



### 4. Plan the structure of the answer (how can the data be grouped)

*Introduction = rephrase of the task introduction + overall summary*

*UK = highest to lowest percentages*

*USA = highest to lowest percentages*

**Exercise 3: Complete the model answer below using words from the box to complete the report.**

exactly   highest   illustrate   least popular   Looking first  
Overall   percentage   second   Turning to   whilst

The pie charts \_\_\_\_\_ differences in the types of exercises in America and the United Kingdom, in 2010. \_\_\_\_\_, people in the U.K. tended to spend more time on indoor exercises, \_\_\_\_\_ in the United States it was outdoor activities.

\_\_\_\_\_ at Britain, the activity with the \_\_\_\_\_ proportion was going to the gym, which accounted for 30% of the total. Yoga was the \_\_\_\_\_ most popular activity at 18%. The British spent had exactly the same proportion of exercises on dancing and going for a jog [15%]. Cycling only accounted for 12%, and then the \_\_\_\_\_ activity was swimming at just 10%.

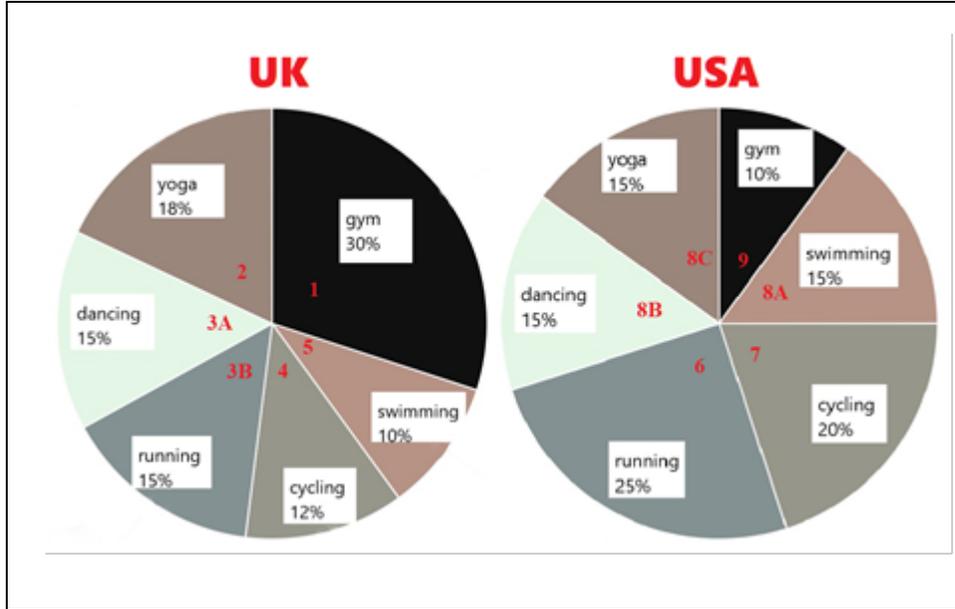
\_\_\_\_\_ America, running accounted for the highest \_\_\_\_\_ of activities at 25%. Riding a bike was next at 20%. Swimming dancing and yoga each accounted for \_\_\_\_\_ fifteen per cent of all exercises. The activity with the lowest proportion was working out in a gym at only 10% of the total.

**Answers:**

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. illustrate    | 6. second        |
| 2. Overall       | 7. least popular |
| 3. whilst        | 8. Turning to    |
| 4. Looking first | 9. percentage    |
| 5. highest       | 10. exactly      |

**Planning: Selecting key points for the report**

- highest points
- lowest points
- similar numbers
- dissimilar numbers



**Exercise 4: Match the key points to the correct place in the report**

1.	j	[A] Overall, people in the U.K. tended to spend more time on indoor exercises, whilst in the United States it was outdoor activities.
2.		[B] swimming dancing and yoga each accounted for exactly 15%
3.		[C] the lowest proportion was working out in a gym at only 10%
4.		[D] Cycling only accounted for 12%
5.		[E] Riding a bike was next at 20%.
6.		[F] running accounted for the highest percentage of activities at 25%
7.		[G] the least popular activity was swimming at just 10%
8.		[H] dancing and going for a jog [15%]
9.		[I] Yoga was the second most popular activity at 18%
summary		[J] going to the gym, which accounted for 30% of the total

## Answers

1.	<b>[J]</b> going to the gym, which accounted for 30% of the total
2.	<b>[I]</b> Yoga was the second most popular activity at 18%
3.	<b>[H]</b> dancing and going for a jog [15%]
4.	<b>[D]</b> Cycling only accounted for 12%
5.	<b>[G]</b> the least popular activity was swimming at just 10%
6.	<b>[F]</b> running accounted for the highest percentage of activities at 25%
7.	<b>[E]</b> Riding a bike was next at 20%.
8.	<b>[B]</b> Swimming dancing and yoga each accounted for exactly fifteen per cent of all exercises.
9.	<b>[C]</b> The activity with the lowest proportion was working out in a gym at only 10% of the total.
summary	<b>[A]</b> Overall, people in the U.K. tended to spend more time on indoor exercises, whilst in the United States it was outdoor activities.

## 8. ENVIRONMENT

The environment is an important topic for all parts of the test. It is particularly important in part 2 of the writing test as many essay questions are focused on this topic. It is important to build up a wide vocabulary and the ability to paraphrase common words regarding the environment.

### LANGUAGE

<b>NOUNS</b>	<b>MEANING</b>
biodiversity	refers to the variety of plant and animal species that exist in a particular environmental area or in the world generally
climate	the weather conditions of a region
climate change	the concept that change is occurring to the earth's climate. [Especially based on the influence of people].
chemicals	man-made substances
emissions	the release of something, especially gas or radiation.
erosion	the problem of soil being washed away
extinction	the complete dying out of a species
fossil fuels	a natural fuel such as coal, gas, or oil formed over long periods of time from the remains of living organisms
garbage	trash
greenhouse gases	a gas that contributes to the greenhouse effect
habitat	a place where animals and plants live
natural resources	resources derived from the environment. For example, wood and oil.
renewable energy	describes a form of energy that can be produced as quickly as it is used, such as solar energy
threat	a thing likely to cause damage or danger

VERBS	MEANING
conserve	to not waste something
deplete	to reduce the amount of something
discharge	to release something
contaminate	to make something become polluted
endanger	to put something or someone in danger
preserve	to keep something safe
recycle	to use something again for another purpose
reduce	to use less of something
reuse	to use something again for the same purpose

ADJECTIVES	MEANING
biodegradable	something that is able to decay naturally and harmlessly
critical	extremely important
disposable	something that can be thrown away
environmentally friendly	something that is good or not harmful to the environment
hazardous	something dangerous
optimistic	having a positive outlook on life
pessimistic	having a negative outlook on life
renewable	able to be renewed or replenished
toxic	something poisonous

IDIOMS	
<b>a race against time</b>	= a need to finish something quickly We are in <b>a race against time</b> to reverse the effects of global warming
<b>no quick fix.</b>	= no simple solution There seems to be <b>no quick fix</b> to solve our needs for energy consumption from fossil fuels.
<b>sweep under the carpet</b>	= to ignore or hide something It seems politicians would rather <b>sweep</b> the problem of climate change <b>under the carpet</b> than deal with it.
<b>the tip of the iceberg</b>	= a small part of something much bigger Rising oceans are only the <b>tip of the iceberg</b> of the problems being caused by climate change.

**Exercise 1:** Complete the sentences with words from the box below.

<b>chemicals</b>	<b>disposable</b>	<b>emissions</b>	<b>erosion</b>	<b>garbage</b>
<b>greenhouse</b>	<b>optimistic</b>	<b>renewable</b>	<b>recycles</b>	<b>threats</b>

1. .... is collected once a day in my neighbourhood.
2. Banana plantations are a serious problem in mountain areas because the plant's roots are very shallow. When there is heavy rain, there is a lot of soil .....
3. Our family ..... cans and plastic containers, paper, and glass.
4. As far as I know, the most serious ..... to wildlife in Vietnam are pollution and habitat loss. Furthermore, hunting is a problem in some areas.
5. Man-made ..... are the main cause of ozone depletion. Emissions of these gases have been reduced but they continue to be a problem.
6. I'm ..... about the future of Vietnam's environment. I think people are paying increasing attention to the quality of life and their surroundings so things will improve.
7. Global warming is caused by the increase of ..... gases in the atmosphere. The most common of these gases is CO<sub>2</sub>.
8. I don't know much about ..... energy, but from what I've read I think it is a good way to stop using oil producing power.
9. There are many ways individuals can lessen their impact on the environment. For instance, people can use reusable chopsticks instead of ..... ones.
10. In order to prevent factories from dumping ..... into rivers, the government should increase the fines and perhaps send some of the offenders to prison.

**Answers: Exercise 1**

1. garbage 2. erosion 3. recycles 4. threats 5. emissions 6. optimistic 7. greenhouse  
8. renewable 9. disposable 10. chemicals

## Exercise 2: decide whether the definitions below are true or false

1. biodegradable something that is able to decay naturally and harmlessly
2. Preserve to help someone
3. recycle to use something again for another purpose
4. pessimistic having a positive outlook on life
5. toxic something safe
6. biodegradable something that is able to decay naturally and harmlessly
7. contaminate to make something become clean
8. endanger to put something or someone in danger
9. emissions to ignore or hide something
10. the tip of the iceberg means a small part of something much bigger

## Answers: Exercise 2

1. biodegradable **[true]** something that is able to decay naturally and harmlessly
2. Preserve **[false]** to keep something safe
3. recycle **[true]** to use something again for another purpose
4. pessimistic **[false]** having a negative outlook on life
5. toxic **[false]** something poisonous
6. biodegradable **[true]** something that is able to decay naturally and harmlessly
7. contaminate **[false]** to make something become polluted
8. endanger **[true]** to put something or someone in danger
9. emissions **[false]** the release of something, especially gas or radiation
10. tip of the iceberg **[true]** a small part of something much bigger

# Grammar

## Passive Tense

The passive tense begins with the object (receiver of the action) and is followed by an auxiliary verb and a main verb in the past participle form. The table below compares the passive to the active tense. The passive tense is used when we want to emphasize the object of the sentence or when the agent is unknown.

Tense	Agent	Verb	Object
Present Active	A factory	pollutes	a river.
Present Passive	A river	is polluted	by a factory.
Past Active	A factory	polluted	a river.
Past Passive	A river	was polluted	by a factory.

**Exercise:** Write the verbs below in active or passive form.

1. Australia \_\_\_\_\_ (recycle) most of its newspapers.
2. In Australia, most of the newspapers \_\_\_\_\_ (recycle).
3. All the newspapers in America \_\_\_\_\_ (make) from recycled materials.
4. Hurricanes often \_\_\_\_\_ (cause) water pollution.
5. Oil \_\_\_\_\_ (provide) most of the world's energy.
6. Sea creatures \_\_\_\_\_ (kill) by plastic bags.
7. Recycling paper \_\_\_\_\_ (save) trees.
8. China \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) the most organic milk.
9. Many deaths \_\_\_\_\_ (cause) by water pollution.
10. The most electric cars \_\_\_\_\_ (purchase) by the Chinese.

### Answers:

- |                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. recycles     | 6. are killed     |
| 2. are recycled | 7. saves          |
| 3. are made     | 8. buy            |
| 4. cause        | 9. are caused     |
| 5. provides     | 10. are purchased |

## READING

### TRUE, FALSE, NOT GIVEN Questions

In the vocabulary section of this chapter, you have already done a quiz on deciding whether something is true or false. In the reading test, a commonly used question type asks you to decide whether information is true false or not given. The following can be used to answer this type of question:

TRUE: all information is the same

FALSE: there is contradictory information

NOT GIVEN: a key point in the question is not mentioned in the text

### Approach:

1. Skim the text
2. Read the first question and establish a keyword to search for.
3. Locate the keyword/synonym in the text.
4. Check the sentence with the keyword against the question to decide if it is true, false, or not given.
5. If the question contains a qualifier (all, many, most) you must check the qualifier used in the text has the same meaning as many answers are based on qualifiers.
6. Repeat this strategy with other questions and start looking where you did the last question as answers are roughly in the same order in the text.

## **Vancouver**

Vancouver is quite different from virtually any other city in North America. Despite the fact it is a large modern cosmopolitan city, it seems to have a relaxed small-town, close-to-nature feel about it. The city is unlike other large Canadian cities such as Toronto or Montreal, which are more akin to the large eastern US centres like New York and Chicago. Vancouver, like all large North American cities, is a conglomerate of high-rise cubic office towers, although urban planners have kept the heights down. There are, however, some notable exceptions such as the Marine Building at the north foot of Burrard Street, once the tallest structure in the British Empire, the courthouse at Howe & Robson, and the library at Georgia & Hamilton.

Vancouver offers a wide range of attractions catering to all tastes but those with only a day to spare cannot be better advised than to take one of the many organized excursions recommended by the Vancouver Tourist Office.

Stanley Park, a 1,000-acre nature preserve, is Vancouver's best-known landmark and a must for any visitor. It was built in 1887 and, in the opinion of many, is the most beautiful urban park in the world. Contrary to popular belief, this park was not established through the foresight of the city council of the day, but at the urging of a real estate developer called Oppenheimer. He is now considered the father of Stanley Park. All areas of the park are accessible to the public except for Dead Man's Island, which has a small naval base.

The EcoWalk is a fun and informative way to see the park. The guide gives information on the trees, plants, birds and animals as well as on the rich aboriginal culture and legends of the park. The walking is medium paced, taking 3 hours to complete and covering 5 miles of relatively flat paved and graveled trails over selected seawall and forest paths. This walk is suitable for families, including active seniors.

There is also a world-class aquarium in the park and was the first to have killer whales in captivity and probably the first one to stop making them into a side-show. The aquarium feels the purpose in keeping the whales, namely re-educating the public and stopping the hunting of them, has been accomplished. In 2000, the last remaining killer whale at the aquarium was sold to Sealand in California, where it died shortly after arriving. The main threat to the park is the huge volume of people who want to be in it. Efforts are being made to restrict the amount of automobile traffic passing through it. One of the ultimate goals is to eliminate the causeway leading to Lions Gate Bridge but this will not likely occur until well into the 21st century.

Beaches are also a big attraction and temperatures are usually high enough to tempt most people to have a swim. However, one of the biggest days on these beaches is on New Year's Day when the annual "Polar Bear Swim" attracts several hundred die-hard individuals out to prove that Vancouver is a year round swimming destination.

Chinatown is North America's third largest, in terms of area, after San Francisco and New York. It is steeped in history and is well worth walking around. It is most active on Sundays when people head to any of a wide selection of restaurants that offer dim sum. Chinatown also contains the world's thinnest building at only 1.8 metres wide.

## Questions 1– 10

Do the following questions agree with the information given in the passage? Write:

**true**            *if the statement agrees with the information*

**false**           *if the statement contradicts the statement information*

**not given**   *if there is no information on this in the passage*

1. When compared with Toronto, Vancouver is very similar.
2. If time is limited, it is advisable to go on the official day trips available.
3. Visitors can go anywhere in the park.
4. The EcoWalk is suitable for families.
5. The aquarium bought a new killer whale.
6. The main problem in the park is that the people are too loud.
7. The biggest day at the beach is New Year's Day.
8. Vancouver's Chinatown has the third largest Chinese population in North America.
9. All of the restaurants in Chinatown serve dim sums.
10. Vancouver's Chinatown has the narrowest building in the world.

## ANSWERS

1. **false** “The city is unlike other large Canadian cities such as Toronto.”
2. **true** “those with only a day to spare cannot be better advised than to take one of the many organized excursions.”
3. **false** “All areas of the park are accessible to the public except for Dead Man’s Island”,
4. **true** This walk is suitable for families, including active seniors.
5. **not given** [there is no information in the paragraph to support this. We only know they sold the last one]
6. **false** “The main threat to the park is the huge volume of people who want to be in it” [volume here means the number of people not the amount of noise that making]
7. **not given** “However, **one of the biggest days** on these beaches is on New Year’s Day” [we don’t know if it is the biggest... We only know it’s one of the biggest]
8. **not given** “Chinatown is North America’s third largest, in terms of area” [there is information about the size of the Chinatown but not the number of people]
9. **not given** [we know that dim sums are popular but we don’t know that **all** of the restaurants have them]
10. **True** “Chinatown also contains the world’s thinnest building at only 1.8 metres wide.”

## LISTENING

With the topic of the environment there are likely to be many words that are new to you. It is important that you stay focused on hearing the answers and do not worry if you do not understand every word you hear.

**Exercise 19:** Listen to the sample answer and write the missing words.

### An Area of Natural Beauty

I'd like to talk about Yangmingshan National Park. It's a mountainous area which is mostly covered in (1) \_\_\_\_\_ but there are also some grasslands. The park is located north of Taipei City; if memory serves me right, it's about (2) \_\_\_\_\_ kilometres from downtown Taipei. I have been there many times; I sometimes go there by bus, but I usually ride my scooter. I even rode up on a bicycle once. The roads up the mountain get very (3) \_\_\_\_\_ on weekends and holidays so it's faster going by scooter; it takes me about 40 minutes to ride there from my home.

I've done a lot of different (4) \_\_\_\_\_ in Yangmingshan National Park; I've been hiking, bird-watching, and soaked in hot springs. My favourite hiking trail is to the top of Seven Star Mountain; it's the (5) \_\_\_\_\_ point of the park, over 1000 metres, and the early morning views are spectacular. In spring I like to go to Yangmingshan to see all the flowers in bloom and take photographs of them; the Japanese cherry trees are (6) \_\_\_\_\_ beautiful. In winter I sometimes go to hot springs. Yangmingshan has a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of hot springs; indoor and outdoor, and there are even volcanic mud pools.

The reason that I like Yangmingshan so much is that it is a great escape from the noise and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ of Taipei City; it's quiet; the (9) \_\_\_\_\_ is beautiful and the air is fresh and cool.

Another great thing is that the park has a different character in each season. I think Taipei residents are very lucky to have such a lovely (10) \_\_\_\_\_ area on their backdoor. When friends from out-of-town visit me, I usually take them there.

#### **Answers:**

- |               |            |              |               |             |
|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1. forests    | 2. 25      | 3. crowded   | 4. activities | 5. highest  |
| 6. especially | 7. variety | 8. pollution | 9. scenery    | 10. natural |

**Exercise 20:** Listen to this speech about the Three Gorges Dam and write down the missing words. An example has been done for you.

### The Three Gorges Dam

Three Gorges Dam, the world's **(1)** \_\_\_\_\_ hydro-electric dam

Early dam on Min River, built in the year **(2)** \_\_\_\_\_ .

Likewise, the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze **(3)** \_\_\_\_\_ was built for multiple purposes

Three Gorges Dam has three main purposes:

Flood **(4)** \_\_\_\_\_ . 1998 flood caused **(5)** \_\_\_\_\_ deaths.

Generating electricity. Much less polluting than using **(6)** \_\_\_\_\_ .

Improved navigation. **(7)** \_\_\_\_\_ able to reach Chongqing City.

Dam first suggested by Dr. Sun Yat-sen in **(8)** \_\_\_\_\_ .

Approval for construction given in **(9)** \_\_\_\_\_ .

Environmental **(10)** \_\_\_\_\_ about build-up of sediment in the dam.

### Answers

- |            |           |          |            |             |
|------------|-----------|----------|------------|-------------|
| 1. largest | 2. 256 BC | 3. river | 4. control | 5. 4,000    |
| 6. coal    | 7. ships  | 8. 1919  | 9. 1992    | 10. concern |

## Transcript

Good morning ladies and gentlemen. It's an honour to be here. My name is David Frear. I'm an ecologist and I am going to give a short talk on the Three Gorges Dam, the world's largest hydro-electric dam. Now, I know it's quite cold in here but that's to make sure nobody dozes off during my speech. My presentation isn't long so I'll have plenty of time to answer any questions at the end.

The Chinese have a long history of waterworks; they were already building a dam on the Min River as early as 256BC. This dam was part of an irrigation system that also served to control annual flooding. Likewise, the Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze River was built for multiple purposes. There were three motivations for building it: the first is to control flooding along the lower reaches of the Yangtze River. In 1998, for example, flooding in that area resulted in 4,000 dead, 14 million people left homeless and \$24 billion in economic loss.

The second purpose is to generate electricity. China needs more energy to power its rapid economic growth. Electricity from the dam will make China less reliant on coal and foreign oil. One big environmental benefit of this is that there will be fewer greenhouse gases produced. When the dam is operating at full power in a few years, it will reduce coal consumption by 31 million tonnes per year, avoiding the emission of 100 million tonnes of greenhouse gases.

The third purpose is to improve navigation of the river above the dam. This third point may need some explaining as it seems counterintuitive. You might think a dam would interrupt shipping, but the dam results in a higher water level, and therefore a deeper shipping channel above it. This means that large ships can now travel up to the booming city of Chongqing. There is also an environmental benefit from shipping; it has a smaller carbon footprint than moving goods by truck.

Of course, the dam is also a symbol: it shows the world just how far China has come. The Three Gorges Dam is China's biggest construction project since the Great Wall was erected. It is 600 feet high and one and a half miles wide. The idea for a dam was originally proposed in 1919 by Dr. Sun Yat-sen. Because of civil unrest and World War Two, the project, although not forgotten, went no further than a plan on paper. Interest in building a dam resurfaced in the 1980s, and government approval was finally given in 1992. Construction began in 1994.

Okay, now I would like to look at some of the possible negative environmental impacts. Critics of the dam have expressed concern about sedimentation, that is, the build-up of sediment in the dam. The Yangtze River is the fourth largest carrier of sediment in the world.

## SPEAKING

### Asking the examiner questions

You can ask the IELTS examiner questions in the IELTS speaking exam. There are numerous ways to deal with problems by asking questions and it is a good idea to learn how to ask these before taking an exam. Some useful questions you can ask the examiner are outlined below and then these phrases are used in the model answers that follow.

FUNCTION	PHRASE
<b>Repeat the question</b> (Part 1 -3)	Could you please repeat the question? Sorry, I didn't quite catch what you said?
<b>Checking the meaning of a word</b> (Part 1 -3)	Sorry, what does X mean? Could you please explain the meaning of X?
<b>Checking the question</b> (Part 3 only. You can try in Part 1 but the examiner may not respond. Look for body language, like nodding of the head)	Are you asking me....? Do you mean....?

### PART 1

#### Let's talk about scenery

##### Q1: Is there good scenery in the area you live in?

CANDIDATE: Sorry, what does **scenery** mean?

EXAMINER: **Scenery** means the general appearance of the natural environment, especially when it is beautiful.

CANDIDATE: Thanks. I live and commute in the city and the scenery is not very good. Therefore, on my days off, I like to get away from the hustle and bustle of the city and visit the countryside. There I can enjoy the fresh air, quiet places and take in the scenery.

##### Q2: Do you like to take photos of scenery?

CANDIDATE: *Could you please repeat the question?*

EXAMINER: **Do you like to take photos of scenery?**

CANDIDATE: When I escape the pollution and congestion of the city, I have my smartphone to snap pictures of my surroundings. For example, last month I went to the beach and watched the sunset. I got some amazing pictures of the ocean and the setting sun.

**Q3: What scenic places are there in your country?**

CANDIDATE: *Sorry, I didn't quite catch what you said?*

EXAMINER: **What scenic places are there in your country?**

CANDIDATE: There are many places to have an adventure and enjoy the scenery. Many people in my county travel to the beach, mountains, and historical sites. Just last summer, my friends and I climbed up a mountain. The scenery along the way and the view was spectacular.

**Q4: When you travel, do you like to stay in hotels with scenic views?**

CANDIDATE: *Could you please explain the meaning of **views**?*

EXAMINER: **Views means what you can see.**

CANDIDATE: Thanks. Hotels with views are nice but not a necessity for me, as I spend very little time there. I mainly sleep and freshen up in the morning to go to the places or activities I have planned. At home, I live in a high-rise apartment building and I really enjoy the scenery and city view from my balcony.

## **PART 2**

**Describe a time when you got close to wild animals**

You should say:

- where it was
- what the animals were doing
- who you were with

and describe your feeling when seeing the wild animals

CANDIDATE: *Could you please explain the meaning of **wild**?*

EXAMINER: **Wild** means animals that live independently of people, you know, out in nature and not in people's home like cats and dogs.

CANDIDATE: Thank you.

## **PART 2: Model Answer**

Well, I am going to tell you about a time I saw wild deer.

Last summer I met up with some friends at a local café to relax and hang out for an evening. They were cycling enthusiasts that would, weather permitting, cycle to local villages and sites of interest most weekends. As they shared their stories, I found them interesting and asked frequent questions. Sensing my interest, they invited me along on the next trip to a nearby village.

During one trip, we were riding single file for safety, in case a car or truck needed to pass us. The leader raised his hand to signal stopping. He pointed to a bush and to my surprise and amazement he'd spotted two deer, a doe and a fawn, quietly grazing about 15 metres from where we stopped. They were very cute looking with brown fur with white spots. They had big ears that shot up straight. They were very graceful creatures and we enjoyed watching them.

We must've been upwind from them and as we were quiet, we didn't startle them. I was fascinated to watch them bending down to grab grass and raise their heads and chew. I was overwhelmed by their grace and beauty.

Unfortunately, we only got to watch them for just over five minutes before an automobile passed us and scared them off. I have rarely seen wild animals and I was delighted to observe the deer.

## **PART 3**

### ***Let's talk more about the weather***

#### **Q1: Can the weather have any impact on people's daily activities?**

CANDIDATE: *Are you asking me if the weather effects what activities people do?*

EXAMINER: **Yes, exactly.**

CANDIDATE: Of course, weather can have different impacts on one's daily routines. For example, I bicycle to work but during a rainstorm, I take public transportation. If the weather is too hot, cold or raining, people would be less inclined to go to parks and green areas and likely would participate in indoor activities to relax and chill-out like theaters and restaurants. Shopping habits could also change with outdoor markets losing business to shopping centres.

#### **Q2: Why do people do different kinds of sports in different seasons?**

CANDIDATE: *Could you please explain the meaning of seasons?*

EXAMINER: You know like **spring, summer, autumn, or winter.**

CANDIDATE: OK, great, Thanks. Well, where I grew up we had distinctive seasons where it would be hot in the summer and cold, with snow in the winter. Naturally, the weather would play a part in the sports that we would participate in based on the season. During the summer, we would enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, football and other fair-weather sports. During the winter, however we would ski and snowboard or move indoors and play sports such as badminton.

#### **Q3: What kind of weather do people in your country like most?**

CANDIDATE: Do you mean, what sort of weather is most popular?

EXAMINER: **Yes.**

CANDIDATE: Oh, in this case, I would say most people in my country enjoy dry and warm weather. They can enjoy outdoor activities such as hiking, fishing, exploring and sightseeing. You'll also see many people in the parks playing badminton, exercising to music or simply relaxing and enjoying the scenery. This type of weather is also beneficial for transportation options and many people will go sightseeing or visit their friends and family.

#### **Q4: Is the climate in your country changing?**

CANDIDATE: *Could you please repeat the question?*

EXAMINER: **Is the climate in your country changing?**

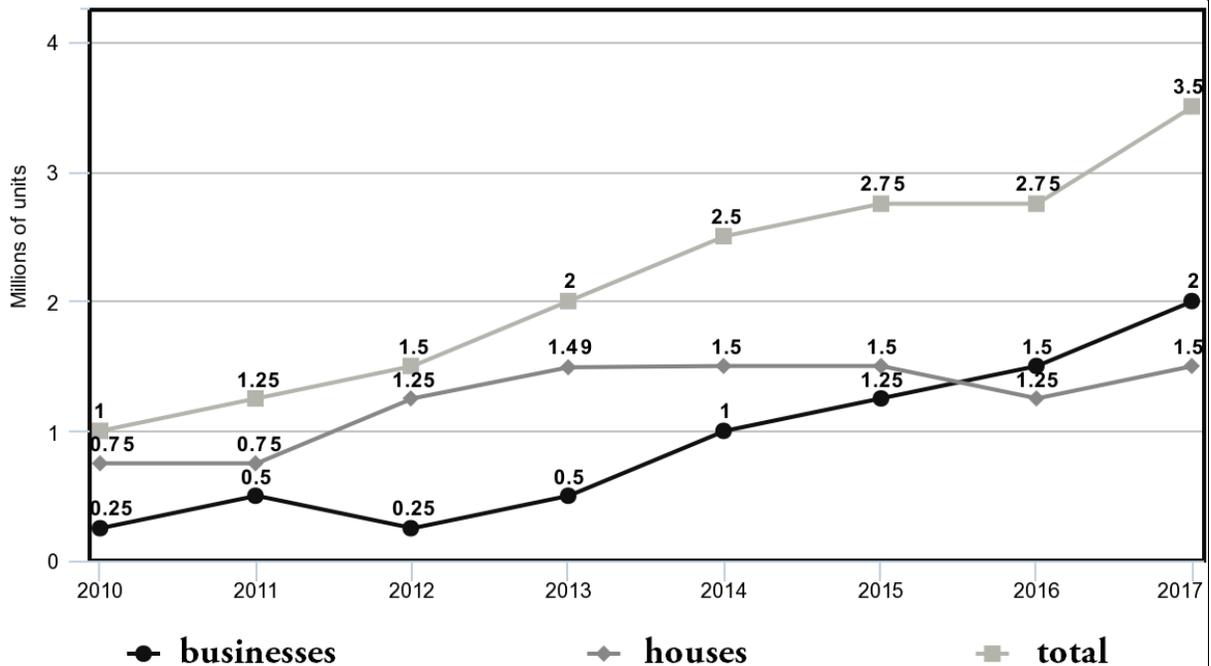
CANDIDATE: Thanks. We see in the news on a daily basis weather extremes and changes occurring around the world. My country is no exception. We seem to have a less precipitation during the rainy season and temperatures have become more extreme. Additionally, droughts and flooding in the rural areas have become more common. Has human activity contributed to climate change and what might be done to alleviate it are subjects of debate.

## WRITING

### Task one Change over time reports

In this section, you will learn about how to write reports with different time periods. Start by reading the model answer for the task below.

The graph below shows the amount of pollution from businesses and houses between 2010 and 2017, in New Zealand.



The graph shows how much pollution was made by companies and households in New Zealand (2010-2017).

**The line graph illustrates** the amount of pollutants produced in New Zealand from 2010 to 2017. **Overall**, the total amount of pollution increased and this trend was mirrored by the amount of pollution from both commercial and residential purposes.

**Total waste** started at 1 million units in 2010, and then increased throughout the period, except for a brief plateau at about 2.7 million throughout 2015. A sharp increase in units in the final year saw a rise to 3.5 million.

**Looking at toxic waste from residences**, it was 750 thousand units in 2010. Then, during the next three years, this doubled. The number flattened-out from 2013 to 2015 at 1.5 million, and then fluctuated at this level over the final two years finishing at 1.5 million.

**Turning to pollution from firms**, this started the period at 250 thousand units. Then, there was a fluctuation for two years. Subsequently, the number rose continually to reach 1.25 million by 2015. The pollution continued to rise and finished at 2 million by 2017.

### Exercise 1: Paraphrasing Keywords

1. graph		illustrates
2. shows		flattened-out
3. amount of		line graph
4. made		rose [verb phrase]
5. pollution		a rise [noun phrase]
6. companies		how much
7. households		firms
8. an increase		residences
9. increased		produced
10. plateau		pollutants

#### Answers

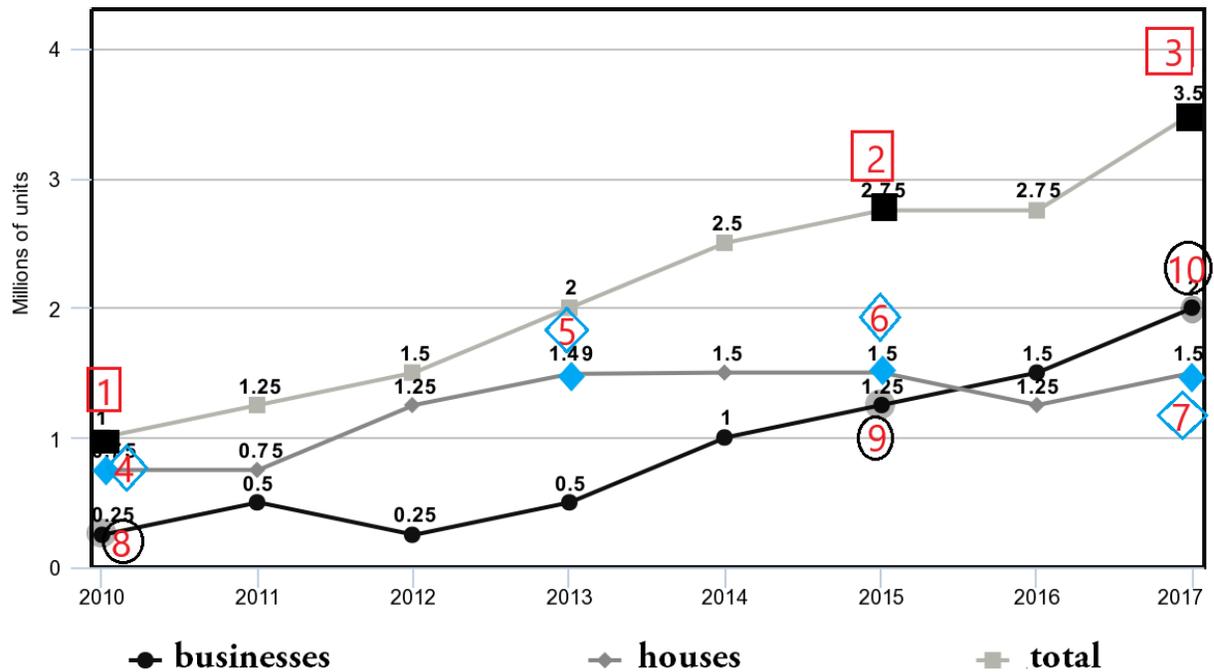
1. graph      line graph
2. shows      illustrates
3. amount of      how much
4. made      produced
5. pollution      pollutants
6. companies      firms
7. households      residences
8. an increase      a rise [noun phrase]
9. increased      rose [verb phrase]

10. plateau flattened-out

**Planning: Selecting key points for the report**

- beginning numbers
- ending numbers
- highest points
- lowest points
- period of fluctuation or stability

**Exercise 2: Match the key points to the correct place in the report**



1.	[A] The pollution continued to rise and finished at 2 million by 2017.
2.	[B] during the next three years, this doubled
3.	[C] The number flattened-out from 2013 to 2015 at 1.5 million
4.	[D] Total waste started at 1 million units in 2010
5.	[E] then fluctuated at this level over the final two years finishing at 1.5 million
6.	[F] Turning to pollution from firms, this started the period at 250 thousand units.
7.	[G] Looking at toxic waste from residences, it was 750 thousand units in 2010
8.	[H] the number rose continually to reach approximately 1.25 million by 2015
9.	[I] A sharp increase in units in the final year saw a rise to 3.5 million.
10.	[J] a brief plateau at about 2.7 million throughout 2015

## Answers

1.	[d] Total waste started at 1 million units in 2010
2.	[J] a brief plateau at about 2.7 million throughout 2015
3.	[I] A sharp increase in units in the final year saw a rise to 3.5 million.
4.	[G] Looking at toxic waste from residences, it was 750 thousand units in 2010
5.	[B] during the next three years, this doubled
6.	[C] The number flattened-out from 2013 to 2015 at 1.5 million
7.	[E] and then fluctuated at this level over the final two years finishing at 1.5 million
8.	[F] Turning to pollution from firms, this started the period at 250 thousand units.
9.	[H] the number rose continually reaching 1.25 million by 2015
10.	[A] The pollution continued to rise and finished at 2 million by 2017.

## Sentence structure

For a change over time task, you should use the past tense and you should try to modify nouns with adjectives and verbs with adverbs to improve the precision of your task, which will improve your score for *task response* as well as for *vocabulary*. Vary your sentence types to increase your score for grammar. Here are the two most common:

**1. adjective + NOUN:** was + adjective + NOUN

There was a slight INCREASE in the number of unemployed people.  
The amount of water ROSE dramatically.

**2. VERB + adverb:**

There was a dramatic RISE in the amount of water.  
The number of unemployed people INCREASED slightly.

**Exercise 3: Sentence structures:** choose between verb phrases and noun phrases below

The graph shows how much pollution was made by companies and households in New Zealand (2010-2017).

The line graph illustrates the amount of pollutants produced in New Zealand from 2010 to 2017. Overall, the total amount of pollution **[1] an increase/increased** and this trend was mirrored by the amount of pollution from both commercial and residential purposes.

Total waste started at 1 million units in 2010, and then **[2] an increase/increased** throughout the period, except for a brief plateau at about 2.7 million throughout 2015. **[3] A sharp increase/sharply increased** in units in the final year saw **[4] a rise/rose** to 3.5 million.

Looking at toxic waste from residences, it was 750 thousand units in 2010. Then, during the next three years, this **[5] a double/ doubled**. The number **[6] a flattening-out/flattened-out** from 2013 to 2015 at 1.5 million, and then a **[7] fluctuation/fluctuated** at this level over the final two years finishing at 1.5 million.

Turning to pollution from firms, this started the period at 250 thousand units. Then, there was a **[8] fluctuation/fluctuating** for two years. Subsequently, the number **[9] a rise/rose** continually to reach 1.25 million by 2015. The pollution continued to rise and **[10] a finish/finished** at 2 million by 2017.

**Answers**

1. increased
2. increased
3. a sharp increase
4. a rise
5. doubled
6. flattened out
7. fluctuated
8. fluctuation
9. rose
10. finished

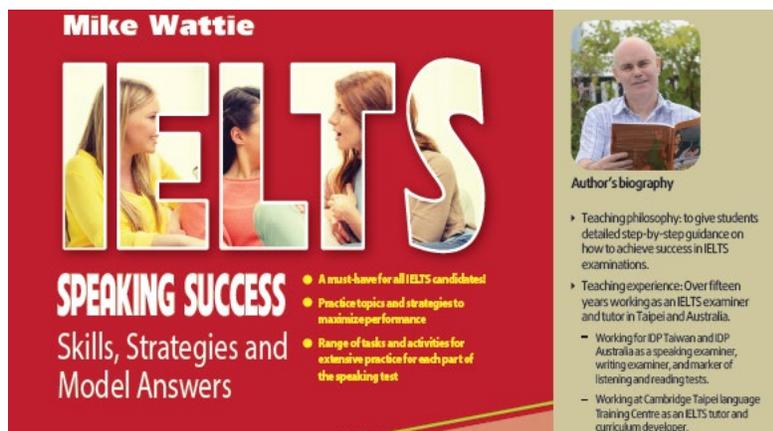
## Acknowledgements

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## Other books by this Author:

### IELTS SPEAKING SUCCESS

This IELTS speaking test book clearly explains the three different parts of the IELTS speaking exam. The different skills and strategies that are required for each part of the test are clearly identified and explained. As well as this, there are model answers for the common types of questions. This book also includes a section on ways to increase your score for grammar and vocabulary for common topics that are asked in the exam.



### COMPLETE IELTS WRITING

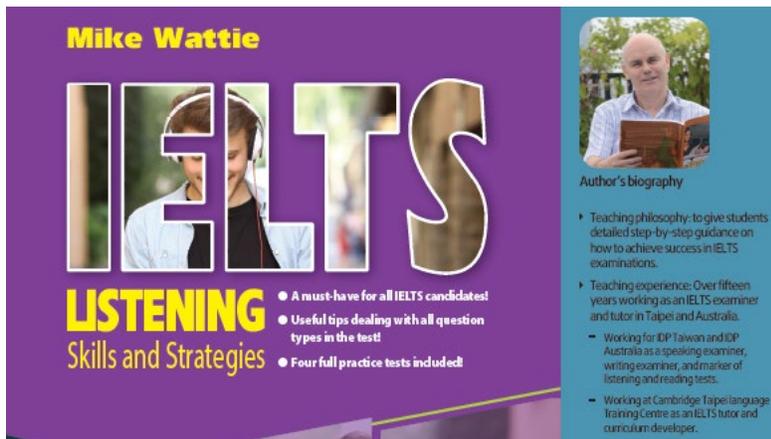
This book includes step-by-step instructions for Task 1 and 2 of the Academic and General IELTS test and it also comes with an offer for a free correction and feedback of a writing task. Learn all the skills and information you need to succeed with writing essays for the IELTS General or Academic Test. This book clearly explains the different types of questions that are asked for Task 1 and 2 of the IELTS Writing Test. Step-by-step instructions are given about how to write each type of report, letter and essay and common pitfalls are identified. As well as this, there are model answers for each of the types of questions. This book also includes a section on the grading criteria and ways to increase your score for common tasks that are asked in the test.

This section includes common errors with vocabulary and grammar, and also includes some useful vocabulary for a range of common topics.



## LISTENING SKILLS

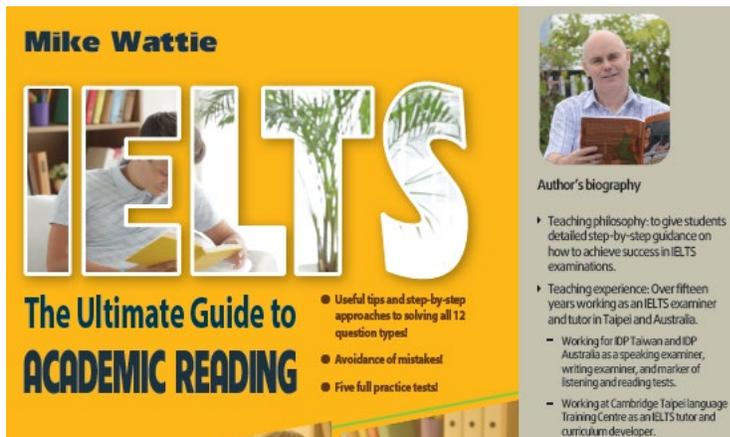
This book teaches you all the skills and strategies you need to know to pass the IELTS listening test. This book introduces all the question types commonly used in the IELTS exam and it also gives tips for dealing with them. Includes 4 full practice tests.



## IELTS ACADEMIC READING TEST

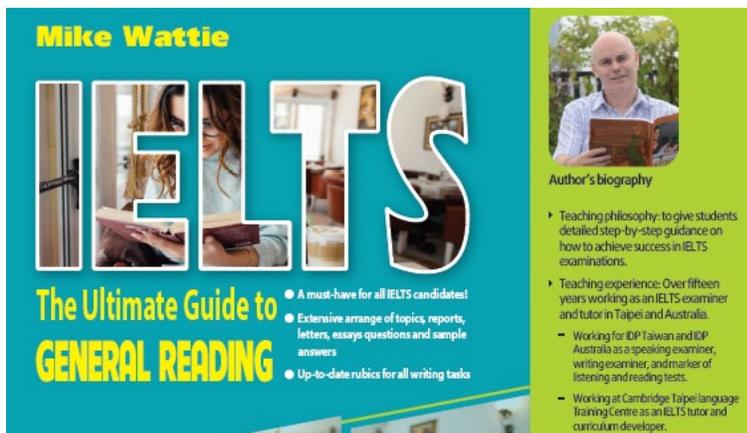
This book teaches you the skills and strategies you need to pass the IELTS reading test. All twelve question types commonly used in the IELTS exam are covered which include: matching headings; true, false, not given; diagrams; sentence completion; summary completion; multiple

choice; table completion; labelling flowcharts / processes; matching paragraph selection; yes, no, not given; short answers. It also includes five full practice tests. These tests use articles that accurately match the length and complexity of the real test, and uses a range of question types to ensure you are prepared to sit your real IELTS reading test.



### IELTS GENERAL READING TEST

This book teaches you the skills and strategies you need to pass the IELTS reading test. All twelve question types commonly used in the IELTS exam are covered which include: matching headings; true, false, not given; diagrams; sentence completion; summary completion; multiple choice; table completion; labelling flowcharts / processes; matching paragraph selection; yes, no, not given; short answers. It also includes five full practice tests. These tests use articles that accurately match the length and complexity of the real test, and uses a range of question types to ensure you are prepared to sit your real IELTS reading test.



**Useful Links:**

Writing correction service: <http://www.ieltsanswers.com/writing-correction-ielts.html>

Model answers: <http://www.ieltsanswers.com/ielts-writing-essay-questions.html>

Vocabulary: <http://www.ieltsanswers.com/writing-vocabulary.html>

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