

Writing Task 2 Checklist

OVERVIEW

First of all, well done!

A very small percentage of people actually get the scores they need in the IELTS test the first time. The average score for writing is just 5.5, so if you need a Band 7, you **need** to work hard to beat those odds.

Is this because the test is too difficult? No - it's because people simply never do the work required to become better writers.

If you are reading this document, it's because you have watched the video and completed the task at the end.

This means that you're already one step closer to writing a Band 7+ essay. *Well done!*

PURPOSE

This document will not give you 'the correct answer.' There is no 'right answer' when it comes to writing a good essay.

This document will:

1. Give you a checklist that you can apply to your own essay.
2. Show you a model answer that was produced using the practices we teach on our [5 Day Challenge](#).

CHECKLIST

Read the checklist and carefully apply each point to your own writing.

Take your time and **be critical of your response**.

If you *truly* want to see what your current level is, you **need** to be honest with yourself. The IELTS examiner won't spare your feelings when they mark your essay, so you definitely shouldn't when you mark your practice essays!

Scroll to the very bottom of the document to find out what's next.

Question Analysis

1. I understood the general topic of the question.
2. I identified the specific keywords in the question.
3. I understood the question words.

Idea Generation

1. I generated relevant and specific ideas.
2. I assessed my ideas and decided they could be used to make a reasonable argument that fully addresses all parts of the question.

Planning

1. I used the provided structure to plan my essay *before* I started writing.
2. I knew what I was going to write *before* I started writing.

Introduction

1. I paraphrased the question statement effectively.
 - a. My sentence means the same as the question statement.
 - b. My vocabulary is varied as much as possible.
 - c. My grammar is accurate.

2. Both of my main ideas are clearly outlined.

Main Body Paragraphs

1. My topic sentence matches the idea outlined in my introduction.
2. My topic sentence clearly tells the reader what the paragraph is about (my argument).
3. My explanation clearly explains my reasoning.
4. My example makes sense and provides evidence to support my argument.

Conclusion

1. I have used a cohesive device which is accurate and appropriate.
2. My main arguments and reasoning are clear and well summarised.

Grammar and Vocabulary

1. I have used grammar and vocabulary in a way that makes my writing clear, rather than trying to show off.
2. I have varied my vocabulary as much as possible.
3. I have used a range of complex and simple sentences.
4. I have proofread every sentence more than once.
5. I have fixed any linguistic errors.

Coherence and Cohesion

1. All of my cohesive devices are appropriate AND accurate.
2. I have used paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately.

If you can say 'yes' to most of the options above, you are well on your way to writing a Band 7+ essay - well done!

See below for a sample answer from someone who was able to say 'yes' to ALL of the points above.

SAMPLE ANSWER

Nowadays, young people tend to spend more time with their friends than with their families. This change has taken place due to the smaller numbers of people living in each house these days and parents shouldn't force their children to stay at home as this would not foster good relationships within the family.

Young people spend more of their free time with their friends because they generally have fewer family members. Today, a person has to look outside the family unit for someone to interact with as most households are made up of small nuclear families, which is in stark contrast to the past when many siblings, cousins and grandparents all lived together. This inevitably leads to them developing closer relationships with non-family and choosing to enjoy their leisure time outside of the home. For example, in Britain, the number of members per household has decreased by around half in the last 50 years.

It is not advisable for a mother or father to oblige their son or daughter to spend more time with them as this will not create a situation where the family bond well with each other. If young adults feel that they have to stay at home under duress, they will be in a bad mood as they don't have enough control over their lives and they will not enjoy any interactions they have with their parents. For instance, a recent article in the Huffington Post argued that it is the quality of time rather than the quantity that ensures a good parent-child relationship.

In conclusion, young people are spending a greater amount of time with their friends than with their families because there is little company available and parents should not force their children to do otherwise because this would damage their relationship rather than improve it.

NEXT STEPS

If you found this task and checklist useful, you should sign up for my 5 Day Writing Challenge >> [here](#) <<

When you sign up to this free course, I'll send you my exclusive Task 2 video lessons straight to your email inbox.

Each video will have a homework task set at the end; once you complete it, we'll send you a feedback document just like this one. This means that you'll be able to improve every aspect of your essay writing skills - without paying for an IELTS teacher!

To learn more about this FREE course, click this link >>

<http://bit.ly/2yvSN2h>

However, if you want me to personally correct & give feedback on your essays, you can email me here:

chris@ieltsadvantage.com

My team answers every email we get within 24 hours and they're always happy to help!

Chris