

IELTS Writing Task 2

3 themes to practise before your test

Ideas, vocabulary and a full model answer for each theme.

01 AI and Technology

02 Environment

03 Education

BEFORE YOU START

How to approach Task 2

250

minimum words

~40 min

suggested time

2x

Task 2 counts more than Task 1

What examiners look at

Task Response	Did you answer every part of the question, with a clear opinion and developed ideas?
Coherence and Cohesion	Is the essay logically organised, with clear paragraphs and smooth linking?
Lexical Resource	Is your vocabulary precise, varied and used correctly?
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Do you use a mix of sentence structures with few errors?

A reliable 4-paragraph structure

Introduction	Paraphrase the question in your own words, then state your opinion in one sentence.
Body 1	Explain the first view: point, reason, example.
Body 2	Explain the second view: point, reason, example. Show which side you find stronger.
Conclusion	Restate your opinion with different words. Add no new ideas.

Linking phrases worth using

To begin with	Furthermore	Moreover
However	On the other hand	For instance
As a result	Consequently	In conclusion

Please note: these themes come up often in IELTS Writing, but no one can know the exact question in advance. Use this guide to build ideas and vocabulary, not to memorise answers. Examiners reward a response that answers the question you actually get.

THEME 01

AI and Technology

QUESTION YOU MAY SEE

The use of AI in education is growing rapidly. Some people think AI will replace teachers, while others believe teachers will always be needed. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Question type: Discuss both views and give your opinion

Ideas bank

View 1: AI can replace teachers

- Personalised learning at each student's pace
- Instant feedback, available at any hour
- Reaches remote areas with few qualified teachers
- Handles routine work such as marking and repeat practice
- Can lower the cost of education

View 2: Teachers will always be needed

- Motivation and emotional support
- Mentoring, values and social skills
- Classroom discussion builds critical thinking
- AI can give inaccurate answers
- Over-reliance may weaken independent thinking

YOUR POSITION

AI will be a powerful assistant, but it will complement teachers rather than replace them.

Vocabulary to use

personalised learning	adaptive platforms	instant feedback
round-the-clock access	routine tasks	human touch
emotional intelligence	critical thinking	complement, not replace
over-reliance on technology	narrow the gap	digital divide

THEME 01 | MODEL ANSWER

AI and Technology

About 230 words. Use it to learn the structure, then write your own.

INTRODUCTION

Artificial intelligence is spreading rapidly through classrooms, and some people predict that human teachers will eventually become unnecessary. Although AI offers genuine benefits, I believe it will support teachers rather than replace them.

BODY 1

Those who think AI could replace teachers point mainly to personalisation and access. Adaptive learning platforms identify each student's weak areas, provide instant feedback and allow learners to study at any hour, something a teacher with forty students cannot realistically offer. For example, a student struggling with algebra can repeat practice questions many times and receive explanations immediately, without feeling embarrassed in front of classmates. Moreover, AI can bring quality instruction to remote regions where qualified teachers are scarce.

BODY 2

However, I believe teachers will remain essential because education is about more than delivering information. A good teacher motivates a discouraged student, notices emotional difficulties and guides classroom discussion, which develops critical thinking and social skills. For instance, a teacher who senses that a pupil is anxious before exams can offer reassurance and adjust the approach, something software cannot genuinely do. Machines can also produce inaccurate answers, and students who rely on them excessively may stop thinking independently.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, AI will transform how lessons are delivered, but it cannot replicate the empathy and mentoring of a teacher. The most effective approach is for schools to use AI as a tool that complements teachers rather than replaces them.

Try this yourself

Set a 40-minute timer and write your own answer to the question on the previous page. Take the opposite opinion this time (for example, AI should largely replace teachers) and see how your ideas change.

THEME 02

Environment

QUESTION YOU MAY SEE

Some people believe individual effort is enough to protect the environment, while others think governments and large companies must take responsibility. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Question type: Discuss both views and give your opinion

Ideas bank

View 1: Individuals are enough

- Daily habits add up: less waste, recycling, saving energy
- Consumer choices shape what companies produce
- Using public transport lowers a person's carbon footprint
- People set an example in family and community
- Raises awareness quickly

View 2: Governments and companies must lead

- Industry and power generation produce a large share of emissions
- Only governments can pass laws, carbon taxes and penalties
- Green choices need infrastructure, such as public transport
- Companies have the funds to invest in clean energy
- Large-scale change needs systems, not just habits

YOUR POSITION

Individual effort matters, but lasting change depends on governments and large companies taking the greater responsibility.

Vocabulary to use

carbon footprint	greenhouse gas emissions	renewable energy
stringent regulations	carbon tax	sustainable practices
eco-friendly alternatives	corporate responsibility	collective action
fossil fuels	raise awareness	hold polluters accountable

THEME 02 | MODEL ANSWER

Environment

About 231 words. Use it to learn the structure, then write your own.

INTRODUCTION

Environmental damage has become a major global concern. While some argue that ordinary people can protect the planet through their own choices, others believe governments and large corporations must take the lead. In my opinion, individual effort is valuable, but it cannot succeed without strong action from authorities and businesses.

BODY 1

Supporters of individual responsibility argue that everyday habits add up. People who reduce waste, recycle, conserve electricity and use public transport lower their carbon footprint, and their choices influence what companies produce. For example, growing demand for products without plastic packaging has encouraged some brands to redesign their packaging. Individuals can also set an example in their families and communities, which helps to spread awareness.

BODY 2

Nevertheless, the scale of the problem requires action beyond personal habits. Industry and power generation are responsible for a large share of greenhouse gas emissions, and only governments can introduce regulations, carbon taxes or penalties that force polluters to change. Furthermore, individuals can only make green choices when those choices exist; commuters cannot use public transport if it has never been built. Companies, meanwhile, have the resources to invest in renewable energy and cleaner production methods.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, personal efforts raise awareness and reduce waste, but lasting change depends on governments and corporations accepting responsibility. Environmental protection is therefore best treated as a shared duty, with the greatest burden placed on those with the most power.

Try this yourself

Rewrite the introduction two different ways: once agreeing mainly with individual responsibility, and once agreeing mainly with government action. Notice how only your thesis sentence needs to change.

THEME 03

Education

QUESTION YOU MAY SEE

Some people think schools should focus only on academic subjects, while others believe students should also be taught life skills such as financial management, time management and digital literacy. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Question type: Discuss both views and give your opinion

Ideas bank

View 1: Academics only

- School time is limited
- Strong foundation in maths, science and languages
- Exams and university admission depend on academic results
- Life skills can be learned at home or through experience
- Teachers are trained in subjects, not personal finance

View 2: Life skills as well

- Prepares students for real adult life
- Budgeting helps people avoid debt
- Time management reduces procrastination and stress
- Digital literacy helps spot misinformation and protect privacy
- Employers value practical skills

YOUR POSITION

Academic subjects should remain the core, but schools should also teach life skills in a balanced curriculum.

Vocabulary to use

academic curriculum	well-rounded individuals	practical skills
financial literacy	budgeting	procrastination
misinformation	online safety	real-world challenges
employability	holistic development	integrate into lessons

THEME 03 | MODEL ANSWER

Education

About 236 words. Use it to learn the structure, then write your own.

INTRODUCTION

Traditionally, schools have concentrated on academic subjects such as mathematics, science and languages. Today, however, many people argue that students should also learn practical skills like budgeting, time management and digital literacy. I agree that these skills deserve a place in the curriculum, provided that academic standards are not compromised.

BODY 1

Those who favour a purely academic curriculum argue that school time is limited and should be devoted to subjects that build a strong intellectual foundation. Mastery of mathematics, science and language is essential for university admission and for many careers. Furthermore, they believe that life skills are better learned at home or through experience, and that teachers are trained to teach subjects rather than personal finance.

BODY 2

On the other hand, I believe life skills are equally important because academic success alone does not prepare young people for adult life. A graduate who has never learned to budget may fall into debt, while a student who cannot manage time is likely to procrastinate and feel stressed. Digital literacy is similarly vital, as it helps teenagers recognise misinformation and protect their privacy online. These skills can be taught through short, practical lessons or integrated into existing subjects, so academic content need not suffer.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, academic subjects remain the core of education, but schools also have a duty to prepare students for real life. A balanced curriculum that integrates life skills would produce more capable and confident adults.

Try this yourself

Choose one life skill and add a specific example to Body 2, such as a maths lesson that uses a real monthly budget. Concrete examples are what turn a general idea into a developed one.

AVOID THESE

Common Task 2 mistakes

MISTAKE	HOW TO FIX IT
Giving both views but no opinion	When the question says "give your opinion", state it in the introduction and repeat it in the conclusion.
Changing your opinion halfway	Pick a position before you write. Keep it consistent from start to finish.
Using a memorised template or answer	If it does not fit the question, it can go off-topic. Write fresh sentences using ideas you have practised.
Ideas without explanation or example	Follow point, reason, example in each body paragraph.
Using difficult words incorrectly	Precise, correct vocabulary beats fancy words. Use only words you can control.
Repeating the same words	Paraphrase: teachers / educators / instructors; environment / planet / natural world.
Informal language	Avoid contractions and phrases like "a lot of", "kids" and "stuff".
Writing fewer than 250 words	Aim for roughly 260 to 290 words so you stay safely above the minimum.
No planning	Spend about 5 minutes on your plan, write for about 30, and keep 5 to check grammar and spelling.

PRACTISE LIKE IT IS THE REAL TEST

Done reading? Time to practise.

Writing the three model themes is a strong start. Gurully is an AI-powered practice platform for IELTS: try an exam-like mock test and see where you stand.

Take a free IELTS mock test: gurully.com/ielts