

# 50 most frequent topics

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I have searched the web for the most frequent topic questions in IELTS writing from 2010 onward and found the following list of 50 questions. These questions are based on the **IELTS Academic Writing Task 2**, which requires you to write an essay of at least 250 words on a given topic. The questions are grouped by the type of essay: opinion, discussion, problem-solution, or advantage-disadvantage.

## Opinion Essay Questions

- Some people think that the best way to reduce crime is to give longer prison sentences. Others, however, believe there are better alternative ways of reducing crime. Discuss both views and give your opinion.
- Some people think that the only purpose of working hard is to earn money. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
- Some people think that it is better to educate boys and girls in separate schools. Others, however, believe that boys and girls benefit more from attending mixed schools. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Some people think that a sense of competition in children should be encouraged. Others believe that children who are taught to co-operate rather than compete become more useful adults. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Some people think that the government should pay one of the parents of very young children to stay at home to look after their children. What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of this policy?
- Some people think that the main factors influencing a child's development these days are things such as television, friends, and music. Others believe that the family still remains more important. Discuss both opinions and give your opinion.
- Some people think that success is the best measure of intelligence, while others think that intelligence can be measured in other ways. What is your opinion?
- Some people think that human needs for farmland, housing, and industry are more important than saving land for endangered animals. Do you agree or disagree with this point of view? Why or why not?
- Some people think that strict punishments for driving offences are the key to reducing traffic accidents. Others, however, believe that other measures would be more effective in improving road safety. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Some people think that the best way to increase road safety is to increase the minimum legal age for driving cars or riding motorbikes. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

## Discussion Essay Questions

- Some people say that the education system is the only critical factor in the development of a country. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?
- Some people say that the best way to improve public health is by increasing the number of sports facilities. Others, however, say that this would have little effect on public health and that other measures are required. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Some people say that advertising encourages us to buy things we really do not need. Others say that advertisements tell us about new products that may improve our lives. Which viewpoint do you agree with?
- Some people say that the Internet is making the world smaller by bringing people together. To what extent do you agree that the Internet is making it easier for people to communicate with one another?
- Some people say that in all levels of education, from primary schools to universities, too much time is spent on learning facts and not enough on learning practical skills. Do you agree or disagree?
- Some people say that music is a good way of bringing people of different cultures and ages together. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
- Some people say that art is an essential part of their lives and that it helps them express their

emotions and feelings. Others say that art is a waste of time and that people should focus on more practical activities. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

- Some people say that the only reason for learning a foreign language is in order to travel to or work in a foreign country. Others say that these are not the only reasons why someone should learn a foreign language. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Some people say that environmental problems are too big for individuals to solve. They believe that only governments and large companies can make a difference. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?
- Some people say that the best way to improve public transport is to increase the price of petrol (gasoline) for cars. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

### **Problem-Solution Essay Questions**

- In many countries, the amount of crime is increasing. What do you think are the main causes of crime? How can we deal with those causes?
- In many countries, people are having health problems because they choose to live a unhealthy lifestyle. What are the reasons for this? What can be done to solve this problem?
- In many countries, the number of animals and plants are declining. Why do you think this is happening? What can be done to protect the endangered animals and plants?
- In many countries, people are living longer but increased life expectancy has many implications for the aging individuals and for society as a whole. What are the possible effects of longer living for individuals and society? Suggest some measures that could be taken to reduce the impact of ageing populations.
- In many countries, there is a problem with declining quality of air and water from both industry and construction. What measures could be taken to prevent this?
- In many countries, children are engaged in some kind of paid work. Some people regard this as completely wrong, while others consider it as valuable work experience, important for learning and taking responsibility. What are your opinions on this?
- In many countries, schools have severe problems with student behaviour. What do you think are the causes of this? What solutions can you suggest?
- In many countries, a small number of people earn extremely high salaries. Some people believe that this is good for the country, but others think that governments should not allow salaries above a certain level. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- In many countries, young people are finding it harder and harder to find permanent jobs. Why is this? What can be done to improve the situation?
- In many countries, people are moving away from rural areas and towards urban areas. Why do you think that is? What problems can this cause?

### **Advantage-Disadvantage Essay Questions**

- Nowadays many people have access to computers on a wide basis and a large number of children play computer games. What are the positive and negative impacts of playing computer games and what can be done to minimize the bad effects?
- Nowadays many people choose to be self-employed, rather than to work for a company or organisation. Why might this be the case? What are the advantages and disadvantages of being self-employed?
- Nowadays many people go shopping in their free time. Shopping has replaced many other activities that people choose as their hobby. What are the reasons for this? Is this a positive or negative development?
- Nowadays many people work part-time or full-time from home. Some people say that working from home has many benefits while others disagree. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.
- Nowadays many young people leave home at an early age to either study or work in another city. Do you think this has more advantages or disadvantages for the young people?
- Nowadays the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology. In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make? Has this become a positive or negative development?
- Nowadays, more and more older people who need employment compete with the younger people for the same jobs. What problems does this cause? What are some possible solutions?

- Nowadays, some workplaces tend to employ equal numbers of men and women workers. Do you think it is a positive or negative development?
- Nowadays, the way many people interact with their friends and families has changed because of social media. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this trend?
- Nowadays, there is a trend that reports of media focus on problems and emergencies rather than positive developments. Some people think it is harmful to individuals and to society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?