

Task 2 Understanding questions

- 1 Task 2 questions contain a general subject and often include a specific **organizing word** to help you organize your essay. In each group a–d below, which **organizing word** has a different meaning from the other two?
- a advantages drawbacks benefits
 - b measures steps reasons
 - c causes effects consequences
 - d disadvantages drawbacks solutions
- 2 Complete each Task 2 question below with **organizing words** from the box. You may use each item more than once.

agree or disagree advantages disadvantages causes
solutions measures benefits

- a What are the benefits of learning skills in the modern world?
 - b Any attempts to preserve the natural world will always hinder economic development. The benefits will however far outweigh the Do you ?
 - c What are the and of taking a year off between school and university?
 - d Students should be trained on how to cope with change in the modern world. How far do you ?
 - e Volunteer work with disadvantaged groups like underprivileged children is the best way for young people to learn about the real world. What are the of such work?
 - f Every day, animals are becoming extinct throughout the world. What do you think the of this are? What can you suggest?
 - g Overcrowding in large cities has always been a problem, but with populations around the world about to double, the social problems are certain to multiply. What can you suggest to control the problems?
- 3 How many parts are there in each question in 2? For example, (a) has one part. If there are two or three parts, how are they related?



Expressing solutions

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4 Change is more rapid in the modern world than it was in the past. Number each category below 1–5 according to how rapidly each is changing in your opinion (1 = most rapid; 5 = least rapid). Think of an example of rapid change for each category.

- Work Technology Travel Communication Health

5 Look at the Task 2 question below and answer the questions.

Task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic.

More and more people claim that modern work patterns are a source of stress. What do you think are the causes of this? Can you suggest some possible solutions?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

- a Which part of the question states a problem?
b Which two words in the question are important for the organization of your answer?

6 Read the conversation between two students discussing the problem of stress at work. Which part of the question in 5 are they answering? What solutions and results do they suggest?

Shen: How do you think people can deal with their stressful lives, especially at work?
Tina: Firstly, I think employers should encourage workers to relax.
Shen: How?
Tina: Well, in some companies, gym facilities or massage therapies are available.
Shen: Massage?
Tina: Yes. If you help your employees to relax, this improves their efficiency and production.
Shen: Are there other solutions?
Tina: Of course. Employees could be trained in how to plan their time more effectively. One way is to stop people taking work home. And then the workplace will become a lot happier.

7 This paragraph suggests a solution to the Task 2 question in 5. Complete each gap with the phrases in a–f for presenting solutions, examples, and results.

1 for employers to encourage workers to relax.
2 , in some companies, gym facilities or massage therapies are available. 3 , this improves their efficiency and production. 4 train employees in how to plan their time more effectively,
5 , by stopping people taking work home.
6 , the workplace will become a lot happier.

- a A further step is to
b for example
c I think the most obvious solution is
d As a result
e By doing this
f For instance

Technique
Identify the type of question. For cause/solution question types, include both and give reasons and examples. Organize your idea into an appropriate paragraph structure using linking words.

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8 There are several ways to express solutions. *Should* is used for strong suggestions; *could* is used for possible suggestions. Other phrases can also be used to express solutions. Read the examples from 6 and 7 on page 10. Then rewrite the sentences in a–f.

Examples

Employers should encourage workers to relax.

I think the most obvious solution is *for employers to encourage* workers to relax.

Employees *could be trained* in how to plan their time more effectively.

A further step is *to train employees* in how to plan their time more effectively.

- a I think the most obvious solution is to encourage people to exercise more.
 People should
- b The obvious answer is to reduce the number of working hours.
 The number of working hours
- c The government could provide each employee with their own computer.
 One possibility is
- d One option is to persuade parents to spend more time with their children.
 Parents could
- e A good idea is to restrict the number of cars coming into cities.
 The number of cars coming into cities
- f The government should build more skyscrapers to solve the problem.
 A good idea is

9 Which problems of modern life do the sentences in 8 refer to?

overcrowding traffic congestion obesity
 lack of discipline stress technology

10 Use the following phrases to add results to the solutions above. Use your own ideas and words.

Example

a I think the most obvious solution is to encourage people to exercise more.

By doing this, they would lose weight and would feel better generally.

As a result, This would enable/help them to This would lead to
 This means that they would By doing this, Consequently,

Linking phrases

- 11 **Linking phrases** mark the functions of other sentences and phrases, such as solutions, results, and examples. Match each **linking phrase** with the correct **function**.

addition *and* purpose

condition reason

example result

and consequently,
 and so since for instance,
 because in order to
 therefore, if furthermore,
 as a result, for example,

Using trigger words

- 12 Read the paragraph from a Task 2 essay on overcrowded cities and find the **linking phrases** which match these functions.

Reason Result Example Solution

Many cities in the world have now become very overcrowded because people are migrating in from the countryside in search of work. As a result, facilities like water supplies and public transport cannot cope with the demands from increased numbers of people, and so they are under severe strain. The obvious answer is to encourage the creation of jobs outside the cities. For example, we could encourage certain businesses to set up branches in rural areas.

- 13 **Linking phrases** can be used to trigger ideas because they mark functions. When you plan a Task 2 answer, write down some **trigger words** to help you develop your basic idea. Use the **trigger words** below to develop the ideas given.

A

If people migrate to cities, they become

And so

And as a result

A good idea would be to

By doing this,

B

People spend too much time watching TV.

For example,

Consequently,

If, then

This will lead to

C

The development of tourism often creates resentment among local people because

For example,

The obvious answer is to

Furthermore,