Recipe for Successful Essay Writing to Pass Your Exam

"Your direct path to a brighter future"

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Successful Essay writing

General and Academic Writing Guide

How this book will help me achieve my score?

Examinations can make even the most prolific and competent English user nervous. I have taught doctors, nurses, engineers, lawyers even priests how to pass the IELTS/PTE test and on the surface, they all spoke English well and had undertaken Master's and Bachelor's degrees in Western speaking countries with successful results.

This book will detail all of the ingredients needed in the IELTS/PTE Essay writing component of the exam

How to use this eBook?

Read this eBook and make sure you have a thorough understanding of the concepts presented. Once you have read the book then it is up to you to practice. I always tell my students that studying for the exam is similar to getting fit or losing weight and I am the gym instructor. I can tell you to get up at 6am, go for 4 kilometre run and even come with you. But at the end of the day, it is hard work and not everyone will do it.

Also, those few people who do follow the instructions may start to feel pain in your legs. Perhaps you are tired and you are not seeing any results and this is when most people give up. But for those who train and continue to follow the same run every day, after a few weeks they start to feel strong and can see and feel results.

IELTS/PTE is the same. I have witnessed and taught students from 5.5 – 9 in writing by teaching them exactly what this book will teach you. With the right dedication and the correct information, YOU CAN REACH YOUR SCORE! You just need to commit and do the work. Try to enjoy your learning and soon you will be receiving the rewards like thousands of others around the world living their dream.

What do I need to know?

Firstly, you need to know what the examiner or computer is looking for and what your weak areas are. Only then can you improve.

How is my essay marked?

Most people know the essay task is assessed in the following four areas: **Task Response, Coherency and Cohesion, Lexical Resource and Grammar.** But what most people don't **know** is what exactly are these four areas and how to achieve our desired band score for each of the criteria.

What exactly is Task Response?

In the IELTS/PTE Essay writing exam you must write a 200-250 word essay. There are essentially four types of questions. They are:

1. Agree or Disagree (Your opinion)
2. Advantages / Disadvantages
3. Discussion
4. Cause and Effect/ Solutions

This all seems deceptively simple but sometimes there can be a combination of two types. For example, 'Discuss both sides and give your opinion' OR 'Do you think there are more advantages than disadvantages?' However, there is a logical approach to ALL four of them.

How do I structure different essay correctly?

All four essays need an introduction, 2c4 body paragraphs and a conclusion.

Agree / Disagree (opinion)	Advantages / Disadvantages	Discussion	Cause and Effect / Solutions

INTRODUCTION	INTRODUCTION	INTRODUCTION	INTRODUCTION
BODY	BODY	BODY	BODY
BODY	BODY	BODY	BODY
CONCLUSION	CONCLUSION	CONCLUSION	CONCLUSION

One of the most commonly asked question by IELTS/PTE students regarding structure is 'Should I put my opinion in the introduction?' And the answer is, the information you put in the introduction and the **conclusion changes depending on the type of question**. They can be **similar** but slightly different at the same time and these slight differences can make a huge difference to your score. Let's look at each question type individually while using the same topic question.

TASK RESPONSE – WRITING INTRODUCTIONS

QUESTION TYPE ONE: Introduction for agree/ Disagree   (opinion) essay

Computers are being used in society on a daily basis. Some people say that schools need to spend more time on teaching kids to use technology. (Topic question) Do you agree or disagree? (Question type)

Example
Nowadays children are spending a substantial amount of time on computers. In today's society it is absolutely necessary for kids to be able to use technological devices. However, I believe too much time spent in front of the computer screen has negative ramifications.

OR

I believe spending a lot of time on computers prepares young children for the competitive Workforce in the future.

TIP: 3 sentences ONLY for an introduction.   Let's look at each sentence in detail

Sentence one: write a 'hook' sentence. A hook sentence is a general statement about the question topic. Keep it simple and generic. Don't spend too much time on this sentence, as you need to make sure you have enough time to write a conclusion but try to use interesting vocabulary.

Also, if you have time you can always come back and improve your 'hook'. Remember, it is the very first sentence the examiner will read (besides your letter) so it is important to make it grammatically correct in order to make a good first impression. It is easy to keep a good impression strong but if you make a lot of mistakes in your first sentence then you will have to work extra hard in your essay to get the examiner to increase your score.

Sentence two: write one sentence explaining the situation in society **now.**   This sentence **should** be a little closer to the question topic but not disclose your opinion.

Sentence three: give you opinion directly. Don't use memorized sentences or cliché **statements** such as, 'although the subject has been debated… in my opinion, I agree with the statement.' These statements have been read a million times by the examiner and will not impress them. It looks like you have memorized some simple statements and does not show you 'real level of English'. Simply state what you think, say 'I believe…' and say exactly what you believe.

QUESTION TYPE TWO: Introduction for Advantages / Disadvantages

Computers are being used in society on a daily basis. Some people say that schools need to spend more time on teaching kids to use technology. (Topic question) What are the advantages and disadvantages? (Question type)

Example

Nowadays children are spending a substantial amount of time on computers. Being able to use a computer competently prepares children for the competitive workforce. However, spending hours in front of a computer screen possibly causes health related issues later in life.

Sentence one: write a 'hook' sentence. You may notice that the 'hook' in the advantages / disadvantages question type is the same as agree / disagree (opinion). This is correct. You must always have a 'hook'. That is a general statement introducing the topic.

Sentence two: write one sentence outlining one advantage.

Sentence three: write one sentence outlining a disadvantage.

NOTE: Do not state your opinion in the introduction unless the question type says, *Do you* think *there are more advantages than disadvantages of using a computer every day?*

In this case you can combine the advantage and disadvantage into one sentence and indirectly state your opinion. Therefore you can use only two sentences. The important language to use in this case is 'outweighs'.
Example

I believe the possible health related issues caused from using a computer daily outweighs the benefits of preparing children for the competitive workforce.

OR

I believe preparing children for the competitive workforce outweighs the drawbacks of possible health related issues later in life.

QUESTION TYPE THREE: Introduction for Discussion

Computers are being used in society on a daily basis. Some people say that schools need to spend more time on teaching kids to use technology while others say that more time needs to be spent of physical activity (Topic question)

Discuss both sides of the argument (Question type)

Example

Nowadays children are spending a substantial amount of time on computers. Being able to use a computer competently prepares children for the competitive workforce. But, children need to balance their time on the computer with physical sports to stay healthy.

Sentence one: just a 'hook'

Sentence two: write one sentence supporting one side.

Sentence three: write one sentence supporting the opposite side.

As you can see in the structure for a discussion question type, the introduction is similar to advantages and disadvantages so NOTE the following.

NOTE: Do not state your opinion in the introduction unless the question type says, discuss both *sides and give your opinion.*

In this case you should indirectly state your opinion. The important language to use in this case is 'unfortunately' and 'undoubtedly.'

Example

Undoubtedly being able to use a computer competently prepares children for the competitive workforce. But, unfortunately children need to balance their time on the computer with physical sports to stay healthy.

In this example the writer is leaning towards more computer use and although they don't say physical activity is a bad idea, it unfortunately is taking time away from computer studies.
OR

Unfortunately, being able to use a computer competently is necessary for children in a competitive workforce and children undoubtedly need to balance their time on the computer with physical sports to stay healthy.

In this example the writer is leaning towards more physical activity and although they don't say computer studies is a bad idea, it unfortunately is taking time away from exercise.

You don't have to use 'I believe' in this question type. You can make your opinion more direct in the conclusion.

QUESTION TYPE FOUR: Cause and Effect / Solutions

Computers are being used in society on a daily basis. Some people say that schools need to spend more time on teaching kids to use technology. (Topic question) What are some of the reasons we need computers in today's society? (Causes) What are some negative and positive effects on today's teenagers? (Effects)

Example

Nowadays children are spending a substantial amount of time on computers. Computers can be used for banking, researching assignments, shopping even finding long lost relatives. I believe using technological devices prepares children for the competitive workforce even though it may also cause health related issues later in life.

Sentence one: Write a 'hook.'

Sentence two: write 3 or 4 things that could be possible causes or reasons people use computers.

Sentence three: write one sentence outlining a positive and a negative effect.

You can use 'I believe' in this question type because the reasons and affects you are writing about come from your perspective.

Summary to writing introductions – 5 points to remember

1. No more than 3 sentences
2. Always have a hook
3. Make the hook simple and grammatically correct to impress the examiner
4. Don't use clichés or long memorized sentences
5. Make sure you read the question type carefully and follow the correct structure

TASK RESPONSE – WRITING BODY PARAGRAPHS

What is in a body paragraph?

A body paragraph has a job to do. You must present an idea, extend the idea and support it with examples, extension and explanations.
Some common mistakes

Here is a list of the common mistakes students make

1. Write a very confusing topic sentence. These are called run-on sentences.

Example

Using computers everyday may lead to poor eyesight, which is important for teenagers when They start work to interact with people in their job when they finish high school.

2. Write over-generalized arguments. These are sometimes called slippery slope arguments.

Example

Using computers everyday leads to blindness. OR *Watching violence on computer games forces kids to kill when they grow up.*

Try to use passive voice when it is not necessary

Example

People's eyesight is affected by using computers.

How to write a body paragraph?

The body paragraph needs to present an idea and support it with examples from your experience and knowledge. It should be approximately 4 - 5 sentences in length.

Sentence 0ne: Write a **t**opic sentence. Everybody paragraph must have a topic sentence.   IELTS/PTE examiners and computers are trained and programmed to look for them so make sure you have it. A topic sentence needs two things, the **topic** and **your idea.** Just remember:

$$TS = T + I$$

Example

Using computers every day for long periods of time can contribute to the obesity epidemic.

The topic is 'using computers' and my idea is 'obesity.'

OR

Using computers every day for long periods of time can cause eye damage.

What is the topic? _____

 What is my idea? _____

As you can see both the topic and my idea are clear to the reader.

Look at the following topic sentences and underline the topic and circle the idea.

1. Logging on to the Internet on a daily basis can help students to learn about the world.

2. Undertaking volunteer work can help teenagers learn about caring for other people.

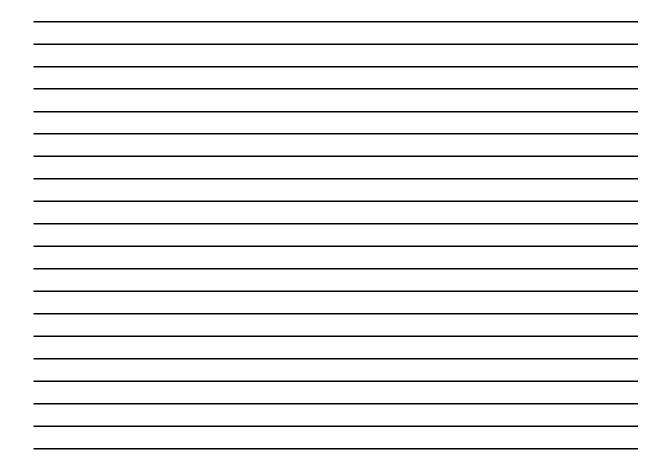3. Doing unpaid work can give volunteers a sense of satisfaction.

Examples of bad topic sentences

 I. Logging on to the Internet on a daily basis can have several advantages.
 II. Undertaking volunteer work can help teenagers learn positive things.
 III. doing unpaid work can give people advantages.

I cannot emphasis how important this is. I have taught students who have only needed to fix this small detail and immediately moved a **full band scale.** Remember **this is a major ingredient in your IELTS/PTE Recipe for Success.**

These topic sentences do not give the examiner information about your idea or your English ability. And although I discourage these types of sentences for students aiming for 7 and definitely 8, someone going for 6 may get away with this style of writing.

Your Turn: Write 5 topic sentences about the following topics:

Living in an apartment; migrating to another country; throwing cigarette butts; owning and looking after a pet; doing unsafe and risky sport…

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This probably seems too simple but let's not make things complicated. You will have more work to do when it comes to grammar and vocabularies so when you get an easy break, take it!

Sentence Two: Extend or explain or/and give an example. You must develop a logical **argument** and give a strong supporting explanation for your idea. Write about 3 sentences to support your topic sentence.

TS (topic sentence) using computers every day for long periods of time can contribute to the **obesity** epidemic. **E (explain sentence)** A person who works in an office job may not have time to engage in 30 minutes of continuous physical exercise and that might affect their weight **E(example sentence)** but if a person works as an aerobics instructor, exercising on a daily basis when they are at work, will not be an issue. **E (extend sentence) Therefore**, people who work on computers everyday will need to find time to maintain a healthy weight in order to avoid becoming obese.

More examples

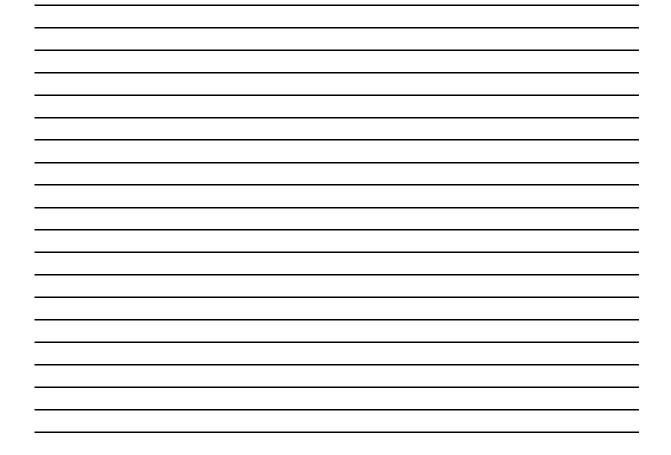Example

1. Logging on to the Internet on a daily basis can help students to learn about the world. Understanding and accepting different cultural perspectives is important because we live, work and study in a multicultural society. If a student from India learns and reads about Japanese culture before they visit Tokyo, they will soon learn that taking off their shoes before entering a Japanese person's house is a valuable custom. This act of kindness demonstrates respect and can also avoid conflict between people who come from different countries.

2. Undertaking volunteer work can help teenagers to learn about caring for other people. Understanding and accepting different perspectives is important because we live, work and study in a diverse society. If a student from high school helps and serves in a retirement village, they will soon learn that helping other people can give you an overwhelming feeling of joy and happiness. This act of kindness demonstrates respect and can also reduce loneliness for elderly people.

Your Turn: Try to follow the same structure and logical order of ideas to complete the following paragraph.

1. Doing unpaid work can give volunteers a sense of satisfaction.

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You should notice that every sentence relates to the topic sentence and each sentence develops the idea more accurately than the sentence before.

For instance in example one, the main idea is 'learning about the world.' The next sentence explains why it is important to learn about the world and a brief explanation about what is learning about the world. This is an 'explanation' sentence. The third sentence gives a more explicit description about a student from Indian and what they actually learnt about the world on the internet and how they applied this knowledge to their life. This is an 'example' sentence. The last sentence restates again why learning about the world is beneficial for people. This sentence is an 'extension' sentence.

The good news is that body paragraphs are the same for all four question types. Just follow the TEEE process and you should be able to logically develop your ideas.

How do I structure my essay for the four different essay types?

Now you know how to logically develop your paragraphs you need to make sure you logically organize your paragraphs. So the following rules apply.

Agree / Disagree (opinion)	Advantages / Disadvantages	Discussion	Cause and Effect / Solutions
INTRODUCTION	INTRODUCTION	INTRODUCTION	INTRODUCTION
Supporting idea 1	Advantages 1	A side	Cause 1
Supporting idea 2	Advantages 2	A side	Cause 2
Supporting idea 3	Disadvantages 1	B side	Effect 1 + 2
Rebuttal idea 1	Disadvantages 2	B side	
CONCLUSION	CONCLUSION	CONCLUSION	CONCLUSION

It is easier to write 4 paragraphs than 2. So if you need a score 7 or above or 65+, the recommendation is to follow the table above. However, if you need 8 or 79+, you would need to develop your ideas well and therefore would omit one paragraph from Agree/ Disagree and two paragraphs from Advantages / Disadvantages and Discussion. Cause and Effect / solutions will remain the same.

What is in a conclusion?

A conclusion should have 2-3 sentences. NOT only one. This is a common mistake. Students are so tired by the end of the essay that they make brief statement and finish as quickly as possible. Try not to be tempted to do that because your conclusion is also very important.

In your conclusion you can be bolder in your opinion even after a discussion, advantages/ disadvantages and cause/effect style essays. In fact you should 1) state your opinion, 2) restate your ideas and 3) a thought for the future. The third sentence is optional if you need to lengthen your essay.

Example

In conclusion, I believe despite people putting on weight from sitting on a computer all day, they still need to utilize technology in order to stimulate businesses and open their ways of thinking. In the future I think people will get better at equalizes their work life balance.

What exactly is Coherency and Cohesion?

Most students understand cohesion but may be unfamiliar with coherency. Let's first look at

Cohesion.

Cohesion
Cohesive devices join the parts of your essay together. They work on the paragraph level and most students know enough cohesive devices to put together an essay. In other words, they connect paragraphs.

Some teachers like to call cohesive devices 'transition signals' or 'signpost words' because they show the reader where the essay will transition (change) or sign post the reader to the next part of the essay.

Some examples of common cohesive devices that you can use for the IELTS/PTE exam are as follows:
To add information
In addition, Not only …but also…
To show sequence
Firstly, secondly, finally
To show examples
For example, as an example, for instance, such as
To show the opposite view
On the other hand, in contrast,
To conclude

In conclusion, to sum up

Coherency
Coherency joins your ideas together. In order to write a coherent and logical paragraph, you must be able to connect your ideas with reference words, synonyms and paraphrasing. Coherency works on a sentence/vocabulary level.

For example: Read the following paragraph and notice how many words or phrases make reference to *volunteer work.*

Undertaking *volunteer work* can help teenagers to learn about caring for other people. Understanding and accepting old people's perspectives' is important because we live, work and study in a diverse society. If a student from high school *helps and serves* and in a retirement village, they will soon learn that *doing unpaid work* can helping retirees and give you an overwhelming feeling of joy and happiness. *This act of kindness* demonstrates respect and can also reduce loneliness for elderly people.

Your Turn: Read the paragraph again and write down all the reference words, synonyms or phrases used for *other people.*   There are four including *other people.*

Using reference words will not only help the examiner follow your argument but also avoids repetition. Repeating words will reduce you score, using reference words, synonyms or paraphrasing will improve your score. It is important to remember that even as native speaker, this does not come naturally. You have to consciously focus and be aware of what 'ingredients' you are putting in your 'IELTS/PTE Recipe for Success'.

What exactly is Lexical Resources?

On a simplistic level, lexical resources are vocabulary. However, a lot of students who sit the exam already have a great range of vocabulary but still need to ask the question 'why can't I get my score?'

The IELTS/PTE exam is a highly researched and sophisticated English examinations that assess 'real English competency'. It is impossible to cheat, copy or cram for the exam and that is why it is considered the most reliable English assessment in the world. But understanding what vocabulary the examiner (or computer) wants to see will help you make sure you are putting the correct vocabulary ingredients into your IELTS/PTE Recipe for Success.

In order to understand what ingredients you have been using so far you need to ask yourself the following questions:

˜ Do I write too many memorized sentences? ˜ Do I
write cliché statements?

˜ Do I use vocabulary related to the topic?
˜ Do I copy too many words from the question?

Lexical resources can be divided into four main categories, general, novel (copied), question type and topic related. Let's look at the four individually.

1. GENERAL VOCABULARY

DON'T USE TOO MUCH GENERIC LANGUAGE
Although all four types of vocabulary are necessary, too much general language will make a bad impression on the examiner and it may lower your score.   Some students memorize large pieces of text and regurgitate it no matter what the question is.

Example

> *Although the subject has been debated, it is still unclear whether the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. In my opinion, I agree with the statement above for the following reasons.* (Introduction)

> *OR*

> *As I have mentioned in the above statement, I disagree for one reason. I will now explain this reason.* (Connect paragraphs)

As you can see this introduction tells the examiner nothing about my real English level and although this may be an exaggeration, you get the idea. If you were writing a 10 000 word essay, you can write these statements. But IELTS/PTE essay is only 250 words, don't waste 29 words (or just over 10% of your writing) on a generic statement that will not increase your mark and will give the examiner a bad impression.

DO KEEP IT SIMPLE

I believe . . .(See Writing Introductions)

OR

*In addition . . .(*See cohesive devices)

2. Do Not Copy from the Question

Try to not copy the question word for word. You will not gain any marks for this. Instead use the question as an opportunity to showcase your topic related vocabulary and coherency skills by using reference words, synonyms or paraphrasing the topic question.

Example

>   *Some people think that teenagers should do unpaid work.*

>   *Do you agree and what are some of the benefits for society of doing unpaid work.*

Your hook could say:

*   *Volunteer work is a great opportunity for young people to help the community.*

You should notice that I have not repeated *'teenagers', 'unpaid work' or 'society'*. Instead I have used synonyms and paraphrases that refer to the topic such as *'young people', volunteer work'* and *community.'*   This strategy will create a strong first impression with the examiner and *increase* my score from the very beginning.

3. QUESTION TYPE VOCABULARY

As we saw in Task Response, generally there are four types of questions and/or a combination of two types.

1. Agree or Disagree (Your opinion)
2. Advantages / Disadvantages
3. Discussion
4. Cause and Effect/ Solutions

Each question type uses certain vocabulary and you need to be careful not to use 'question type specific' vocabulary in a different question or you run the risk of confusing the examiner.   In other words, don't use the word *advantages* in the discussion essay.

If your question type is 'cause and effect' however, you can certainly use vocabulary such as results *in, contributes to, leads to, as a consequence* to illustrate such information and your *ideas*.

4. TOPIC RELATED VOCABULARY

Topic related vocabulary is as the name suggests, vocabulary and expressions that are related **to** the topic. Generally, in IELTS/PTE exams there are 12 topics. They are environment, family, communication, globalization, education, employment, transport, health, technology, travel, media and society. Let's look at 'family.

If you are given a topic question related to 'family', you have an opportunity to use words like, husband, wife, father, and child etc. A lot of students continue to talk about 'people' and although it is true that a husband etc. is a person, I have not shown my awareness to the specific topic. On the other hand, it the topic was related to 'work', I would use 'colleague' instead of brother or sibling, which is related to family. This way I am demonstrating my awareness of the topic.

Turner English an excellent online Slow and Steady IELTS/PTE Preparation Course that covers all 12 topics through Google+. Contact info@turnerenglish.com.au to find more information.

Tips: try not to use the verb 'get'. Examiners hate this verb. And, try to use some idiomatic expressions. These score high (7+) with examiners. Here are 5 extremely useful and common idioms.

Out of pocket (have no money); start from scratch (start from the beginning; bend over backwards (help someone greatly), need a hand (need help), stand the test of time (strong enough to last for a long time.

What about Grammar?

In my opinion, and I have been teaching IELTS/PTE longer than I care to admit, grammar is the most important ingredient. Not because you have to be really good at it, but you must know what to include in your essay. Even as a native speaker this does not come naturally when I write. I have to think about what I am doing every sentence.

There are four types of sentences in English.

1. Simple sentences
2. Compound sentences
3. Complex sentences
4. Compound complex sentences

As you know, there is a substantial amount of grammatical structures in English and it will take you an enjoyable lifetime to learn all of them. After you have passed your exam, you can. But in order to pass the IELTS/PTE exam and get on with your life, I have written down the minimum number of grammar structures to make a great impression on the examiner and get your score as quickly as possible. These grammar structures are your IELTS/PTE Recipe for Success. Just like cooking a cake you have to have all the ingredients, IELTS/PTE is the same. You must have the following structures in your essay. The examiner is looking for them.

BAND 6 students should have the following sentence structures:

1. Simple
2. Compound
3. Complex

And know how to use the following grammar structures:

˜ If clauses (1ˢᵗ conditional) (complex sentence) ≈ and, but, because (compound sentence)

˜ Although (complex sentence)

˜ Verb + Object + infinitive (simple but not boring sentence) ˜ Phrasal verbs

˜ Adjectival phrases (Who, that, which)

˜ Present simple, present perfect, past continuous in active voice ˜ Adverbs

˜ Adjectives

BAND 7 students should have the following sentence structures:

1. Simple
2. Compound
3. Complex
4. Compound + Complex

And know how to use ALL the structures for BAND 6 and the following grammar structures:

˜ Despite (complex sentence)

˜ Not only…but also… (Simple but not boring sentence)

˜ Present simple, past simple and present perfect in active and passive voice

BAND 8 students should know ALL the sentence structures above the grammar structures and have almost 0 errors! This is tough but totally possible!

If you are unsure about any of the sentence and grammar structures listed above you will need to both take out your grammar book and start revising and practicing or you can contact Education Hub in Melbourne Australia. They provide face-to-face and online grammar lessons designed to get your IELTS/PTE score as quickly as possible. But one thing is for sure; accuracy plays a strong role in determining your score. I have read essays that have not even had one sentence grammatically correct. It is better to keep the sentences less complicated than go crazy and make more grammatical mistakes.

And that is it! A few simple ingredients place in the right place and the right time and you will produce a delightful essay for your examiner to enjoy. Best of luck!

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Sample 'Essay'(Cause'and'Effect)

Computers are being used in society on a daily basis. Some people say that schools need to spend more time on teaching kids to use technology. (Topic question) What are some of the reasons we need computers in today's society? (Causes) What are some negative and positive effects on today's teenagers? (Effects)

Example

Nowadays children are spending a substantial amount of time on computers. Computers can be used for banking, researching assignments, shopping even finding long lost relatives.

Using technological devices prepares children for the competitive workforce even though it may also cause health related issues later in life.

Firstly, schools need to allow children to utilize technology in the classroom because computers are the single largest communicative device used in today's multicultural society.   A teenager who uses technology competently can interact with people from different countries and that will help them learn different cultural perspectives but if a student does not have access to computers, they may not discover and meet other cultures and traditions.   As a result, their view of the world is likely to broaden and prepare them for an international market place when they grow up.

Secondly, through the use of computers, businesses can continue to grow and expand their client base. This is important for a global economy. Owning a big company can produce a lot of issues especially when we talk about recording sales calls. Up-to-date and specialized software is utilized to capture a potential customer's name, address, age and other useful information. Storing this information in a safe database is essential because the company may use it later on and ultimately increase sales and profit.

On the other hand, despite technology helping kids become better and more effective members of society, sitting in front of the computer screen all day can affect a child's wellbeing in a number of ways. It is undeniable that inactive and immobilized kids put on weight.   In addition, the number of children wearing glasses these days has increased dramatically and although it is not scientifically proven, lengthy periods in front of the computer screen is highly responsible.

In conclusion, I believe despite kids putting on weight from sitting on a computer all day, they still need to utilize technology in order to stimulate businesses and open their ways of thinking. In the future I think people will get better at balancing their time spent on the computer with more physical activities.

Sample Essay Questions

Argument Essay

When a country develops its technology, the traditional skills and ways of life die out. It is pointless to try and keep them alive. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Public libraries should only provide books and should not waste their limited resources on expensive high-tech media such as software, videos or DVDs. Do you agree or disagree?

Discussion

Some people think that schools should select students according to their academic abilities, while others believe that it is better to have students with different abilities studying together. Discuss both views and state your own opinion.

Some people think that spending a lot on holding wedding parties, birthday parties and other celebrations is just a waste of money. Others, however, think that these are necessary for individuals and the society. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Problem/Solution

Many offenders commit more crimes after serving the first punishment. Why is this happening, and what measures can be taken to tackle this problem?

Modern children are suffering from the diseases that were once considered to be meant for adults only. Obesity is a major disease prevalent among children. What are its causes and what solutions can be offered?