

Sample IELTS Essay Topics

In both the Academic and General IELTS Writing sections, you need to write an essay of at least 250 words. This means that your essay will be about 4-5 paragraphs long. Below are several sample IELTS essay topics, organized under eight broad categories. You should plan to write at least one essay from each category to gain some experience in handling various types of subjects. Ideally, you should write several such essays so you can do so effectively and within 40 minutes.

- 1. Government (14 topics)**
- 2. Modern Society (21 topics)**
- 3. Technology (8 topics)**
- 4. Employment (3 topics)**
- 5. Environment (4 topics)**
- 6. Education (17 topics)**
- 7. Parents / Children (2 topics)**
- 8. Gender Issues (2 topics)**

GOVERNMENT

- Should wealthy nations be required to share their wealth among poorer nations by providing such things as food and education? Or is it the responsibility of the governments of poorer nations to look after their citizens themselves?
- What should a government do for a country to become successful?
- Should money be spent on space exploration?
- Should rich countries forgive all debts for poor countries?
- Does foreign aid help donor countries more than the recipients?
- Should rich countries pay more for environmental damage?
- Most high level jobs are done by men. Should the government encourage a certain percentage of these jobs to be reserved for women?
- Should developing countries concentrate on improving industrial skills or should they promote education first?

- Safety standards are important when building people's homes. Who should be responsible for enforcing strict building codes - the government or the people who build the homes?
- Discuss the advantage and disadvantage of giving international aid to poor countries.
- Should criminals be punished with lengthy jail terms or re-educated and rehabilitated using community service programs for instance, before being reintroduced to society?
- In most countries disabled people are not catered for adequately, e.g. buildings are often inappropriately designed. Governments rely too heavily on charities and voluntary organizations to provide assistance and funding. What further measures could be taken to assist disabled people?
- In your opinion should government intervene in the rights of the individual with regard to family planning?
- The best way to reduce the number of traffic accidents is to make all young drivers complete a safe driving education course before being licensed to drive.

MODERN SOCIETY

- Nowadays doctors can become very rich. Maybe they should not focus on profitable activities such as plastic surgery or looking after rich patients and concentrate more on patients health, no matter how rich they are?
- Does travel help to promote understanding and communication between countries?
- In your opinion what factors contribute to a good movie?
- Are famous people treated unfairly by the media ? Should they be given more privacy, or is the price of their fame an invasion into their private lives?
- Is animal testing necessary?

- Some businesses now say that no one can smoke cigarettes in any of their offices. Some governments have banned smoking in all public places. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons.
- To what extent is the use of animals in scientific research acceptable?
- Human beings do not need to eat meat in order to maintain good health because they can get all their food needs from meatless products and meatless substances. A vegetarian diet is as healthy as a diet containing meat. Argue for or against the opinion above.
- Forests are the lungs of the earth. Destruction of the world's forests amounts to death of the world we currently know. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- Are our zoos cruel to wild animals? Discuss.
- Zoos are sometimes seen as necessary but not poor alternatives to a natural environment. Discuss some of the arguments for and/or against keeping animals in zoos.
- To what extent will migration from the developing world to the developed world become a social and political issue in the 21st century?
- In Britain, when someone gets old, they often go to live in a home with other old people where there are nurses to look after them. Sometimes the government has to pay for this care. Who should be responsible for our old people? Give reasons.
- The first car appeared on British roads in 1888. By the year 2000 there may be as many as 29 million vehicles on British roads. Alternative forms of transport should be encouraged and international laws introduced to control car ownership and use. What do you think?
- The best way to reduce the number of traffic accidents is to make all young drivers complete a safe driving education course before being licensed to drive.
- News editors decide what to broadcast on TV and what to print in newspapers. What factors do you think influence their decisions? Have we become used to bad news? Would it be better if more good news was reported?

- TV: could you be without it? Discuss.
- To what extent will migration from the developing world to the developed world become a social and political issue in the 21st century?
- The mass media, including TV, radio and newspapers, have great influence in shaping people's ideas. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer.
- Tourism is becoming increasingly important as a source of revenue to many countries but its disadvantages should not be overlooked. What are some of the problems of tourism?
- The mass media, including TV, radio and newspapers, have great influence in shaping people's ideas. To what extent do you agree or disagree this statement? Give reasons for your answer?

TECHNOLOGY

- Does modern technology make life more convenient, or was life better when technology was simpler?
- Will modern technology, such as the internet ever replace the book or the written word as the main source of information?
- We are becoming increasingly dependent on computers. They are used in businesses, hospitals, crime detection and even to fly planes. What things will they be used for in future? Is this dependence on computers a good thing or should we be more suspicious of their benefits? Use specific details and examples in your answer.
- In what ways has information technology changed work and working practices in the past 10 years?
- Technology is making communication easier in today's world, but at the expense of personal contact as many people choose to work at home in front of a computer screen. What dangers are there for a society which depends on computer screens rather than face-to-face contact for its main means of communication?

- Will the Internet bring people of the world closer together?
- The first car appeared on British roads in 1888. By the year 2000 there may be as many as 29 million vehicles on British roads. Alternative forms of transport should be encouraged and international laws introduced to control car ownership and use. What do you think?
- The mass media, including TV, radio and newspapers, have great influence in shaping people's ideas. To what extent do you agree or disagree this statement? Give reasons for your answer?

EMPLOYMENT

- Should retirement be compulsory at 65 years of age?
- Telecommuting' refers to workers doing their jobs from home for part of each week and communicating with their office using computer technology. Telecommuting is growing in many countries and is expected to be common for most office workers in the coming decades. How do you think society will be affected by the growth of telecommuting?
- In some countries the average worker is obliged to retire at the age of 50, while in others people can work until they are 65 or 70. Until what age do you think people should be encouraged to remain in paid employment? Give reasons for your answer.

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

- To what extent should economic planning be influenced by the need of environmental conservation?
- Damage of the environment is an inevitable consequence of worldwide improvements in the standard of living. Discuss.
- The rising levels of congestion and air pollution found in most of the world cities can be attributed directly to the rapidly increasing number of private cars in use. In order to reverse this decline in the quality of life in cities, attempts must be made to encourage people to use their cars less and public transport more. Discuss possible ways to encourage the use of public transport.
- The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy. The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages. Do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer?