

22 TEMPLATES FOR IELTS WRITING

FAST TRACK TO *SUCCESS* IN THE IELTS WRITING TEST



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Introduction

After publishing my first book ***26 Strategies to Succeed in the IELTS Test: How to work hard and work smart***, I have received thousands of emails asking me if I can provide more “skeletons” examples. Just in case you don’t know what a “skeleton” is, the term “skeleton” refers to a template that you can follow as a model in your writing. For instance, when you read a sample essay, you can emulate the way the writer writes in your own essay. You can easily follow their structure, wording and style!

Therefore, this book is all about giving you enough examples so that you will have a wide variety of “skeletons” to use in your own IELTS essays. Using templates is the most efficient and effective way to increase your IELTS writing score!

In my first book ***26 Strategies to Succeed in the IELTS Test: How to work hard and work smart***, I explained why you should write your IELTS essays without indentations. Now I must explain why I use indented style in this book (by the way, indented style means there are a number of blank spaces at the beginning of a paragraph): Because this book is not hand-written (it is typed), indented style works better here. When you write your essays in the IELTS test with a pen, you’d better write without indentations because that makes your essay look longer and it is much easier for the examiner to read your handwriting! I hope this rationale explains my point well!

In this book, I will focus on offering you more templates for IELTS Writing Task 2 (the longer essay), especially templates for arguments – these 22 templates are about Task 2 in the IELTS writing test, as Writing Task 2 is way more important than Writing Task 1 in terms of your writing test score. As a result, you should work on Task 2 more often. Of course, I will also provide some templates for Task 1 at the end of this book.

When you are reading this book, I would like you to think about how you can emulate these powerful sentence structures in your own writing. In order to support you in this regard, I will use bold words to emphasise the key structures that you should use in your essays. This will definitely make your life easier.

If you want more inspiration, feel free to visit www.jadepearlhouse.com where I share more tips with you in terms of study and success.

Essay Template 1

Argument: Some people think that students in single-sex schools perform better academically. Others, however, believe that mixed schools provide children with better social skills for adult life. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

In the present age, whether single-sex schools provide more benefits than mixed schools **has sparked much debate. Some people assert that** students in single-sex schools have better academic achievements, **whereas many others argue that** mixed schools offer students better social skills for their future. **Personally, I am in favour of the latter view.**

Convincing arguments can be made that mixed schools provide a more comprehensive learning environment for children. **To start with,** students studying at mixed schools have more chances to communicate with members of the opposite sex. **In other words,** children learn how to talk to the other gender at an early age; **therefore,** their social skills would certainly be fostered. **Moreover,** mixed schools give students opportunities to deal with conflicts with the other gender, **which** strengthens students' problem-solving skills. **For instance,** when a boy has a conflict with a girl at school, both of them must learn how to cope. This lesson must be learned sooner or later; **as a result,** students benefit more if they can learn it sooner. **Lastly,** mixed schools **provide** students **with** a real-life scenario where both genders co-exist. **Specifically,** students are able to learn in an organic environment in which boys and girls must know how to interact with each other.

Admittedly, single-sex schools have fewer distractions. **The reason for this is** if a school only has boys or girls, students would not be distracted by members of the opposite sex at school; hence, they can focus on their learning. **Even so,** these students still have access to the other gender after school, which means in reality, they must meet the other gender anyway. **Consequently,** the benefits of single-sex schools are quite limited.

In summary, I would concede that single-sex schools have some advantages. **Despite that,** mixed schools certainly support students in a much better way. **Overall, I am convinced that** students should go to mixed schools.

Essay Template 2

Argument: Some employers believe that job applicants' social skills are more important than their academic qualifications. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

There has been much discussion revolving around the issue of whether job applicants' social skills are more important than their academic qualifications. In this essay, I will explain why social skills are more vital, compared with academic qualifications.

The merits of outstanding social skills are apparent. Firstly, communication is the key to career success **in this day and age. This is mainly due to the fact that** the 21st century is **best characterised by** constant interaction with different people, no matter the communication happens in person or online. **Secondly,** the ability to sell products or services **is of paramount significance** in any business – this requires strong social skills. **For example,** an employee with excellent social skills is able to have an impact in front of customers or clients; **as a result,** products or services can be perceived as high-value. **Furthermore,** employees with better social skills are generally more easy-going, which is very important to the workplace, including the employer. **After all,** as the saying goes, “Who you work with is as important as what you do.” – An enjoyable work environment needs socially skilful employees.

In contrast, some others may claim that academic qualifications are **the pre-requisite of** employment. **Apparently,** many positions require certain qualifications. **However, in modern-day society,** more and more employers have realised that whether employees can get the results that the business wants is the key to a business' success. **It can be seen that** qualifications do not **play a key role in this regard.**

Having considered both views, I think employees' social skills **are of overriding importance** for an organisation. **Also, I would suggest** employers consider job applicants' social skills first, **which I believe is soundly based on the above reasoning I have presented.**

Essay Template 3

Argument: Some people think that the government should make university education free for all students, regardless of their financial situation. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

These days, public debate has been going on over whether the government should make tertiary education free for all students. **I tend to believe that** higher education should be free – **for the following reasons.**

Three main factors support the idea of free university education. **The primary factor we need to take into consideration is that** many students cannot afford university education, although they truly want to get degrees. **Obviously,** without enough financial resources, these students have to give up their dreams, which is unfair to them. **Besides,** the government is already wasting taxpayers' money on projects such as space exploration by making spaceships – the fund should be spent on university education. **That is to say,** the government **would be well-advised to** allocate resources in a more sensible way. **A third reason for my belief is that** high tuition fees may prevent some students from studying at university. **It is widely recognised that** many young people are reluctant to face their loans after graduation, which means such a burden might make university education less attractive.

I admit that students' financial contributions to higher education helps universities to improve facilities. **Despite that,** a more reasonable government funds allocation can solve this issue, **for which we can find plenty of evidence from our own experience.**

In conclusion, I would argue that tertiary education should be paid by the government. **Accordingly, it would be generally advisable for** the government **to** allocate financial resources in a more beneficial way.

Essay Template 4

Argument: Every year several languages die out. This is not important because life will be easier if there are fewer languages in the world. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

In this age of change, English as a global lingua franca facilitates cross-cultural communication. As a result, several languages die out each year, which is not important in some people's opinion because life will be easier with fewer languages. **However, I disagree with this idea.**

The disappearance of lesser-known languages **leads to a range of issues.** **First of all,** the expansion of English erodes the cultural identity of other races. **More specifically,** the prevalence of English can aggravate the sense of cultural inferiority among speakers of other languages. **In the second place,** the disappearance of other languages **causes** the loss of other cultures. **For instance,** Latin is already a dead language now because nearly nobody can speak this language in the world at the moment; therefore, the culture which backs up Latin is also lost. **Finally,** loss of cultures **could result in** loss of heritage such as traditional values. **For example,** some cultures highly value family and education; consequently, if those cultures are lost, many important and beneficial values will also **be rendered obsolete,** which is not helpful.

Granted, life can be easier if people speak fewer languages in contemporary society. **Nevertheless,** translators and interpreters will lose their jobs if more and more languages disappear – this is not good for global economy. Therefore, **it is clear that** more languages generate more employment opportunities.

In conclusion, although English as a universal language enables cross-cultural communication, the importance of other languages should not be ignored. **As a consequence, I would assert that** languages other than English must **be respected, protected and preserved.**

Essay Template 5

Argument: Some people believe that old buildings should be protected by law. Others, however, think that they should be replaced by new buildings. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

In present-day society, many cities face the issue of whether old buildings should be replaced by new buildings or not. **As I see it**, old buildings should be maintained.

Historic buildings certainly have much value **in various ways**. **In the first place**, a large number of historic buildings represent specific historical figures or events. **To be more exact**, if such buildings were razed, there would be no precise representation of the corresponding figures and events anymore. **Further**, some historic dwellings embody the unique lifestyle of ethnic groups. **Without a doubt**, it could be an ethnological disaster if these buildings were demolished because of current urban needs. **Last but not least**, many historic buildings have outstanding aesthetic value. **That means** any replication can never show the ancient craftsmanship accurately.

Surely, due to the rapid increase of urban population, some historic buildings should be knocked down in order to make room for high-rise apartment buildings. **Yet** a more sensible solution to this problem can be developing urban transport so that people can easily live in nearby suburbs and commute easily every day.

To conclude, though old buildings may have occupied a lot of urban space, their value should not be neglected. **In light of the above factors, I firmly believe that** historic buildings must be looked after by modern cities.

Essay Template 6

Argument: International tourism has become a huge industry in the world. Some people think that the problems caused by international tourism outweigh the benefits. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

At the present time, international tourism is a big industry. **Meanwhile**, whether this trend has more benefits or more problems **is a frequent topic of discussion**. **From my perspective**, international tourism is definitely beneficial **in many ways**.

International tourism creates great benefits **on different levels**. **First and foremost**, it provides individuals opportunities to see a different culture first-hand. **According to my observation**, visiting another country is a comprehensive experience, which is much more enjoyable than staring at another culture on a computer screen. **Additionally**, international tourism boosts the economy of the host country. **Take Australia as an example**. During the previous decade, international tourism has produced numerous employment opportunities in various sectors of Australia. **In the third place**, knowledge gained during overseas trips certainly helps eliminate a range of stereotypes tourists have about the host country. **In this way**, individuals can **expand their outlook** and become worldlier.

Of course, non-biodegradable litter left behind by tourists **poses a big threat to** the host country. **Nonetheless**, tourist destinations can certainly establish relevant laws and regulations **so that this issue can be addressed**. Once the economy of the host country has been enhanced by international tourism, it would be easier for the local government to implement effective strategies to solve this problem.

To sum up, in spite of the fact that international tourism may impede the environment of tourist destinations, the advantages of international tourism surely **outbalances** its disadvantages.

Essay Template 7

Argument: Some people think that public health is a responsibility of the government, while others believe that individuals should be responsible for their own health. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

In current society, whether public health is the government's responsibility **or** individuals' responsibility **has aroused a debate. From my point of view,** public health should be individuals' responsibility.

Individuals **are supposed to** be responsible for their own health **for a variety of reasons. To begin with,** individuals know their own health better than others. **It is evident that** the government cannot understand everyone's needs realistically, **thus** individuals must **shoulder the responsibility for** looking after themselves. **Then,** an individual's self-discipline is the key to better health. **More exactly,** nobody can replace an individual to manage their own lifestyle well in order to improve their health. **Moreover,** individuals, especially adults, must realise that being responsible for their own health is also being responsible for the society. **In other words,** if everyone is sabotaging their own health, there will be more burden for the society, which is not a place that people want to be.

Certainly, the government needs to provide sufficient support **in terms of** improving public health. **However,** the government cannot do much **apart from** offering financial support and education in this area. **As a result,** the ultimate responsibility still lies in individuals' actions.

In sum, the government **should contribute to** public health, **but** individuals must be responsible for their own health. **In this way,** people will be able to live in a more wholesome society.

Essay Template 8

Argument: In multi-cultural societies, people of different cultural backgrounds live and work together. Do you think the advantages of multi-cultural societies outweigh the disadvantages?

Nowadays, multi-cultural societies **are best characterised by** people of different cultural backgrounds. **In my opinion**, the fact that people of diverse cultural backgrounds live and work together brings more advantages than disadvantages.

Living and working in a multi-cultural society **creates a wide variety of benefits**. **To start with**, people can **broaden their horizons** by living and working in a multi-cultural environment. **Specifically**, different cultures generate different viewpoints and ideas, which helps people to better understand the world. **Besides**, people from different cultural backgrounds contribute to the society in more creative ways. **Evidently**, countries such as Australia and Canada have more festivals to celebrate because of their multi-cultural nature, **which means** rich cultures are fostered in these countries. **Above all**, people from different cultures help the multi-cultural society boost its economy. **To be more specific**, immigrants as well as their families and friends create a large amount of profit for the tourism industry, which directly generates more revenue for the multi-cultural society.

On the other hand, some arguments can be made that multi-cultural societies may have more conflicts. **The main reason for this is that** people from different backgrounds may not understand each other well. **But closer examination would reveal that** multi-cultural societies such as Australia and Canada have very low crime rates, as immigrants are carefully selected by governments. **It is manifest that** multi-cultural societies actually have less to worry about **in this respect**.

Having considered all the arguments above, I would conclude that multi-cultural societies enjoy more benefits **overall**.

Essay Template 9

Argument: Schools should only offer subjects that are beneficial to students' future career success. Other subjects, such as music and sports, are not important. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Currently, there is a debate about whether schools should only offer subjects that can help students' future career success (**i.e.**, subjects such as sports and music are irrelevant). **As far as I am concerned**, I believe subjects such as music and sports are equally important.

Compelling arguments can be made that those seemingly unimportant subjects such as art, music and sports are actually just as important as core subjects like English and maths. **The first point with respect to this is that** art, music and sports make a student a well-rounded person. **There is no denying that** a young person who is artistic and athletic is more likely to be physically and mentally healthy. **Furthermore**, subjects like art, music and sports help students to identify their interests and hobbies early in life. **True**, if a young person is able to know what they are really passionate about, they can continue doing what they enjoy in their adult life. **More importantly**, sports, art and music help students **strike a balance** in their learning at school. **Clearly**, if students only study English and maths at school, their life will be very boring.

It may be tempting to argue that students should focus on what makes them more successful in the future. **The fundamental reason for this is that** the mainstream society defines "success" in a narrow-minded way. **By that I mean** most people believe that making more money is the only definition of success and they think learning English and maths helps them make more money. **But further analysis would make it clear that** being happy is probably way more important than having more wealth in the long term.

On the basis of the above discussion, I believe that subjects such as music, art and sports should be taught in every school, apart from subjects like English and maths.

Essay Template 10

Argument: More and more young people use the Internet to socialise. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development?

People are having a hard time reaching consensus on whether using the Internet to socialise is a positive or a negative trend amongst young people. **To my mind**, socialising online is a negative development.

There is no doubt that social networking websites have caused more problems than merits. **For one thing**, cyber bullying poses a real threat to the wellbeing of young people. **As a matter of fact**, cyber bullying happens on a daily basis on most social networking websites such as Facebook and Twitter, which has led to the increasing suicide rate among youngsters. **For another**, socialising online gives young people fewer chances to practise their interpersonal skills, especially face-to-face communication skills. **Undeniably**, nowadays more and more young people prefer texting each other on Facebook as opposed to speaking to each other in person. **Besides**, too many youngsters spend too much time on social networking websites, which wastes their precious time that should be spent studying. **More precisely**, most teenagers spend more time chatting with others online rather than do their homework at home.

To be sure, social networking websites also provides young people with the convenience of contacting friends that are far away. **This is reasonable to the extent that** some friends may live in other cities, so it is not easy to see them often. **Still**, sending emails to friends would be a more beneficial option because emails are less time-consuming. **Thus** social networking websites are not helpful in most cases.

In the final analysis, despite the fact that socialising online is a popular new trend, it does not help young people when it comes to communication, time management and mental health. **For this reason, I am convinced that** socialising online is a negative development in general.

Essay Template 11

Argument: When students study a foreign language, they should also study the culture and lifestyles of the people who speak the language. Do you agree or disagree?

Today a large number of students are learning a foreign language at school. **But in the meantime, whether** students should learn the culture and lifestyle of those who speak the language **has become a highly debatable issue. Speaking for myself, I think** students should learn both language and culture.

Language and culture must be learned at the same time **due to the reasons below. First of all,** language and culture are intertwined. **There is ample evidence suggesting that** learning a language without knowing its culture is misleading, **which means** a language is backed up by its culture. **The second reason is** learning culture makes learning language more interesting. **As we know,** studying a foreign language is not an easy task; hence it is necessary to incorporate the cultural part in the process so that learning becomes more stimulating. **A third point I would like to make in support of this finding is** arousing the interest in the culture is the key to long-term learning. **This is best illustrated with the example of** bilingual people who spend lots of time exploring the foreign language while discovering new understanding of the culture.

On the other hand, it is worth pointing out that there are also arguments supporting the opinion that learning culture is a distraction in terms of foreign language education. **After all,** foreign language education is more about learning the language; thus, spending too much time studying the culture may make the learning lose its focus. **Despite this, an apparent problem with this opinion is** without understanding its culture, a lot of language points do not make sense because sometimes learning the culture is the pre-requisite of mastering the language. **Consequently, we should not overlook** the importance of learning its culture.

For my part, after considering the arguments above, I feel that learning both language and culture is the best way in this aspect.

Essay Template 12

Argument: *Today, more and more parents depend on their children's grandparents for childcare. Do you think this is a positive or negative trend?*

At present, an increasing number of parents rely on their children's grandparents for childcare. **In my view**, this is a negative trend.

It is obvious that depending on children's grandparents for childcare bring about a host of issues. **First and most importantly**, the relationship between parents and children is the most important relationship in the family. **Indisputably**, the love between parents and children is the only unconditional love on the planet; therefore, if parents do not spend enough time with their children, it is harmful for children's wellbeing and development. **Another problem is** grandparents are generally older, which means they probably do not have enough energy to look after very young children very well. **It is true that** childcare is an exhausting job which does not really suit senior citizens. **In addition**, it is unfair for grandparents to take care of their children's children because elderly people have the right to enjoy life. **It is obvious that** childcare is probably more than a full-time job which requires a lot of effort and time – **that is to say**, grandparents who have retired cannot savour their retirement once they have decided to look after young children.

Certainly, I would acknowledge that not every couple have the financial ability or the time to look after their children by themselves. **This is due to the fact that** living in modern society is stressful in terms of work and lifestyle. **Having said this, however**, parents should still clarify what is more important to them – they need to know how to prioritise their life and strengthen their family ties.

Therefore, overall I would argue that grandparents **would be ill-advised to assume the responsibility for** childcare. **It would be wise for** parents to look after their own children, **which, I firmly believe, is in the best interest of all the parties involved.**

Essay Template 13

Argument: Some people think that the government should provide funding for arts. Others, however, believe that the money should be spent on public health and education. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Public concern has arisen about whether the government should provide funding for arts or spend money on public health and education. **I tend to believe that** the government should allocate more financial resources to public health and education.

Public health and education surely require more government funding **for the following reasons. The primary reason we have to take into consideration is that** public health and education are the pre-requisite of a healthy society. **It is generally believed that** looking after public health and education dramatically reduces the crime rate in the society. **Apart from that,** public health and education are needed by most people. **It is widely acknowledged that** more people rely on government funding in terms of public health and education; as a consequence, the needs of the majority must be catered for first. **More importantly,** without public health and education, arts will not have any foundation to be appreciated. **In other words,** nobody feels in the mood for arts if their needs for public health and education cannot be met.

I concede that arts play an important role in our life. **Despite that,** the government must prioritise areas that require funding. **It is commonly accepted that** public health and education require more funding than arts.

On balance, I would assert that the government **would be well-advised to** spend more money on public health and education so that the world can become a better place.

Essay Template 14

Argument: Some people think that for individuals, planning for the future is a waste of time. It is more important for individuals to focus on the present. Do you agree or disagree?

Concerning the issue of whether individuals should plan for the future or focus on the present, **I believe that** individuals definitely must plan for the future **due to the following reasons**.

Planning for the future has **a wealth of** benefits. **To start off with**, a future-oriented person possesses more clear objectives and incentives. **It is a well-known fact that** individuals who have goals know what they want, **thereby having** more certainty in life. **The second benefit is** planning for the future motivates the individual. **As a matter of fact**, most people's motivation comes from their vision. **Above all**, planning for the future makes a person's development more sustainable. **Indeed**, without a future plan, even successful people may feel disoriented and cannot understand why they want to be successful; as a result, they may not be able to enjoy their success.

I recognise that focusing on the present can reduce distractions and temptations. **This is reasonable to the extent that** focusing on the present makes a person more organised. **However, having said this**, planning for the future is still not a waste of time because lack of future plans might result in irresponsible and unhealthy lifestyles.

In conclusion, I would argue that designing a future plan is much more important than focusing on the present. **Accordingly, it would be generally advisable for** individuals to plan for their future first.

Essay Template 15

Argument: *Some people think distance-learning can replace schools. Do you agree?*

With the development of modern technologies, the Internet **is advancing at an amazing speed in present-day society. But when it comes to whether** distance-learning can replace schools, **people hold conflicting views. In my mind,** distance-learning can never replace schools.

Schools definitely have more advantages than e-learning. **The primary advantage** of schools is that traditional face-to-face learning cultivates students' communication skills. **It is universally believed that** a person's communication skills are of vital importance in the contemporary world; thus, students have to learn communication skills well at school. **Another advantage** of schools is that teachers are able to cater for students' different needs in the classroom. **We all agree that** when teachers can see students in the classroom, it is easier for teachers to identify students' needs and take actions accordingly. **Last but not least,** schools provide students with a healthy environment to expand their network. **One need only look at** the value of sitting in the same classroom for years **to see** the value of friendships developed at school.

I admit that e-learning gives students more convenience so that students can learn knowledge and skills at home. **Nevertheless,** e-learning does not offer any other real benefits except its convenience. **Based on this point,** distance-learning should not replace schools.

In summary, online education may have certain merits, **but** schools can never be replaced by e-learning. **I am convinced that** schools will keep offering great value in the future.

Essay Template 16

Argument: Older generations often hold some traditional ideas on the correct way of life, thought and behaviour. Most people argue that it is not helpful for younger generations to prepare for modern life. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Opinions differ about whether traditional values and ideas held by older generations can help younger generations to adapt to the modern lifestyle. **From my own perspective,** traditional ideas and values are not obsolete **in the present age.**

Many traditional values and beliefs are timeless virtues that are still strongly relevant today. **In the first place,** family is always important no matter it is the 18th century or the 21st century. **Obviously,** for most people, the only unconditional love that can be found lies in the family. **In the second place,** honesty should still be highly valued by modern people. **This is true in that** honesty and integrity **play a pivotal role in** modern-day society where trust is the basis of almost everything we do. **Last but not least,** respect for others is still important currently. **There is no doubt that** more people actually prefer being respected than being liked at any time.

Yet some conservative ideas about the contemporary way of life might be reactionary. **An illustration of this point would be that** traditionally, women are not supposed to be high achievers in the society. **Nevertheless, further analysis could clarify that** the majority of traditional ideas are still beneficial today.

Therefore, we should not abandon all traditional beliefs and values simply because of some old-fashioned components. The young should **love, cherish and honour** most conventional virtues and wisdom.

Essay Template 17

Argument: Some people think it is acceptable to use animals for the benefit of humans. Other people think it is wrong to exploit animals for human purposes. What is your opinion?

Right now people are divided over whether using animals for the benefit of humans is acceptable **or not. Personally, I strongly believe that** using animals for human purposes is wrong.

Exploiting animals for the benefit of humans is problematic **in the following ways. Firstly,** some scientific experiments which use animals are completely inhumane. **For example,** students use animals to do experiments at school while studying biology – unfortunately, that also teaches students how to treat animals badly at the same time. **The second problem is** each year many hunters violate the law. **One illustration of this is** some businesses want to make more money, so they hire hunters to kill animals illegally for the sake of experiments. **Thirdly,** killing animals makes the ecosystem further deteriorate. **In actuality,** humans are sabotaging the ecosystem by killing more animals on purpose without realising the consequences in the long term.

I would agree that animals are necessary when it comes to conducting research about new medicine to improve human health. **Nonetheless, closer examination would show that** there are many volunteers that are happy to experience the experiments and research institutes are happy to pay them too. **This makes sense in that** alternative methods can be used to replace utilising animals.

According to the above-mentioned analysis, it is manifest that using animals for human purposes is not acceptable and alternative ways can be identified.

Essay Template 18

Argument: Some people think traditional games are better than modern games in helping children develop their abilities. To what extent do you agree?

In the contemporary world, it is a common belief that traditional games are better than modern games in helping children cultivate their abilities. **I find this view unconvincing** due to the following reasons.

Modern games actually foster more specific skills that are required in this day and age. **First and foremost,** modern games **are characterised by** electronic devices, which means the skills to use digital devices adeptly can be trained via playing modern games. **It seems to me that** modern technologies **have fundamentally changed** our life. Therefore, mastering these technologies **is an absolute necessity.** **The second reason is** modern games nurture team spirit and the ability to cooperate with others. **This is true in that** being able to collaborate with others is a key skill in any organisation. **The final reason is** familiarity with modern games can probably lead to careers in animation or video-game design because video games have become a popular industry. **It is apparent that** mastering this skill increases young people's employment opportunities.

I would acknowledge that traditional games such as chess can help youngsters to develop independent thinking skills. **This argument has considerable merit in that** competitive strategies are also significant in this world. **Having said this, nevertheless,** the ability to think independently can also be cultivated in other ways such as reading. **Based on this analysis, apparently,** modern games **provide** more benefits **for** children.

In light of the aforesaid factors, I am convinced that modern games are able to help young people develop key skills. **As a result, priority should be given to** modern games rather than traditional games.

Essay Template 19

Report: More and more people are moving from rural areas to cities in search of a better life, but city life has its own problems. What are these problems? Suggest some solutions.

At the present time, an increasing number of people are moving from rural areas to urban areas in order to find a better life, **yet meanwhile**, city life has its own issues. **In this essay, I will analyse** some relevant problems and suggest some solutions as well.

It is obvious that issues in cities **are complicated**. **Firstly**, the large population in cities has led to housing shortage. **For instance**, in many big cities, a large number of people have to live in suburbs because the rent is too high in the city. **As a result**, these people must commute to the city to work every day, **which leads to the second problem** – traffic congestion. **Indeed**, traffic jam has become a major concern in so many cities around the world. **Take Shanghai as an example**. If someone wants to drive from the eastern side to the western side in Shanghai, they may spend six or seven hours on the road because of traffic congestion. **The third problem is** pollution. **It seems that** air pollution and water pollution are more severe in cities than in rural areas, **and research has proved that** overcrowded cities suffer from these issues even more because of the large population.

Accordingly, the solutions to the aforementioned issues should also be varied. **First and foremost**, the government should supply cheaper urban housing so that workers can afford to live in cities. **For example**, Australian cities such as Adelaide and Perth have government housing in city centres in order to support low-income families. **Then**, the government needs to improve **transport infrastructure** and manage **the volume of traffic**. **This is due to the consideration that** there are always many commuters every day. **Above all**, city dwellers must **raise their awareness about** how to protect the environment and live in a sustainable way. **That means** everyone has to help cities to **address this problem before the damage caused by this trend becomes irreversible**.

To summarise, several problems are caused by the increasing population in urban areas. **I believe that we should take measures including** providing affordable housing in cities, improving transport infrastructure and raising public awareness about an eco-friendly lifestyle **to solve those disturbing issues**.

Essay Template 20

Report: *In many countries, the average life expectancy has been increasing. What problems will this cause for individuals and for society as a whole? Suggest some solutions.*

Now in many countries, the average life span has increased dramatically. **In this essay, I intend to explore** the issues caused by this phenomenon **and offer** some effective solutions **as well**.

The problems caused by a much longer average life expectancy **are multiple**. **To begin with**, the ageing population creates a huge burden for the government. **Specifically**, taxpayers must work harder in order to financially support the ageing population who are not in the workforce anymore. **Also, it seems that** more and more families have fewer and fewer children. **In other words**, fewer children must look after ageing parents in the long run (e.g. a couple may have to take care of four elderly parents while working full-time and taking care of their children, which realistically becomes a concern for the family). **Finally**, the quality of life during those very senior years is actually quite low. **This is true in that** some senior citizens do not really enjoy life because of various medical conditions.

Given the above problems, I am convinced that immediate actions must be taken to combat this situation. **Priority should be given to** a more reasonable allocation of government funds. **More exactly**, the government already wastes a lot of money on space exploration while people have enough problems on the planet; **consequently**, the government should allocate more funds to support the ageing population. **Besides**, having more children should be encouraged, especially in developed countries such as Australia and New Zealand. **More specifically**, the government can give people incentives to give birth to more children so that the structure of the population can **strike a balance**. **Most importantly**, the community **would be well-advised to** take care of the wellbeing of senior citizens by giving them proper quality time such as learning something new in the community centre. **Clearly**, the quality of life of senior citizens would certainly be improved if the society could **make an effort** to help them improve their lifestyle.

In sum, the increasing average life expectancy has **engendered a wide array of** problems; **therefore, we should take a wide range of measures, including** allocating government funds in a more sensible way, encouraging couples to have more children and offering senior citizens more support in the community **to address those worrying issues**.

Essay Template 21

Report: *In some countries, there is not enough respect for elderly people. Why is this the case? Suggest some solutions.*

These days in some countries, respect for elderly people is not enough. **In this essay, reasons for this phenomenon will be analysed and relevant solutions will be provided as well.**

The causes of lack of respect for elder people **are manifold**. **First**, more and more young people are losing traditional values. **It is true that** traditional values such as respecting the elderly are disappearing amongst youngsters. **Further**, the modern belief system values success based on how much money a person makes. **It is obvious that** elderly people have retired and do not make money anymore; **hence** young people stop respecting them at the same time. **Thirdly**, because of the increasing average life expectancy, there are more and more elderly people in the society. **Apparently**, this trend makes elderly people less valued by others.

On the basis of the above reasoning, comprehensive solutions have been identified. **The first solution is** reinforcing traditional values and beliefs. **It is evident that** schools should teach young people more about traditional ideas so that youngsters can better understand the importance of traditional wisdom and virtues. **The next solution is** educating the general public. **To be more specific**, it is time for the government to correct the money-oriented mindset among citizens. **The final solution is** raising the awareness about respect in general. **For instance**, the community should promote the significance of respect for the elderly so that youngsters can be aware of why they must respect senior citizens.

To sum up, varied reasons have given rise to the absence of respect for elderly people, **thus I firmly believe steps such as** reinforcing traditional values, correcting the money-oriented mindset and raising the awareness about respect **must be taken to tackle the worrisome situation**.

Essay Template 22

Report: *Many young people leave school with a negative attitude towards learning. What are the causes of this? Suggest some solutions.*

Currently, so many young people who graduate from school have a negative attitude towards learning. **In this essay, I would like to identify** the causes of this situation and **propose some corresponding solutions.**

A wide range of factors contribute to the fact that a lot of school-leavers have a negative attitude towards learning. **In the first place**, most schools focus on students' academic performance much more than practical skills. **Unfortunately**, when students finish their schooling, they realise that practical skills are actually more important than academic achievement in the society; **thus** school-leavers are disappointed and lose their motivation to learn more. **In the second place**, the majority of teachers still use traditional methodologies which encourage **rote memorisation** and **standardised tests**. **As a result**, students feel that learning is **an arduous process**, which is not **stimulating** at all. **Lastly**, the modern culture does not value education enough. **Traditionally**, education was highly valued, **yet sadly**, modern young people gradually value financial success more than education.

Fortunately, several solutions have been found. **The most urgent solution is** education must **be geared to** students' needs in their future. **Essentially**, schools have to look at how to **meet the demand of** a changing society and **provide** more practical skills and knowledge **for** students. **Likewise, the responsibility for** changing teaching methods **falls on teachers**. **In essence**, since teachers' pedagogies directly determine whether students enjoy learning or not, teachers should **kindle students' interest in** learning by applying more engaging methods in class. **Finally, the responsibility for** promoting education **rests with the government**. **As I would be hard-pressed to imagine that** our future society value education less and less, **it is high time** the government **started** to educate the general public so that youngsters will see the value of education more.

Overall, a growing number of young people do not like learning anymore after they leave school **due to various reasons**. **So the key is, I believe, to take actions such as** changing the focus of schools, modifying teachers' approaches to teaching and promoting the value of education.

Bonus templates for Writing Task 1 (Academic and General Training)

Academic Version – Task 1: Key structures

- The graph indicates/outlines/summarises/demonstrates/illustrates ...
- According to the line graph, ...
- It is manifest from the chart that ...
- As shown in the table, ...
- We can see from the process diagram that ...
- As shown in the pie chart, ...
- The figure for the United Kingdom increased/went up/rose/grew to 60% ...
- Business expense on transport declined/dropped/dipped to just \$1,000 ...
- Similarly, the figure for the United States jumped/soared to 58% ...
- In comparison, business expense on rent ascended/surged to \$2,000 ...
- The number for Australia is expected/predicted/projected to reach 70,000 ...
- Business expense on telephone and the Internet accounted for/represented/constituted 10% of the budget.
- The amount levelled out at/remained stable at approximately \$1,500 ...
- Therefore, it can be clearly seen from the bar chart that ...

General Training Version – Task 1: Key Structures

- I am writing to request your help/assistance.
- I would appreciate it if you could advise me regarding ...
- I would like to enquire about ...
- I would appreciate your prompt reply regarding ...
- I am writing to express my interest in ...
- I would like to meet you in person at your earliest convenience.
- I would be very grateful if you could consider my request soon.
- It seems to me that you could ...
- ... will be much appreciated.
- I am writing to apologise for ...
- Please accept my sincere apology for ...
- I am sorry to inconvenience you.
- I wish to complain about ...
- I am writing to you in the hope that ...
- I am writing to inform you of my dissatisfaction with ...
- Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to ...
- To make a long story short, ...
- Incidentally, ...

About the Author

Jade Pearlhouse is an Australian educator, best-selling author and academic/career strategist. She has contributed to the success of Flinders University, University of South Australia, the University of Adelaide, Australian Institute of Translation and Interpretation and Australian national curriculum.

Her work has made an international impact, including publishing her content on Amazon websites worldwide (e.g. her best-selling eBook **26 Strategies to Succeed in the IELTS Test: How to work hard and work smart**), teaching Business English as well as Academic English at tertiary level in Asia-Pacific region and offering international business owners professional advice on effective cross-cultural communication which impacts on business success and helps businesses to penetrate overseas markets.

Jade also provides online services such as improving resume/CV and cover letter for her clients worldwide. In 2015, Australia's leading job-hunting agency *Seek* regarded Jade's advice as the best career advice in Australia.

For more information, simply search "Jade Pearlhouse" on Facebook and send a friend request or follow us on Facebook so that you won't miss out on anything that may help you with your learning and career development. Yes, there are many free resources on our Facebook page as well.

Jade currently lives in Australia and her free resources can be accessed at www.ieltswithjade.com