

Common IELTS Essay Topics

- Arts
- Business and Money
- Communications and Personality
- Crime and Punishment
- Education
- Environment
- Family and Children
- Food and Diet
- Government
- Health
- Languages
- Leisure and free time
- Media and Advertising
- Society
- Science
- Sports and Exercise
- Technology
- Tourism
- Transport/Travel
- Work

Arts

It is becoming increasingly expensive for museums to be open to the public. What would be the best solution to keep them open, in your opinion? (opinion type essay)

Nowadays museums and historical sites are visited mainly by foreign tourists rather than by locals. Why is this happening? What can be done to get locals to visit museums and historical sites more often? (solutions type essay)

With the development of technology and science some people believe that there is no great value in artists such as musicians and painters. What are the things artists can do but scientists cannot? Should art be more encouraged? (opinion and solutions combination type essay)

Business and Money

Nowadays many people want to buy famous brand clothes, cars and other items. What are the reasons for this? Do you think this is a positive or a negative development? (opinion essay type)

Some people believe that price is the only consideration when buying something. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and include relevant examples. (opinion essay type)

Many people think that money is important for achieving happiness. What importance does money have regarding happiness. Include examples in your answer. (opinion type essay)

Communications and Personality

Today, some young people say that their mobile phones are the most important thing they own. Do you think that the popularity of mobile phones is a good or bad thing? (advantage/disadvantage/opinion essay combination type)

These days many children spend a lot of their time playing computer games and doing little time doing sports. Why is this? Is this a negative or positive development? (opinion style essay)

Crime and Punishment

Some people think that prison sentences should not be used to deal with criminals. Educations and skills training should be used instead. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (opinion type essay)

Some people think high-end technology can prevent and cut down the rate of committing crime. Do you agree or disagree? (agree/disagree essay type)

Education

Some people believe that educational success depends on good teacher, while others believe that students' attitudes are important. Discuss both views and give your opinion. (opinion essay type)

School and university students learn lessons far better from their teachers than from other sources such as the internet and television. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (agree/disagree essay type)

Some people from poor and rural backgrounds find it difficult to get a university education. Universities should make it easier for such groups to enrol. To what extent do you agree or disagree. (agree/disagree essay type)

Environment

Fossil fuels (e.g. coal, oil and gas) are the main source of energy for most countries. However, alternative sources of energy (e.g. wind and solar) have been encouraged for use by some countries. To what extent is this a positive or negative development? (advantage/disadvantage essay type)

Nowadays, we can see definite signs of surplus production in almost every industry sector and this is leading to environmental damage. What are some possible solutions to this situation? (solutions type essay)

Family and Children

Some people believe that it is important to give gifts to friends and family to show that we care about them. Others think that there are better ways to show that we care. Discuss both views and give your opinion. (opinion type essay)

Some think that teenagers should follow older people's rules. Others think that it is natural for them to challenge what older people say. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. (opinion essay style)

Food and Diet

Today much of the food people eat gets transported from farms that are thousands of kilometres away. Some people believe that it would be better for the environment and the economy if people consumed food produced by local farmers. Would the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages? (advantages/disadvantages type essay)

Some people think that public health within a country can be improved by government making laws regarding nutritious food. Others however, think that health is a matter of personal choice and responsibility. Discuss both views and give your opinion. (opinion style essay)

Government

Parents, usually mothers, stay at home to look after their families. People believe that for this they should receive a salary from the government. Do you agree or disagree and why? (agree/disagree essay type)

Some people think it is the responsibility of governments to take care of the environment while others believe that it is the responsibility of the citizens. Discuss both views and give your opinion. (opinion type essay)

Nowadays people believe that governments should invest tax-payer's money in healthcare while others believe that money should be used in other areas. Discuss both points of view give your own opinion. (opinion essay type)

Health

TV sports shows such as the Olympics motivate the youth who do not like to exercise much. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Include relevant examples in your answer and provide your own opinion. (opinion type essay)

In many countries people have many health problems because they choose to live an unhealthy lifestyle. What do you think are the reasons for this and how can it be solved? Give examples from your own experience. (solutions type essay)

Languages

People are using a lot of online language translation apps. Are there more advantages than disadvantages to such services? (opinion type essay)

Many people believe that learning a foreign language is a very difficult task. What are the most difficult things about learning a foreign language? What is the best way to overcome them? Explain and include your personal experience or knowledge of these problems. (solutions type essay)

Leisure and Free Time

Shopping is now one of the most popular forms of leisure activity in many countries for young adults. What do you think is the reason for this? Is this a positive or negative development? (opinion type essay)

Having more money and less free time is better than earning less money and having more free time. Discuss both views and state your own opinion. (opinion style essay)

Media and Advertising

Nowadays media should include more good news in their publications. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? (agree/disagree essay type)

Violence in the media promotes violence in society. To what extent do you agree or disagree? (agree/disagree essay type)

Society

The number of old people is increasing. Some people think that this will cause problems in their countries, others believe this group is important to society. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. (Discursive essay type)

Some people prefer to live in hot climates whereas others love the lifestyle in countries which have a cold climate. Discuss both views and provide your own opinion. (opinion style essay)

Some people believe that women should play an equal role as men in a country's police or military force such as the army while others think women are not suitable for these kinds of jobs. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. (opinion style essay)

Science

Most scientific inventions and discoveries are worthless and only waste time and money resources. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your own opinion. (opinion type essay)

Science can now offer people a life expectancy of close to one hundred years or even more. Some people view it in a positive light but others believe it creates some problems. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. (opinion type essay)

Sports and Exercise

Nowadays most people are not as fit and active as they were in the past. What are the main causes of this situation? Suggest some possible solutions. (solutions essay type)

Some people believe that to be a successful sportsperson one needs to have a natural ability. Others think that hard work and practice are more important. Discuss both views and explain your own opinion. (opinion style essay)

Technology

Because of modern technology, some people believe that it is no longer necessary for people to learn handwriting skills, but others believe that handwriting is still an important skill. Discuss both views and give your opinion based on your experience. (opinion type essay)

Some people believe that technology has made people more social and others think that it had made people less social. Discuss both views and give your opinion. (opinion type essay)

Tourism

Nowadays, international tourism is the biggest industry in the world. Unfortunately, it creates tension rather than understanding between people from different cultures. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion? (opinion essay type)

Some people think that when a person travels into a different culture they should adapt to the local practices and customs. To what extent do you agree?

Transport/Travel

Some people believe there will be a reduction in air travel in the future. Do you think that this trend is a positive or negative development? (opinion type essay)

Some people think in order to deal with the problem of congestion in cities, privately-owned vehicles should be banned in city centres while others consider this to be an unrealistic solution. Discuss both views and provide your own opinion. (opinion essay style)

Work

Some people believe that elderly employees are more useful to a company, while others believe that young employees are better. Discuss both views and give your own opinion. (Discursive essay type)

Some people say companies should require all employees to wear uniforms at work. Others think it is unnecessary. Discuss both views and give your opinion. (advantage/disadvantage/opinion essay combination type)