

A solid red rectangular graphic element located above the word 'IELTS'.

# IELTS

**International English Language Test System**

**Writing**

**Lesson 6 Skills for Task 2: Basic Skills & Essay Question**

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# About this lesson

**01**

Basic Skills & Essay Question

**02**

Guided Practice

# PART ONE

## Basic Skills & Essay Question

Class time:  $\leq 15$  minutes

# Basic Skills

3 minutes

✓ For Task 2, you have to master these skills:

How to write an introduction

How to write the main body (paragraphs)

How to write a conclusion

Write an essay of 250 words in  
40 minutes



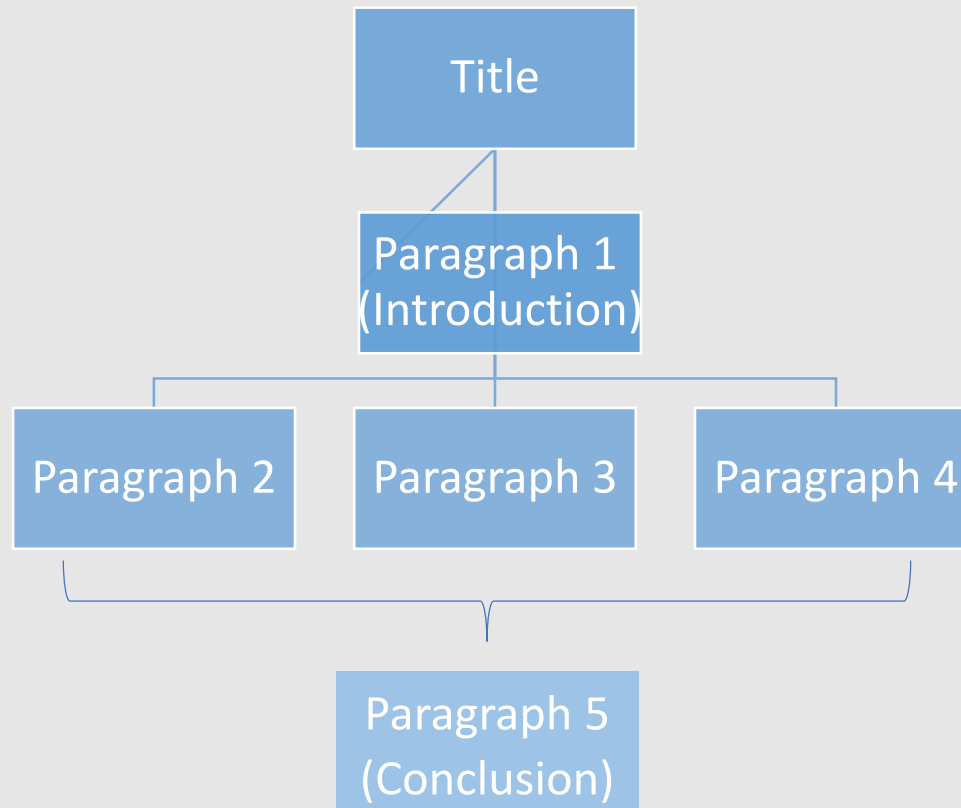
## Basic Strategies for Task 2

- Use the **question** to help you organize your answer.
- Check the general **topic** of the question, usually: a problem, a point of view or a statement with two opposing views.
- Check **how many parts** there are to the question.
- Make a brief plan. Use the focus points in the question.
- Make very brief notes about what you are going to write for each **paragraph—one idea for each paragraph** is enough.
- Aim to write around **270 words**.
- Work out how many lines 250 words are in your handwriting, e.g. if you write about ten words per line, then you will need to produce at least 25 lines.
- Spend **no more than five minutes analyzing** the questions and planning.

# Basic Skills

2 minutes

- Plan to write about five paragraphs. **Keep this plan in mind:**



# Essay Question

5 minutes



## Analyzing the essay questions and understanding the instruction

- Prepare for understanding the questions in Task 2 by looking at various sample questions available.
- Familiarize yourself with the basic structure of the essay question and the instruction.
- The essay question usually contains a statement which describes a general situation followed by specific points to write about.
- The general statement can present a problem, e.g. Stress in modern life is increasing. This may then be followed by questions like *What do you think are the main causes of this? What possible solutions can you suggest?*
- Your answer should then be organized around the main causes and then the suggested solutions. **In each case you need to give reasons and support with examples.** Remember that **you also need to give your opinion.**

# Essay Question

5 minutes

- The organization of the question shows you the organization of your essay. Do not try to contradict it or to be overly clever.
- Try to analyse questions by concentrating first on the organizing or words [*causes, effects, solutions, etc.*] that are contained in the question.
- Make lists of the common words used. Remember the words you have learned in Matching sentences/phrases in Reading? Compare the words used there.
- If you are asked to give your opinion about a point of view, the common instructions used are: *To what extent do you agree (or disagree)? How far do you agree (or disagree)? What is your opinion?* Note that these may be combined with questions about causes, etc.
- Note that when you are asked just "*To what extent do you agree?*" It means that you can disagree!



# PART TWO

## Guided Practice

Class time:  $\leq 5$  minutes

# Guided Practice

5 minutes

Read the question given below. Discuss with you tutor about the questions.

***Universities should accept equal numbers of male and female students in every subject.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

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

Can you tell your tutor how many parts you are supposed to answer to the question? Is it asking for causes, effects, solutions, or opinions? How will you organize your paragraphs?

## Self-analysis checklist

- ☐ I understand the basic skills for task 2.
- ☐ I can analyse the essay questions and understand the instruction in task 2.
- ☐ I have practiced my skills in guided practice.



**You're going to learn more skills in IELTS writing in the next lesson.**