IELTS Tips and Samples

Compiled
by
Anita J. Ghajar-Selim

Head of Writing Lab, Student Learning Support Center
Qatar University
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# Academic Writing

## Similarities and Differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task 1</th>
<th>Task 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describe some information or data shown in a table, graph, diagram, chart, etc.</td>
<td>Discuss (write) a problem, opinion, or issue.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>At least 150 words <strong>(ONLY CANDIDATE WORDS)</strong></td>
<td>At least 250 words <strong>(ONLY CANDIDATE WORDS)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Candidates will be marked for:</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. <strong>Coherence and Cohesion</strong> (the clarity and fluency of the message). Mention of the key features.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Lexical Resource (the range of the vocabulary)</td>
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<td>3. Grammatical range and Accuracy (how accurate and varied the grammar is)</td>
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<td>4. Task Achievement (how appropriately, accurately and relevantly the response meets the requirements of the task)</td>
<td>4. Task Response (how fully and relevantly the response is expressed, developed and supported in relation to the question or statement)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Candidates spend 20 minutes on Task 1.</td>
<td>Candidates spend 40 minutes on Task 2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Write separate introduction and conclusion.</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>Worth more than task 1.</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Candidates should write their own examples to support their ideas.</td>
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</table>
IELTS Academic Writing Task 1 Activity – Sample Task

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart shows the number of men and women in further education in Britain in three periods and whether they were studying fulltime or parttime.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.
The bar chart illustrates how many males and females have studied in fulltime and part time education in the following years: 1970 to 1971, 1980 to 1981 and 1990 to 1991.

It is clear that in all three time periods more people of both sexes were involved in part time education than fulltime. Overall the number of men in fulltime education rose from approximately 100 thousand to 200 thousand, whereas the number of men in part time education was lower in the early nineties than twenty years earlier.

As far as women are concerned, the numbers increased in both sectors of education. The number of part time female students increased dramatically from 700 thousand to 1.2 million in the twenty year period. The amount of women in fulltime education went up more gradually from 100 thousand in 1971 to just over 200 thousand in 1991. This was similar the increase for fulltime male students.

To sum up, the number of women in both sectors increased significantly while it seems that the rate of men entering part time education decreased a little and was fluctuating.
IELTS Academic Writing Task 2 Activity—Sample Task

• You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.
• Write about the following topic.

The threat of nuclear weapons maintains world peace. Nuclear power provides cheap and clean energy.

The benefits of nuclear technology far outweigh the disadvantages.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.
IELTS Academic Writing Task 2 Activity – Sample Answer
Nuclear Power

Nuclear power is an alternative source of energy which is carefully being evaluated during these times of energy problems. During these years we can say that we have energy problems but in more or less 50 years, we will be facing an energy crisis.

Nuclear power is an alternative source of energy and unlike other sources such as solar energy, nuclear power is highly effective for industrial purposes. If it is handled correctly there really is no danger for the public. It is cheap, there is no threat of pollution and most of all it is limitless. It is difficult to think about nuclear power as a good source of energy for people in general. This is due to the use it has been given since its birth during the second world war. It is expressed as military power and in fact at the moment nuclear power is limited to few hands who consider themselves world powers. When and if there is a change of ideology regarding the correct use of nuclear power, then we may all benefit from all the advantages nuclear power can give us.
If we out weigh the advantages and disadvantages of nuclear technology we often have the following:

As stated before, the advantages are that there is limitless supply, it is cheap, it is effective for industrial purpose and still there are many benefits which have not yet been discovered. The disadvantages are at present time that it is limited to only a few countries who regard it as safe military power. Also if mishandled, there is risk for the population around the plant to undergo contamination as we all know happened in Chernobyl. If these disadvantages can be overcome then it is clear that nuclear energy can give us more benefits than problems. It will in the future be very important as the energy crisis is not far ahead.

In conclusion, nuclear power is good, it can be safe, and we will all benefit. It is up to our leaders to see that it is handled well so that we can all benefit from it.
Examiner comment

Band 7

The answer is well-written and contains some good arguments. It does tend to repeat these arguments but the writer’s point of view remains clear throughout. The message is easy to follow and ideas are arranged well with good use of cohesive devices.

There are minor problems with coherence and at times the expression is clumsy and imprecise. There is a wide range of structures that are well handled with only small problems in the use of vocabulary, mainly in the areas of spelling and word choice.
## General Training Writing
### Similarities and Differences

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<td><strong>A personal letter</strong></td>
<td><strong>A piece of discursive writing</strong></td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
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Candidates should write their own examples to support their ideas in the paragraphs.
IELTS General Training Writing Task 1

For the IELTS General Training Writing Task 1 you are asked to write an informal, semiformal or formal letter.
You live in a room in college which you share with another student. However, there are many problems with this arrangement and you find it very difficult to work.

Write a letter to the accommodation officer at the college. In the letter

· describe the situation
· explain your problems and why it is difficult to work
· say what kind of accommodation you would prefer.

Write at least 150 words.
You do NOT need to write any addresses.
Begin your letter as follows:

Dear Sir or Madam,
Dear Sir or Madam

Request to change room

I am writing to ask if I could please be given another room in college.

At present I share a room with another student who, unfortunately, is very noisy. This makes it very difficult for me to study. I have asked this student on many occasions to let me work quietly but there has been no change. He plays his radio or watches TV constantly and often invites friends round for parties which last till late in the night.

I have tried working in the library but it is not open at all the times I need. I am very worried about this situation, as I have to finish my final year project this term and have my final exams coming up at the end of the year.

I would be most grateful if you could please give me a room by myself or a room sharing with a student who is quiet.

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance for your help.

Yours faithfully

Jan Hutt
IELTS General Training Writing Task 2- Sample Task

Information Box

Topic: The care of old people is a growing problem. Some say the government should care for old people. Others say that it is the family’s responsibility. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

A composition where you discuss a topic (discursive writing) may involve discussing the advantages and disadvantages of different solutions. The structure needs to be very clear.

Here is one way of organising your answer:

1. Introduction
   General statement about the topic

2. Body
   A. Arguments for solution 1 (+ supporting evidence)
   B. Arguments against solution 1 (+ supporting evidence)
   C. Arguments for solution 2 (+ supporting evidence)
   D. Arguments against solution 2 (+ supporting evidence)

Continue in the same way with any other solutions you would like to include

3. Conclusion giving writer’s final opinion based on above arguments

N.B. This topic shows just one kind of discursive writing. Others include proposing solutions and justifying opinions. These require different structures. (Read the Essay)
The care of old people is an issue all over the world as it is no longer clear who has the responsibility for looking after old people. There are two main choices: the government or the family.

If the government pays for the care of old people this usually means that the old people go into old people’s homes. In these all people are given equal and high quality care. Countries such as Sweden operate this system very efficiently.

The problem is that this solution is very expensive. The money comes from tax and many countries simply can’t afford it. It also often means that old people go into homes where they know no one and have nothing to do.

The alternative is for families to support their elderly relatives. In theory this provides loving care and means the old person can be an active member of the family. In practice, it often does not work out, as families don’t have enough money, and so, much bitterness is created, and the old people are neglected. I can see this happening all around me in my country where there is no government support for old people.

It is clear that neither of these solutions is good. Therefore, it seems to me that a mixture of the two is the best solution. The government should provide money to families to look after their elderly relatives. But I also think that old people should save up money during their working lives to look after themselves in old age.
Coherence vs. Cohesion

• When you write an essay, it should be both cohesive and coherent. An essay is cohesive if the parts in it are linked together. An essay is coherent if it makes sense.

Compare the following sentences

• I am a doctor. A doctor works in a hospital. It is a place where you cure sick people. Patients get medication from a pharmacy. (this paragraph makes no sense-although it seems like the words in it refer to the same things. So, it is cohesive, but not coherent.)

• I am a doctor. I work in a hospital nearby. This hospital is a modern one with good facilities. Our main goal is to serve and care for sick people. At times patients need love and care more than medication. (This paragraph is both cohesive and coherent).

Look at some cohesive devices on the next page.
Cohesive Devices

• Repetition of a Key Term or Phrase
• Synonyms
• Pronouns
• Transitional Words
• Sentence Patterns

http://home.ku.edu.tr/~doregan/Writing/Cohesion.html
Key Features

- Similarities
- Differences
- Main stages
Suggested Reading

Look for the following files at:

http://www.qu.edu.qa/students/services/writinglab/Online_Resources/OnlineResources.php

• Paragraph
• Essay
• Be Your Own Editor
• Sneaky Grammar
• Research
If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at:

anita.ghajar-selim@qu.edu.qa