

## Introduction to Task 2

In this lesson, we look at some basic information about Task 2.

### Sample of Task 2 (from ielts.org)

#### ACADEMIC WRITING SAMPLE TASK 2A

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

*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.*

*To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

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

Write at least 250 words.

#### 1 Time

*Our analysis shows that many students do better when they spend 25m on Task 1 and 35m on Task 2.*

#### 2 Rubric

*This part gives you the outline of the question. We recommend you read this and underline the key words.*

#### 3 Task

*There are different tasks for Task 2 depending on what kind of essay you are asked to write (opinion, discussion, etc.). We will cover all the essay types in this course.*

#### 4 Instructions

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#### 5 Instructions

*Every Task 2 says 'Write at least 250 words'. Most band 7+ essays will be between 250 and 350 words.*

## Frequently asked questions about Task 2

### What are the different essay question types?

- Agree/Disagree Questions
- Advantage/Disadvantage Questions
- Discussion Questions
- Double Questions
- Direct Questions

### What are the most common Task 2 questions?

- Agree/Disagree Questions: 38%
- Advantage/Disadvantage Questions: 22%
- Discussion Questions: 18%
- Double Questions: 21%
- Direct Questions: 2%

### What are the most common topics?

The topics in academic task 2 are general and do not require any specific knowledge. They are often on current themes of general interest such as rural to urban migration, the effects of technology on family and work, etc. We will cover these in this course. The most common topics are:

- Geography and the environment,
- Economy and work,
- Technology,
- Education
- Upbringing and parenting
- The role of the government/companies/ celebrities/ individuals

### Which is more important Task 1 or Task 2?

Task 2 is worth double your task 1 score.

### How are my answers assessed?

Your answers are assessed on 4 categories.

- Task Achievement
- Coherence and Cohesion
- Lexical Resource
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy

### Why can't I get band 7+?

There are certain reasons why students don't get band 7+

#### Task Achievement

- Misunderstanding the question
- Not having well-developed ideas
- Not having a clear position

#### Coherence and Cohesion

- Incorrect use of paragraphs
- Inaccuracy of linking words

#### Lexical Resource

- Mistakes in word choice/formation
- Mistakes in spelling

#### Grammatical Range and Accuracy

- Mistakes in grammar
- Mistakes in punctuation
- Overuse of simple structures

### Do I need to use advanced vocabulary and grammar to get a high score?

You shouldn't focus too much on trying to use advanced vocabulary and grammar. Instead, you should focus on using the most accurate grammar and vocabulary for communicating your ideas. In this way, you're likely to have a clear answer that the examiner can easily understand.

### Can I have extra paper for planning and making notes?

You can make notes and plan on the question paper (we highly recommend this). You can ask the supervisor for extra paper.

### Should I do Task 1 or Task 2 first?

We recommend quickly reading task 2 first to know what the question is but starting task 1 first. If you do this, your brain will begin to think of ideas for task 2 while completing task 1. Task 2 is worth more marks, but most candidates score lower in task 1 so it is important to spend 20-25 minutes on task 1.

### Can I write more than 250 words for Task 2?

You should write more than 250 words for task 2. There is no limit to how long your answer can be. You can put up your hand and the supervisor will give you more paper.

### Should I leave a line at the beginning of each paragraph?

Yes, it is important to clearly show the examiner that your answer has paragraphs. Do this by leaving one line free between each paragraph.

### Are General Task 2 and Academic Task 2 essay titles the same?

They are not the same. Academic task 2 essays are on more challenging topics. For example, a General essay might ask about the advantages and disadvantages of living in a hot country while an Academic essay might ask about the advantages and disadvantages of studying or working abroad.