



ENGLISH ASTIR
STEPPINGSTONE TO 7.0

Writing Technology - now and then Task 2





- 1 Work with your teacher. Read the Task 2 question below and answer the questions which follow.

What to expect in the exam

- In IELTS Writing Task 2, you have to write an essay on a topic of general interest.
- You are asked to write at least 250 words.
- You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe that technology has led to many positive developments in their lives, while others think technology is gradually taking over control of the way people live. Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

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

Write at least 250 words.

How to go about it

- Two different views are expressed in this question. Make two columns A and B. Choose one of the views and write a list of ideas in column A in one to two minutes. Do not exclude any ideas. Then write a list of opposing views in column B. Select one or two ideas from each column.
- Express your own opinion either by supporting one view or balancing the two views.
- Write an introduction that paraphrases the question. Keep the introduction brief – two to three sentences is enough.
- Write two paragraphs for the views in the question and one for your own view followed by a conclusion.

- 1 Which part of the statement contains a positive development and which part contains a negative development?
positive:

negative:

- 2 Which of the two views do the notes below relate to? Give reasons and examples.

- a** more convenient/greater convenience **b** harmful to society
c affecting production at work negatively **d** more practical

- 2 You can generate ideas by thinking of opposites. What are the opposites of the ideas in exercise 1? Can you think of examples to support them?

- a**
b
c
d

3 What other ways can you use to generate ideas?



4 Work with your teacher. When you write an introduction it needs to reflect the structure and meaning of the writing task. Look at the following introductions for the writing task above. Decide which two are suitable and why.

1 In some people's eyes, the influence of technology over our lives is beneficial, and yet to others, it is harmful.

2 Technology is part of our daily lives. While some people see this situation has brought many improvements, others feel that technology is too controlling. Personally, I think that technology is largely beneficial.

3 With recent scientific advances, it is argued by some that many positive changes have been brought about in people's lives by technology. Other people believe, however, that we are losing control of our lives to technology. Personally, I feel it is a mixture of both.

5 Improve the introduction which is not suitable in exercise 4 above.

6 The paragraph below develops the writer's own opinion in answer to the Task 2 question above. Read the paragraph and match it to one of the two suitable introductions in exercise 4.



To some people, technology is controlling their lives. **However**, I feel it is a mixture of positive and negative effects, **because** technology like smartphones has brought enormous improvements. Take, **for example**, the impact of technology on communication. Smartphones have revolutionised the way items **such as** personal and commercial messages are sent with the electronic transmission of messages. **Moreover**, very large files such as reports that were once sent by post can now be transmitted electronically **in order to** save time and money. **As a result**, people and the economy benefit.

7 Put each of the linking words in bold in exercise 6 into the correct box in the table below.

	Example	Reason	Result	Additional Information	Purpose	Contrast
Adverb						
Conjunction						
Other						

8 Decide what other words can be used to indicate examples and add them to the table.

9 Decide which words in the box below can be used to replace the words in exercises 6 and 7 and add them to the table.

conjunction/contrast:

adverb/result:

conjunction/reason:

other/purpose:

adverb/additional information:

but	although	since	as	similarly	furthermore
consequently	so	therefore	also	and so	to

10 Rewrite the paragraph in exercise 6 by doing at least two of the following:

- changing all the examples in the paragraph
- changing the linking words in bold in the paragraph
- changing some of the nouns and verbs
- changing the adjectives

Check that your new paragraph reads well. Share your paragraph with your teacher.

11 Write your own answer to the Task 2 question below. When you have finished check your answer using the checklist.

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

Some people think that technology is now an invaluable study tool for young people. Others, however, believe that it is harmful for the studying process.
Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

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

Write at least 250 words.

IELTS Writing Task 1

Assessment for Task 1 is based on your ability to:

- summarise, organise and compare data where possible
- describe the stages of a process
- describe an object or event or explain how something works
- write accurately and coherently
- use a range of vocabulary
- use a range of grammatical structures.

Checklist

- 1 Have you paraphrased the rubric in your introduction or just copied it?
- 2 Have you written a clear overview?
- 3 Have you summarised the information and not just listed every piece of data?
- 4 Have you included any information that is not in the data?
- 5 Have you left any important data out?
- 6 Have you just listed information or have you compared it?
- 7 Have you divided your answer into clear paragraphs?
- 8 Have you mentioned any striking features?
- 9 Have you avoided repetition of words and structures?
- 10 Have you used a range of grammar, vocabulary and complex structures?
- 11 Have you used the correct tenses and verb form?
- 12 Have you used appropriate linking devices such as adverbs and conjunctions?
- 12 Have you checked your writing for mistakes?
- 13 Have you completed the task according to the rubric?
- 14 Have you written at least 150 words?
- 15 Have you written *too many* words?

You aren't penalised for writing too much, but you may be penalised for *not summarising*. You don't need to write more than about 185 words.

IELTS Writing Task 2

In Task 2 you are given a point of view, an argument or a problem. Assessment for Task 2 is based on your ability to:

- present and support your opinion
- compare and contrast evidence and opinions
- write a solution to a problem
- evaluate and challenge ideas, evidence or arguments
- write in an appropriate style.

Checklist

- 1 Have you paraphrased the question in your introduction?
- 2 Have you given a clear indication of the organisation of your answer in the introduction?
- 3 Have you given a clear statement of your stance/opinion/position in the introduction?
- 4 Have you given a clear statement about the content of each paragraph?
- 5 Have you given reasons and examples as requested in the rubric?
- 6 Have you also developed your ideas by expressing contrasts, causes, effects, purposes and conclusions?
- 7 Have you written a conclusion? Do all the paragraphs now fit together well?
- 8 Is your answer abstract as required? Or does it contain personal examples?
- 9 Have you divided your answer into clear paragraphs? Have you written 4/5 paragraphs?
- 10 Have you included any irrelevant ideas?
- 11 Have you avoided the repetition of words and structures?
- 12 Have you used a range of grammar, vocabulary and complex structures?
- 13 Have you checked your writing for mistakes?
- 14 Have you completed the task according to the rubric?
- 15 Have you written at least 250 words?

