



ENGLISH ASTIR  
STEPPINGSTONE TO 7.0

## Writing – Global issues and opportunities Task 2





**1 With your teacher. Read the Task 2 question below and answer questions 1-3 which follow:**

### How to go about it

- Decide what type of writing task it is. In this case a problem is presented and you are asked to write about the causes and solutions.
- Organise the answer by writing:  
either  
- an introduction with a paragraph stating two or more causes followed by two paragraphs with solutions and then a conclusion.  
or:  
- an introduction, followed by three paragraphs each with a cause and a solution and then a conclusion.

#### WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

*Homelessness is increasing in many major cities around the world. What do you think are the main causes of this problem and what measures could be taken to solve it?*

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

Write at least 250 words.

**1 Look at the first statement of the task. Is it a positive or negative development?**

**2 What things do the questions that follow ask you to write about?**

**3 What else does the task ask you to do? Why?**



**2** Work with your teacher. Look at the two outlines, A and B, for the body paragraphs for the Task above. Circle all the causes and then tick each solution.

### **Outline A**

The main cause of homelessness is the cost of accommodation.

One solution is to subsidize accommodation for people.

Another reason is the shortage of land to build cheap homes.

Cities should build more tower blocks with flats.

The migration of people to cities is another factor that contributes to the problem of homelessness.

The economies in rural areas could be improved/revitalized.

### **Outline B**

The main cause is the cost of accommodation.

Another cause is the shortage of land to build cheap homes.

The best strategy is for governments to provide cheaper accommodation.

Revitalizing the economies in rural areas is another possible measure that can be taken.

**3** Look at the two outlines again. What are the similarities and differences between them? Which outline do you prefer and why?



## Suggesting causes and solutions

**1** With your teacher. Look at the four statements. Discuss what you think might be the causes of the problems. What are the possible solutions?

**1** Rising temperatures are causing problems in some parts of the world.

**2** Many species of animals are becoming extinct.

**3** Many cities are becoming overcrowded.

**4** Water is becoming scarce in many regions.

**2** Rewrite the sentences below using the modal verbs in brackets.

*Example:*

**The most important step is to prevent the situation from becoming worse. (should)**

*The situation should be prevented from becoming worse.*

**a** The best solution is for governments to encourage people to return to the countryside. (ought to)

**b** One possibility is to put protection orders on all wild animals. (can)

**c** There is a slim chance that water desalination plants will work in some regions. (might)

**d** I think that planting more trees is a good option. (should)

**3** Match each problem in exercise 1 to a suggestion in exercise 2.

1

3

2

4



## Grammar reference

### Making Suggestions

You can use the following to make suggestions:

- modal verbs like *should/ought* to make strong suggestions  
*Shopkeepers **should/ought to** be made responsible for cleaning the area around their shops.*  
*Note that you can use **must** to express a very strong suggestion.*  
*Shopkeepers **must** be made responsible for cleaning the area around their shops.*
- modal verbs like *could/might* to make weak suggestions  
*A new body with strong powers **could/might** be set up to tackle the problem of international pollution.*
- fixed phrases that introduce suggestions. These are followed by *would be ... /is to ...*  
*The best way to/A good way to/One way to improve the environment **would be/is to ...***  
*A good idea **would be/is to...***



## Developing a topic sentence

1 You need to develop ideas in a topic sentence with reasons and examples and then link them. In the paragraphs below on homelessness, decide if the linking device needed for each gap introduces: *an example, result, contrast, reason, purpose, or concession*.

One factor contributing to homelessness is the lack of cheap accommodation. Many major cities like New York face homelessness problems, mainly 1 \_\_\_\_\_ there is a shortage of family houses along with high property rents. 2 \_\_\_\_\_ there are many empty properties in these cities, which could be used to alleviate the situation.

Governments should 3 \_\_\_\_\_ encourage property owners to rent out the properties to those without homes. 4 \_\_\_\_\_, incentives could be offered to owners by giving tax relief or subsidies 5 \_\_\_\_\_ help make empty properties available. Such measures would 6 \_\_\_\_\_ help to alleviate the situation. 7 \_\_\_\_\_ this is not a complete answer, it ought to be considered.

2 Complete the gaps in exercise 1 with the following linking words: *for example, therefore, yet, in order to, because, although, then*.

3 Are the linking words and phrases below adverbs, conjunctions, or both?

however	nevertheless	though	nonetheless	although	still
but	yet	even so	while	even if	much as

4 For sentences 1-5 below, underline the correct word in italics. There may be more than one possible answer.

1 People tend to be pessimistic about their present circumstances. *But/However/Although* I think the human race is eternally optimistic; otherwise, how would we survive?

2 Man-made problems such as the plastic soup in the Pacific Ocean are a disaster, *but/however/although* steps like recycling could reduce their impact.

3 *While/Although/However*, green technology is certainly beneficial, there are issues that we need to be careful about.

4 *Even so/Even if/Though* urban dwellers face problems such as overcrowding and traffic congestion, there are many effective solutions to tackle such issues.

5 Many people believe that the changes we see in the world are a result of natural causes. *Even so/Nonetheless/Whereas* there is compelling evidence to the contrary.



5 Work with your teacher. Answer the Task 2 question below.

### WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

*Many people feel that urban environments are more unhealthy than they have ever been.*

*What do you think are the main causes of this problem? What measures can be effective in tackling this problem?*

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

Write at least 250 words.