

How do I Write an IELTS Essay?

General Description

Lets first look at a sample question

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In the last 20 years there have been significant developments in the field of information technology (IT), for example the World Wide Web and communication by email. However, these developments in IT are likely to have more negative effects than positive in the future.

To what extent do you agree with this view?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Essay Structure

- An IELTS essay is structured like any other essay; you just need to make it shorter. There are three key elements:
- **Introduction**
- **Body Paragraphs**
- **Conclusion**

Introduction

You should keep your introduction for the IELTS essay short.

You should do just two things:

- State the topic of the essay, using some basic facts (that you may be able to take from the question)
- Say what you are going to write about

Body Paragraphs

- You should have 2 or 3 body paragraphs - no more, and no less.
- For your body paragraph, each paragraph should contain one **controlling idea**, and have **sentences to support** this.

Conclusion

The conclusion only needs to be one or two sentences, and you can do the following:

- Re-state what the essay is about (re-write the last sentence of your introduction in different words)
- Give some thoughts about the future

Model Essay

- The last two decades have seen enormous changes in the way people's lives are affected by IT, with many advances in this field. However, while these technological advances have brought many benefits to the world, it can be argued that these developments in IT will result in more negative impacts than positive.
- To begin, email has made communication, especially abroad, much simpler and faster, resulting in numerous benefits for commerce and business. Furthermore, the World Wide Web means that information on every conceivable subject is now available to us. For example, people can access news, medical advice, online education courses and much more via the internet. It is evident that these improvements have made life far easier and more convenient for large numbers of people and will continue to do so for decades to come.
- Nevertheless, the effects of this new technology have not all been beneficial. For example, many people feel that the widespread use of email is destroying traditional forms of communication such as letter writing, telephone and face-to-face conversation. This could result in a decline in people's basic ability to socialize and interact with each other on a day-to-day basis.
- In addition, the large size of the Web has meant that it is nearly impossible to regulate and control. This has led to many concerns regarding children accessing unsuitable websites and viruses. Unfortunately, this kind of problem might even get worse in the future at least until more regulated systems are set up.
- In conclusion, developments in IT have brought many benefits, yet I believe developments relating to new technology are likely to produce many negative effects in the future that must be addressed if we are to avoid damaging impacts on individuals and society. *(287 words)*

Comments on Model Essay

- *The IELTS essay introduction talks in general about the increasing use of IT, thus introducing the topic well. The thesis then clearly sets out the writers opinion.*
- *The following paragraph mentions the present benefits of these developments, but the opening sentence in the third paragraph is a qualifying statement (**Nevertheless, not all the effects...**), so the writer can now focus on the negative elements.*
- *The fourth paragraph provides two other negative examples (**lack of regulation, viruses**). Both paragraphs suggest that these problems will continue in the future.*
- *The essay concludes with a clear opinion that agrees with the statement.*