



IELTS Preparation Mini-Course

Lecture 6

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Mastering the IELTS Writing Test

Task 2 (Academic)



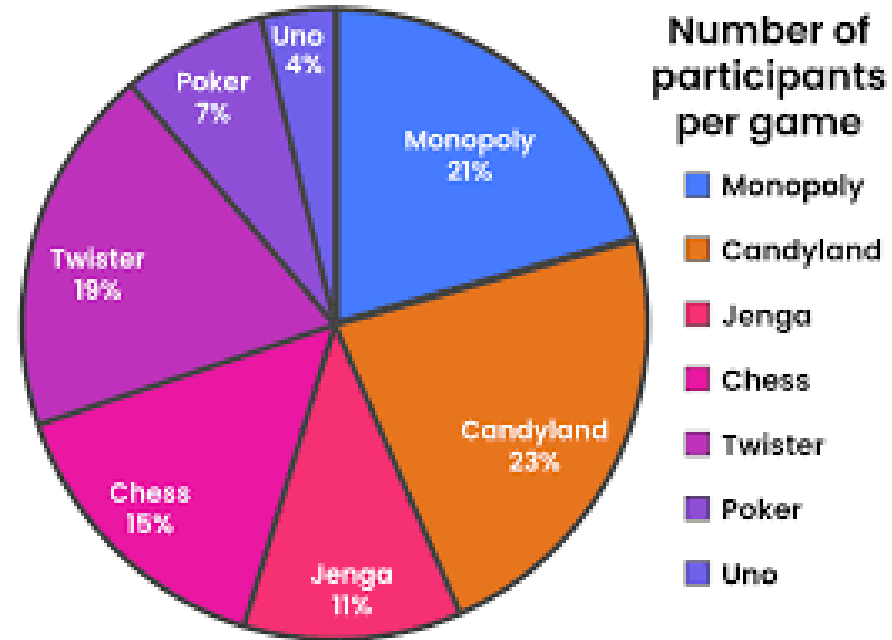
Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

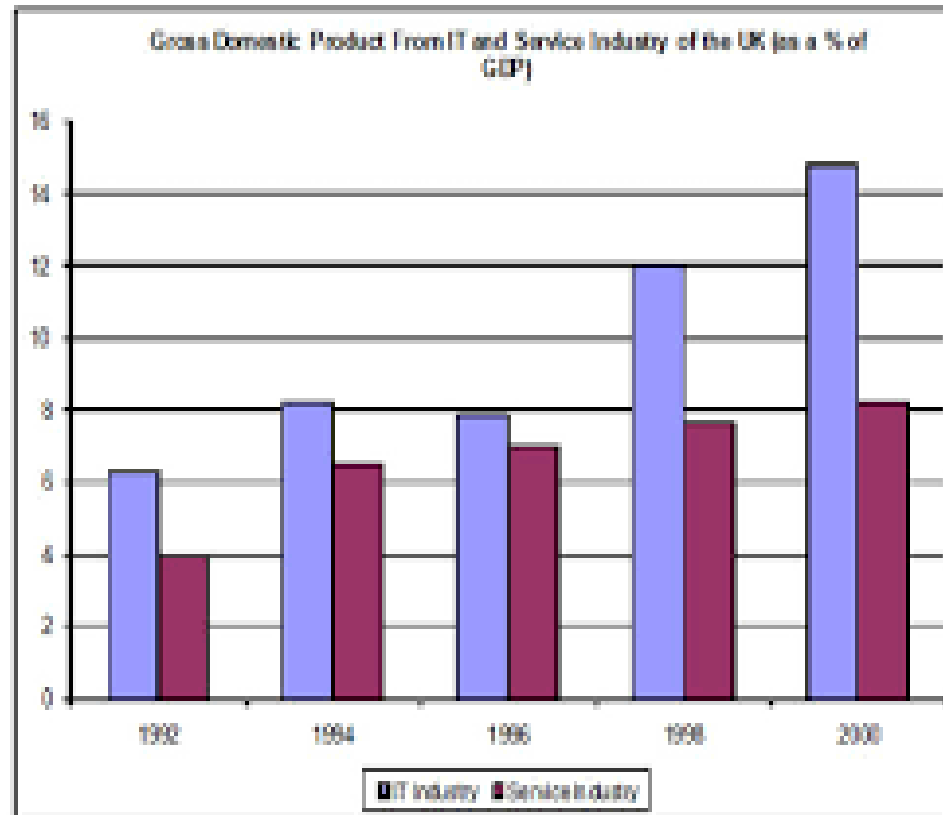
1. Understand the **requirements** of Writing Task 2.
2. Identify the **five main question types** and their structures.
3. Organize an essay into **Introduction – Body 1 – Body 2 – Conclusion**.
4. Write a clear **thesis statement** and **topic sentences**.
5. Use **linking devices** to improve coherence.

Task 1 Revision

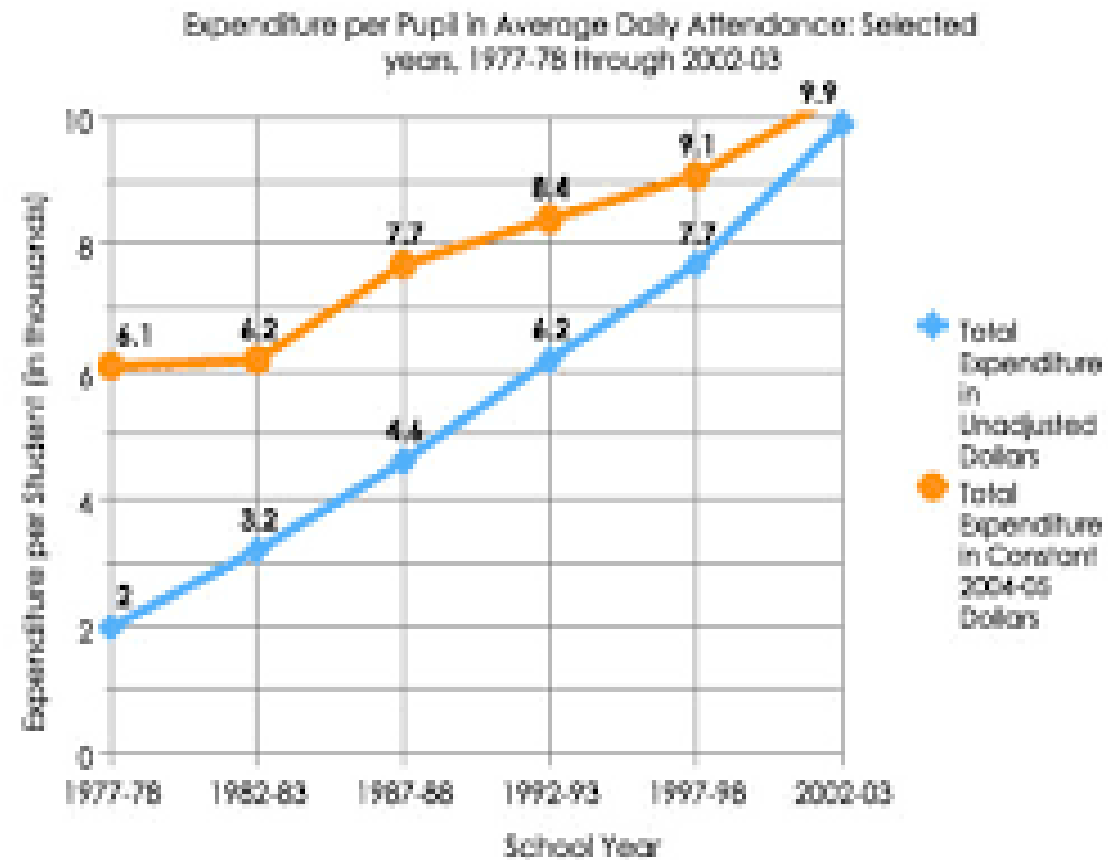
Types of diagrams



Pie chart



bar chart



The NCES Common Core of Data (CCD) 2004-2005

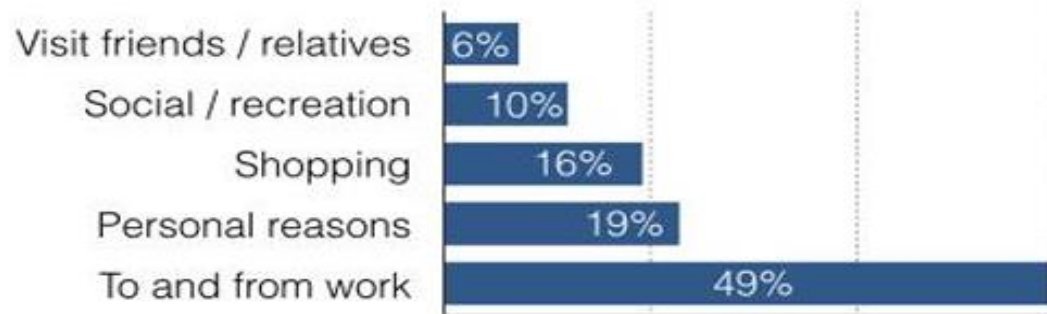
Line chart

	Food and drink	Housing	Clothing	Entertainment
France	25%	31%	7%	13%
Germany	22%	33%	15%	19%
UK	27%	37%	11%	11%
Turkey	36%	20%	12%	10%
Spain	31%	18%	8%	15%

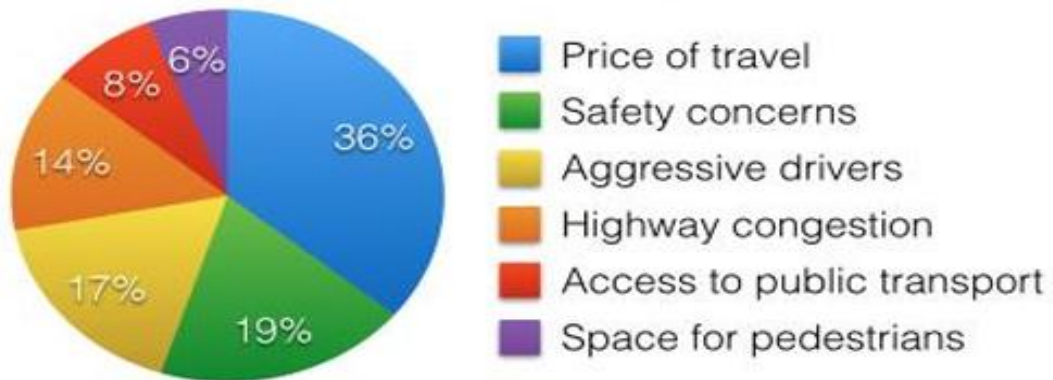
Table

The charts below show reasons for travel and the main issues for the travelling public in the US in 2009.

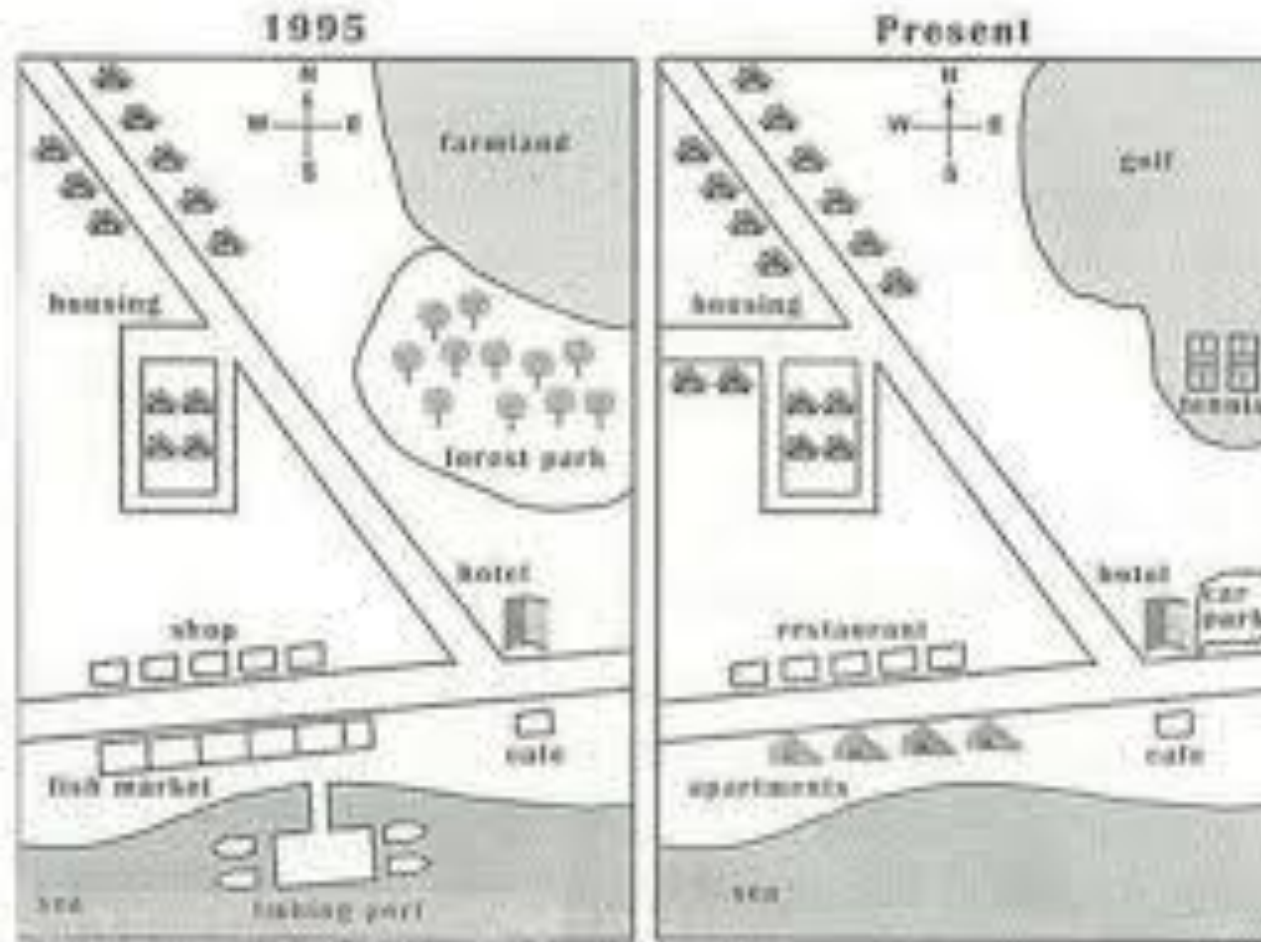
Reasons for travel



Main issues for the travelling public



Multiple Charts



Map

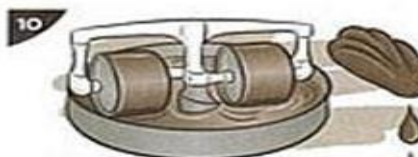
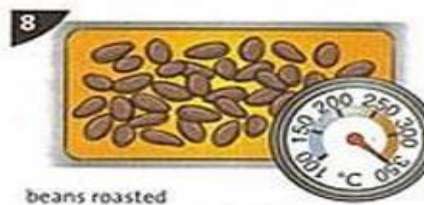
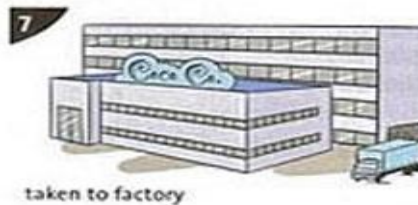
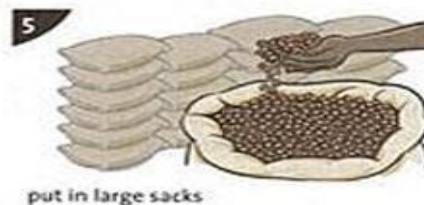
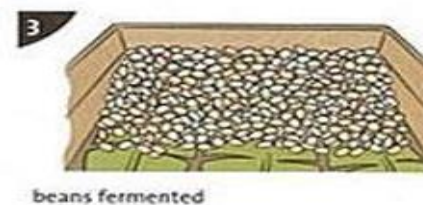
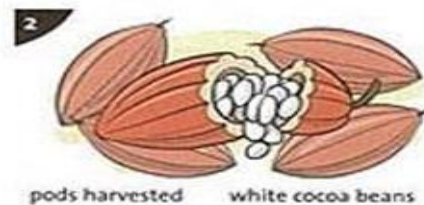
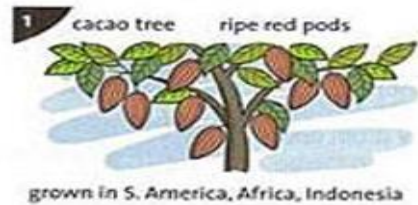
IELTS Process - Chocolate Production

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The illustrations show how chocolate is produced.

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

Write at least 150 words.



Process

Structure of a Band 7+ Answer

1. Introduction

Rewrite the question using synonyms.

Template:

The chart illustrates...

The table compares...

The graph provides information about...

2. Overview (MOST IMPORTANT)

Write 1–2 sentences summarizing the **main trends**.

Templates:

• *Overall, it is clear that...*

• *It can be seen that...*

• *In general,...*

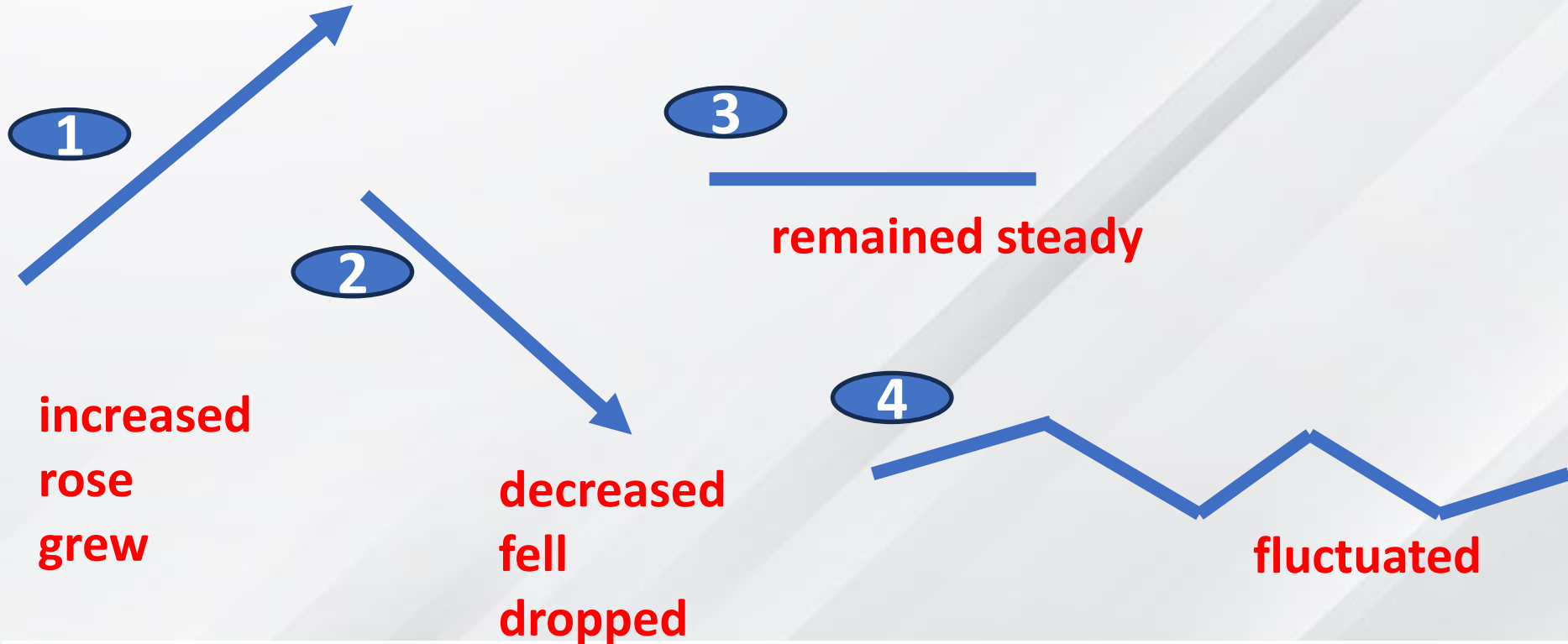
3. Body Paragraph 1 & 2 (Details / Analysis)

Group data logically:

- highest vs lowest
- similarities
- time periods
- categories

Use **comparisons** and **trend language**.

Match the word/ words to the right line:



increased decreased rose fell grew dropped remained steady fluctuated

Lead-in

- *What do you find difficult in Writing Task 2?*
- *What do you think the examiners look for?*

Task 2 Requirements

- ✓ **Length: Minimum 250 words**
- ✓ **Time: 40 minutes**
- ✓ **Style: Formal academic writing**

Essay Structure

A. Introduction

- Paraphrase the question
- Give your thesis statement
- Optional: outline sentence

Example:

Many people argue that students should take a gap year before university. This essay agrees that a gap year can be beneficial because it helps students gain experience and develop maturity.

B. Body Paragraph 1

- Topic sentence
- Explanation
- Example
- Mini-conclusion

C. Body Paragraph 2

Same structure as Body 1.

D. Conclusion

Restate main idea

No new information

Types

4 Types	Body 1 and body 2 structure
1) <u>Discuss idea 1 and idea 2</u> Discuss causes and effects. Discuss problems and solutions. Discuss benefits and drawbacks.	Intro: RO B1: idea 1 B2: idea 2 Conc: SO
2) Opinion (O) Agree or disagree? Positive or negative?	Intro: RO B1: reason 1 B2: reason 2 Conc: SO
3) Discussion opinion Discuss both views and give your own opinion.	Intro: RO B1: View 1 B2: View 2 Conclusion: SO
4- Double question (wh) Does money make you happy? Do you think there are other sources of happiness?	Intro: RO B1: question 1 B2: question 2 Conc: SO

Some people believe that celebrities have a positive effect on society, while others think that their effect is harmful and negative. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Introduction: (R) Rephrase – (O) Opinion

(R) At present, whilst opponents hold the view that some influencers (entertainers) have detrimental (negative) effects on the community, proponents have a diverse perspective (points of view). (O) However, I am a staunch believer that some entertainers positively affect the youth because their deeds (doings/actions) are inspiring and appropriate.

(T) On the one hand, a category of individuals believes that singers, actors, or football players have detrimental effects on the community and they do not have a prominent (salient/major) role in society compared to other vocations. (E) In other words, if teachers who educate (prepare/groom) a myriad of (a plethora of) generations or doctors who put at least ten years of their lives in hectic study and saving people's lives are followed and imitated (mimicked) by juveniles (adolescents), they will help their society more than famous figures who spread violence, erroneous (wrong) thoughts and immoral behaviors. (X) For instance, the superstar "Mohamed Ramadan" receives millions of pounds for presenting violent content that diffuses (spread) atrocities (awfulness/crimes), promotes smoking, or even encourages drinking alcoholic beverages (intoxicating drinks). (S) Thus, what can be said is that these enormous earnings received by errant (misbehaving) entertainers provoke (affect) workers in other hard-working professions.

(T) On the other hand, some celebrities are worthy of being praised because they have an indispensable (essential/important) role. (E) To illustrate, when some glamorous characters generously contribute to philanthropic (humanitarian) associations by making monetary (financial) donations towards health facilities and launch awareness campaigns, they constructively influence adolescents. (X) This can be exemplified by the Egyptian footballer "Mohamed Salah" who encouraged a plethora of young people to combat (fight/battle) addiction by the anti-drug campaign that he initiated. (S) Therefore, not only do these luminaries deserve massive funds, but also, they should be honored by appreciation awards as it becomes lucid (clear) that some megastars can rebuild morals in the world.

(S) In conclusion, by highlighting the above-mentioned points, it can be reiterated that some influencers inspire and admonish (advise) the youth and caution them against crooked (wicked) practices/activities. (O) Certainly, the exemplary (excellent) public figures who are of high reputation are worthy of being well paid.

Useful Academic Language

A. Linking Words

- **Adding:** moreover, in addition, furthermore
- **Contrasting:** however, on the other hand, although
- **Results:** therefore, as a result
- **Examples:** for instance, for example

B. Academic Vocabulary

- **significant, controversial, generate, impact, trend, maintain**

Practice

Essay Prompt:

"Some people think that children should learn financial management at school. To what extent do you agree or disagree?"

Task A: Identify Essay Type

→ Opinion (Agree/Disagree)

Task B: Students Write a Thesis Statement

I strongly believe that financial education should be taught at school because it helps students make better financial decisions in adulthood.

Practice

Prompt:

Some people believe that social networking sites have a negative impact on individuals and society. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Introduction

Social networking platforms have become an essential part of modern life, yet many people argue that they have harmful effects on both individuals and society. I strongly agree with this view because these platforms can damage mental health and weaken real-life relationships.

Body Paragraph 1

Topic Sentence:

One major negative effect of social networking sites is their impact on mental well-being.

Explanation:

Because these platforms encourage constant comparison with others, users often feel inadequate, stressed, or dissatisfied with their own lives. The pressure to maintain a perfect online image increases anxiety, especially among young people who are more sensitive to social approval.

Example:

For instance, a recent study by the University of Michigan found that heavy Instagram users reported significantly higher levels of depression due to comparing themselves with influencers.

Mini-Conclusion:

Therefore, the psychological harm caused by social media can seriously affect individuals' self-esteem and emotional stability.

Body Paragraph 2

Topic Sentence:

In addition to harming individuals, social networking sites can also weaken social bonds within communities.

Explanation:

People often spend hours interacting online instead of engaging in meaningful face-to-face conversations. This reduces the quality of real relationships and leads to shallow online connections that do not provide emotional support. Over time, this shift can create a society where people feel more isolated despite being constantly connected.

Example:

For example, research from the UK's National Centre for Social Research showed that families who spent more than three hours a day on social media reported less communication at home and lower levels of life satisfaction.

Mini-Conclusion:

Thus, the overuse of social media can damage community relationships and increase feelings of loneliness.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I firmly agree that social networking sites have a negative impact on both individuals and society. They contribute to mental health problems and reduce the quality of real-life interactions. It is important for people to manage their social media use to protect their well-being and strengthen their relationships.

Assessment Criteria (Band Descriptors Summary)

- 1.Task Response
- 2.Coherence and Cohesion
- 3.Lexical Resource
- 4.Grammatical Range and Accuracy



Thank You

