

## IELTS Writing Task 2 Tip

When you write the conclusion to your IELTS Writing Task 2 essay you should paraphrase the main points of the question instead of repeating them exactly. Remember: paraphrasing is when you use different words to say the same thing.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Some people believe that a person's culture is defined by their country of origin, while others believe that has only a minor influence.***

***Discuss both these views and give your opinion.***

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

Write at least 250 words.

### Model answer

If we define culture as shared beliefs, values, attitudes and behaviours, it stands to reason then that a person's country of origin impacts their culture. The question is to what degree. Is nationality the defining influence or is it just one of many factors in play? Personally speaking, I would say both arguments have validity, but I would lean towards the latter.

It is easy to understand the 'defining influence' argument. If someone is born and raised in a place, they will be heavily influenced by it. Psychologists refer to this as the 'nurture argument' - you are a product of your environment. For example, if your country's cuisine uses certain ingredients, your palate gets accustomed to those ingredients, but may struggle with other less familiar flavours. If your country has a traditional style of music, say, reggae or rock, all citizens will be exposed to it and, as a result, are more likely to enjoy it.

On the other side of the argument we need to consider the effects of globalisation. Most people have daily access and exposure to other cultures. The evidence is all around us - restaurants, films and foreign businesses are ubiquitous. One of the benefits of globalisation is that it offers us a selection of cultural possibilities to choose from. It is unlikely that you will find any citizen of a certain country who does not have likes or preferences that come from outside of their country of origin. In addition, more and more people work, study or travel extensively away from their home country. Inevitably, these people will be subject to new influences.

My own view is that while we are influenced by our nationality, in this globalised world, one's country of origin is only one aspect of our collective culture. We all adopt elements from other cultures on a daily basis, unconsciously or according to our preferences and experiences. To my mind, this is what makes the world such an interesting place.

(328 words)

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You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Many people believe that zoos have no purpose in today's world and should be closed. What problems do zoos bring?***

***What are the alternatives to zoos if they are closed?***

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

Write at least 250 words.

### Model answer

The presence of zoos in our cities and towns has been questioned a lot recently, and opinions differ about whether they provide benefits to people and animals, or whether they should be closed.

Initially, we need to think about the negative issues with zoos. Many people believe it is wrong to take animals out of their natural environment and put them into cages. They believe that this is cruel and is only done to attract visitors and make money. In addition, many people feel that we should not interfere with nature, and if possible, animals should be allowed to stay in their own environment.

In terms of alternatives, there are a few options that we have. Wildlife parks are becoming more popular in today's world. These provide more space for animals to wander around and they provide a habitat which is more similar to animals' natural homes. A more permanent solution which would enable us all to see animals in the wild would be for airlines to reduce their ticket prices. If air travel were cheaper, then we would all be able to see wild animals in their natural habitat and there would be no need for zoos in our cities. We should also promote channels on TV such as National Geographic. Here, people can see wildlife as it should be seen.

As we can see, zoos are not the only way for humans to see and learn about wild animals. If there were no zoos, it would still be possible for scientists and ordinary people to preserve and experience nature.

(261 words)

## Error Warning

**Know** = already have the information; **find out** = get the information.

**Study** = learn about a subject through books / a course: I'm studying law; I'm studying for my exams. We don't use any other prepositions after study. NOT I am studying about law.

**Learn** = get new knowledge or skills: I'm learning English; I'm learning to knit. Note that we say you are taking a course, NOT learning a course.

NB Prepositions after learn: learn about, learn from, learn to: I learned a lot from this course. NOT I learned a lot with this course.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Increasing numbers of students are choosing to study abroad.***

***To what extent does this trend benefit the students themselves and the countries involved?***

***What are the drawbacks?***

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

Write at least 250 words.

## Model answer

Studying abroad has become increasingly common in the last few years, especially for young people from countries such as China and India. Many students and their families clearly consider the experience worth the sacrifices involved. The former often give up friendships when they move abroad; the latter often use their life savings. Moreover, many governments are willing to invest huge sums of money in sponsoring their young people to study in universities overseas.

However, this trend has drawbacks as well as benefits for those concerned. One potential drawback is that the instruction international students receive may not be relevant to their home contexts. For example, students from developing countries who go to Western countries for teacher training are often taught to use teaching techniques that are suitable for small classes. When they return home they are often expected to teach classes of 40 or 50 students. Hence, what they have been trained to do may not be relevant.

Another potential drawback is the phenomenon of 'brain drain'. Prior to leaving home, they may be fully committed to returning. Nevertheless, students are often at the stage in their lives when they are forming their most important personal and professional relationships. Thus they may choose to remain in the host country on completing their studies.

However, most international students find ways of making the experience work well for themselves and others involved. Most return home, enriched by new friendships made abroad. Furthermore, most find ways of adapting what they have learned to their home context. On balance, the drawbacks do not outweigh the benefits.

(262 words)

## Structure of a balanced argument essay in IELTS Writing Task 2

**INTRODUCTION:** Introduces the topic (paraphrases the question) and makes it clear that both sides of the argument will be examined.

**BODY 1:** Introduces the first idea and supports with reasons and examples. Mentions an opposing view then concludes the paragraph by refuting it with your opinion.

**BODY 2:** Introduces the second idea and supports with reasons and examples.

**BODY 3:** Introduces the opposing argument and supports with examples. Concludes the paragraph at the end with your view.

**CONCLUSION:** Summarizes main points and concludes with the writer's opinion based on the arguments in the essay. No new ideas are expressed.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Today's teenagers have more stressful lives than previous generations.***

***Discuss this view 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.

### Model answer

Despite a continuing improvement in standard of living, many people believe that young people suffer more stress than older generations. In this essay, the arguments surrounding the issue of teenage stress will be discussed.

Firstly, teenagers are exposed to more products than earlier generations as a result of living in a modern consumer society. Through films and the media, they see celebrities with expensive jewellery, clothes and cars. In addition, youth-oriented advertising gives them an awareness of the latest technology such as digital music formats and mobile phones. Consequently, teenagers feel pressure to acquire these items. Some might argue that these pressures are not new. However, I believe that such stresses were not so strong during earlier times.

It could also be argued that pressures at school are stronger than before. In order to achieve the lifestyle they see in the media, teenagers must succeed in their studies so they can compete for the best jobs. Parental pressure, examinations and homework are all reported as causing increased levels of strain.

On the other hand, although it may be true to say that modern society produces certain stresses it does not necessarily mean that stress was previously absent. In earlier times, hunger and physical discomfort would undoubtedly have caused high levels of anxiety, as would hard physical labour, for example, working down a mine. Any balanced view must take into account these alternative factors.

To sum up, consumerism and academic pressures are powerful causes of stress on today's teenagers. Nevertheless, it is my view that these stresses are no greater than those experienced by earlier generations of teenagers. (267 words)