

JURASSIC ENGLISH™

IELTS Writing Task 2 Starter Sheet

Take a clear position in your introduction in 20 minutes: Lesson 1 of the Writing Ladder as a short, complete mini-pack.

Lesson 1 | 20 minutes | IELTS Writing Task 2 | Practice only

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Your 20 minutes

You will learn to read a Task 2 question properly and write an introduction that paraphrases the question, takes a clear position and maps your essay. This sheet is a shortened Lesson 1 of the IELTS Writing Ladder: Task 2.

Minutes	What you do	Page
3	Learn the three questions to ask before you write a word	3
3	See a wrong introduction fixed, and read the position frames	4
8	Write your own introduction (40 to 55 words)	5
3	Count four numbers, then compare with the models	5 to 6
3	Choose your next step	7

You need: a timer, a pencil and the lined space on page 5. No help while you write.

> ***Practice material, not an official IELTS test.*** *No band is given to your writing and none is promised: you count words, minutes and moves.*

Three questions before you write

Examiners first ask one thing: *did you answer the question?* Before you write a word, answer three questions:

1. **Topic:** what is it about? (2 to 4 words)
2. **Task:** what must I do? (agree? discuss? weigh? solve?)
3. **Every part:** how many things must I answer?

Five kinds of Task 2

If the question says	The task is to
To what extent do you agree or disagree? / Is this a good or bad thing?	give your opinion
Discuss both views and give your own opinion.	present two views, then yours
Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?	weigh good against bad and decide
What are the causes of this problem, and what can be done about it?	explain causes and solutions
Why is this happening? What problems does this cause?	answer two direct questions

Worked example: underline every part

Question: *Many people now move from the countryside to big cities to find work. Why is this happening? What problems does this cause for the countryside?*

- **Topic:** moving from the countryside to cities.
- **Task:** answer two direct questions.
- **Parts:** two. (1) Why people move (causes). (2) Problems for the **countryside**, not for the cities.

The second part is limited to the countryside. An essay about traffic in cities answers the wrong question.

Position, paraphrase and a fixed paragraph

Three ways to take a position

- **Agree:** *I strongly agree that ..., because ...*
- **Disagree:** *I do not believe that ..., since ...*
- **Partly:** *I agree that ... to some extent, but ... should not be ...*

One position. Keep it all the way to the conclusion.

Paraphrase without copying

Change at least two of three: **words** (have a part-time job → combine study with paid work) · **word form** (employ → employment) · **order** (students should work → working while studying is expected of students). Do not swap every word: keep topic words that have no good synonym (university, countryside).

The map sentence

The last sentence says what the body will do, in this question's words: *This essay will explain why ..., before considering how ...* or *I will argue that ..., while accepting that ...*

Worked example: fix the paragraph

Question A: *Some people think that all university students should have a part-time job while they study. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

A weak introduction: "*Nowadays, some people think that all university students should have a part-time job while they study. There are many advantages and disadvantages of this. In this essay I will discuss both sides.*"

Three problems: (1) the first sentence copies the question word for word; (2) there is no position, but the question asks how far you agree; (3) the map promises an advantages and disadvantages essay, which is a different task.

Your turn: write the introduction

Question A: *Some people think that all university students should have a part-time job while they study. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Write the introduction only. 40 to 55 words. 8 minutes. Paraphrase, position, map. No help.

Count it yourself (3 minutes)

Words	One sentence says where I stand?	Longest run of words copied from the question	Does it say what the essay will do?
	yes / no		yes / no

Models and what to check

These introductions to Question A are illustrative models written by Jurassic English. They are not officially rated and carry no band. Compare each with your own four numbers.

Introduction 1

Nowadays, many people think university students should have a part-time job while they are studying. I agree with this idea because it gives students money and experience. This essay will explain my reasons.

A clear position and a reason, but the first sentence copies the question closely and the map is generic.

Introduction 2

It is often argued that every university student should combine their studies with paid work. I largely agree, because a part-time job teaches skills that lectures cannot, although the hours must be limited so that study comes first.

Paraphrased, a clear position with its reason, and a limit that the body can develop.

Introduction 3

Whether students should be expected to earn while they learn is a question that divides parents and universities alike. In my view, a modest part-time job benefits most students, since it builds responsibility and workplace skills; however, making it compulsory for everyone would be unfair to those on demanding courses.

The partial position answers the word "all" exactly, and the two halves map the two body paragraphs.

Fixed version of the weak introduction

It is often argued that every university student should combine their studies with paid work. I largely agree, because a part-time job teaches skills that lectures cannot, although the hours must be limited.

What to work on next

One sentence I wrote well today: _____

One number still to move: _____

Try again tomorrow: rewrite your introduction using the paraphrase, position and map moves, then count your four numbers again. Then try a new question, in 2 minutes of analysis and 5 minutes of writing:

- *In some countries, more and more people are choosing to live alone. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?* (The task is to weigh and decide, so your position must say which side is greater.)

The full IELTS Writing Ladder: Task 2

Seven lessons, from the introduction to a full essay written in 40 minutes, with illustrative models for every lesson. This sheet is a shortened Lesson 1. Task 1 is a separate pack. Find the full pack at **jurassicenglish.com/products**.

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