

TIMESAVER FOR EXAMS

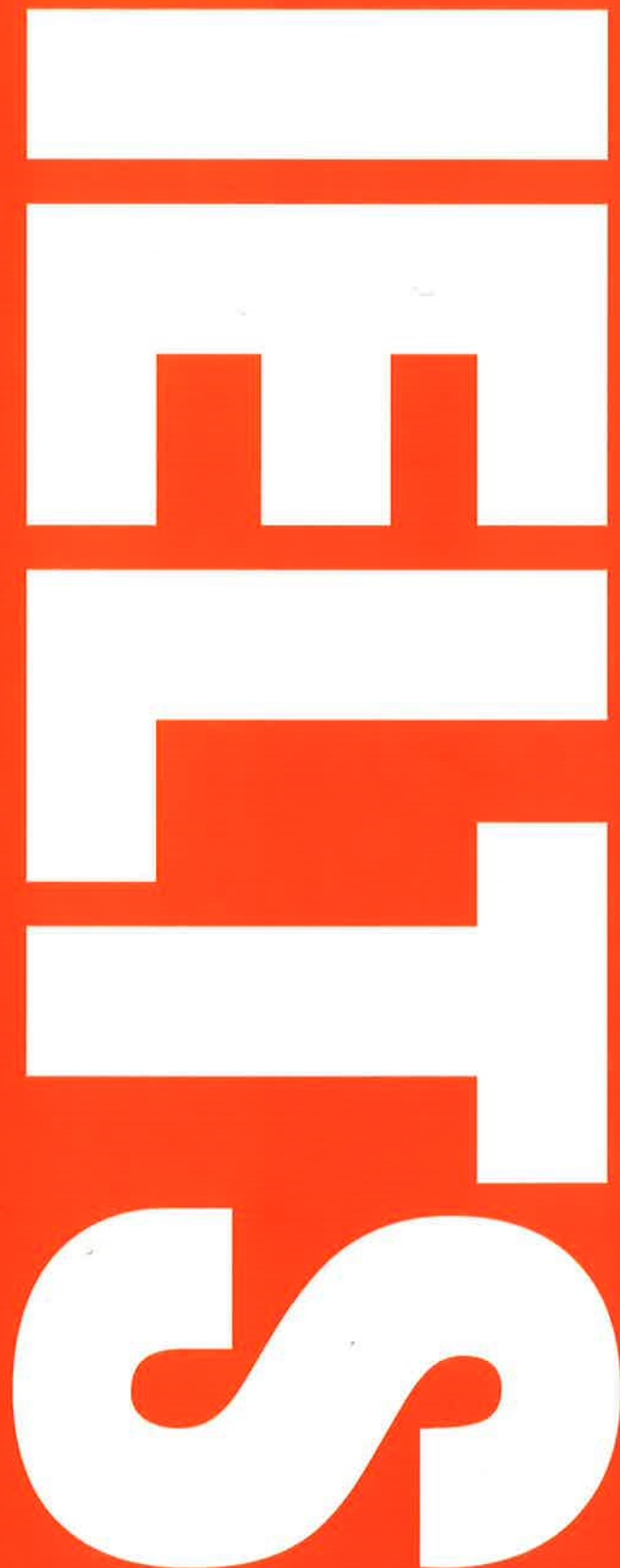


PHOTOCOPIABLE

STARTER

WRITING

(4.0—5.5)



JON MARKS

 **SCHOLASTIC**

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For teachers' inspection ONLY

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What's the topic?



1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- a) What kinds of things do you use the internet for?
- b) How much time a day do you spend using the internet?
- c) Do you think people spend too much time on the internet?
- d) Look at the photos. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of using the internet?

2a Work in pairs. What do you know about Task 2 of the IELTS Writing test?

- a) What do you have to write about?
- b) How many words must you write, and how much time do you have for this?

2b Read the information below and check your answers. Then complete the information with words from the box.

60 250 essay opinion question

In Task 2 of the IELTS Writing test, candidates have to write an (1) essay. You will have a (2) which will ask you to discuss or argue different points of view (for example, the advantages and disadvantages of something), and give your (3) about something.

For this part of the Writing test, you will need to write at least (4) words. You must follow the instructions given in the question, and you need to write in an academic style. The complete IELTS Writing test (Task 1 and Task 2) lasts (5) minutes, and you should spend around 40 minutes of this on Task 2.

3 The information in exercise 2b is written in two paragraphs. Choose the correct answers.

- a) We sometimes / always need to organise essays into paragraphs.
- b) A paragraph is made of one / more than one sentence.
- c) There is / isn't a space between each paragraph.
- d) A paragraph has one clear topic / lots of different topics.
- e) The first / last sentence of the paragraph usually explains what its topic is.

4 Work in pairs. Look at the Task 2 question. What is your opinion?

People spend too much time using the internet and not enough time talking with family, friends and neighbours. Do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Exam tip

In IELTS Writing Task 2, you need to write in paragraphs to get a good mark. Paragraphs help the reader understand what your main topics are, and what you want to discuss in your essay.

5 Look at the essay. Match the topics (a–e) with the paragraphs (1–4).

- a) agreeing with the opinion in the question2.....
- b) summarising the essay, and mostly disagreeing with the opinion in the question
- c) disagreeing with the opinion in the question
- d) introducing the essay and the things that the writer wants to discuss

- 1 *Many people spend several hours each day using the internet. **In this essay, I will** discuss whether I agree that this stops people from spending enough time with their family, friends and neighbours.*
- 2 *I agree that some people spend too much time online. **For example**, some people play games online, or use the internet for shopping or checking news. Many people spend too much time in front of screens, which can be unhealthy. It means that they do not communicate with real people, in the real world. It is true that people nowadays prefer looking at their smartphones to talking with their families, friends and neighbours.*
- 3 *However, the internet can also help people to communicate. Millions of people use it to make new friends or stay in contact with old ones. Family members who live far away from each other can communicate with each other any time they want to, thanks to new technology. I do not think that a conversation which uses text messages or video calls is very different to a face-to-face conversation. Many community groups use social media to help organise events and to get new members. **In my opinion**, people can communicate and make friends more easily than before the internet existed.*
- 4 ***In conclusion**, I do not agree that using the internet means that people don't spend enough time talking to their families, friends and neighbours. I believe that it has increased the amount of communication between people, and offers new ways for people to communicate.*

Exam tip

Phrases like *In this essay, ...*, *For example, ...*, *In my opinion ...*, and *In conclusion, ...* are useful for organising your ideas and making your essay clearer to read.

6a Match the phrases in bold in exercise 5 to the reasons the writer uses them (a–d).

- a) to introduce a final paragraph *In conclusion*
- b) to give his/her personal view
- c) to explain something, by giving examples
- d) to say what the essay will include

6b Match the phrases (1–4) with phrases with a similar meaning (a–d).

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) In this essay, I will ... | a) For instance |
| 2) In my opinion, ... | b) To summarise |
| 3) For example, ... | c) I am going to ... |
| 4) In conclusion, ... | d) I believe that ... |



7a Work in pairs or small groups. Look at the Task 2 question and the plan. Discuss ideas for paragraphs 2 and 3.

EXAM TASK: Writing (Task 2)

Some people think that old houses should be knocked down to build new houses or apartment blocks. Others think that old houses should be protected because they are part of a nation's history. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

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

You should write at least 250 words.

1 Introduction paragraph	One or two sentences to introduce the topic, then a sentence starting: <i>In this essay, I will discuss ...</i>
2 Reasons to knock down old houses	
3 Reasons to protect old houses	
4 Conclusion paragraph	Your opinion, starting: <i>In conclusion, ...</i>

7b Work with another pair or group. Listen to other students' ideas. Decide what your own opinion is: do you think that old houses should be knocked down or protected?

8 Write your essay in at least 250 words. Make sure you write in clear paragraphs.

Problems and their causes

For teachers' inspection ONLY

1 Work in pairs. What are the environmental problems? What causes them?



a) air pollution



b) flooding



c) melting ice caps

2a Work in pairs. Look at the Task 1 question and the diagram. Match the words (1–8) with the definitions (a–h).

The diagram shows the main reason why global warming causes the oceans to rise.

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

Write at least 150 words.

Exam tip

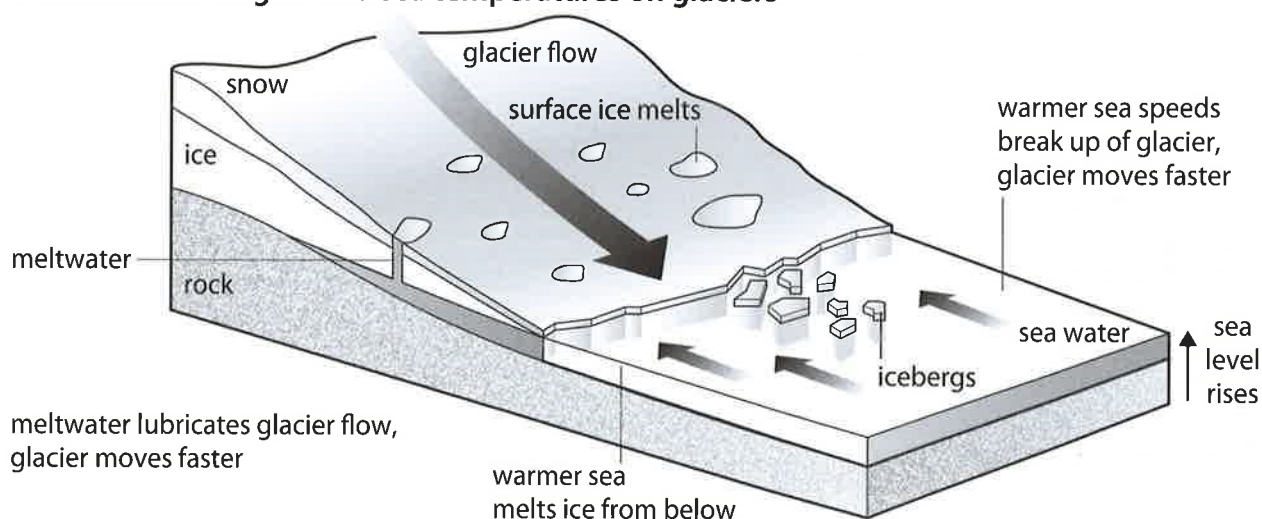
You may be asked to describe a diagram which shows a process relating to the environment, the weather or the natural world. You may need to describe how one event causes or is caused by another.

Try describing this chain of cause and effect.

factories make pollution → acid rain → trees and plants die

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| 1 glacier | a) to turn to liquid |
| 2 iceberg | b) a very large piece of ice on land |
| 3 to melt | c) to help something move (oil is a common way to do this) |
| 4 to lubricate | d) a large piece of ice in the sea |
| 5 to flow | e) the top of something |
| 6 surface | f) to increase |
| 7 to rise | g) how high the sea is |
| 8 sea level | h) to move |

The effect of rising air and sea temperatures on glaciers



- 2b** Look at the diagram again. There are two processes. Number the sentences in the best order to describe the processes.

Process 1

The glacier breaks up into icebergs.
 The glacier flows into the sea faster.
 The sea level rises.
 The glacier flows into the sea. **1**
 The sea melts the glacier.

Process 2

The sea level rises.
 The top of the glacier melts.
 The meltwater lubricates the flow of the glacier.
 The glacier flows into the sea faster.
 The meltwater goes down through the glacier.

- 2c** Look at the words in bold in the sentences. Why do we use them?

This **causes** the glacier to break up into icebergs.

a) to explain why something happens

Because of this, meltwater goes down to the rock below.

b) to give our opinion about something.

The result is that the sea level rises.

- 2d** Complete the description with words from the diagram and *cause*, *because* and *result*.

The diagram shows how rising sea and air (1) *temperatures* cause glaciers to melt faster. It shows the point where a glacier meets the sea and breaks up into (2)

The glacier flows from the land into the sea. At the point where the glacier is partly in the sea, the warmer sea temperature means that the glacier melts from below faster. This (3) it to break up into icebergs more quickly. (4) of this, the glacier flows into the sea faster.

At the same time, the rising air temperatures cause the (5) on the surface of the glacier to melt faster. The meltwater from the surface snow travels down through the ice to the rock below. This water (6) the flow of the glacier over the rock. The (7) of this is that the glacier moves into the sea faster. All of these things (8) the sea level to rise.

Exam tip

There may be more than one process in a diagram. When you first look at a diagram, decide:

- How many processes are there?
- What is the main cause of each process?
- What is the final result of each process?

- 3** Write a description of the Task 1 diagram.

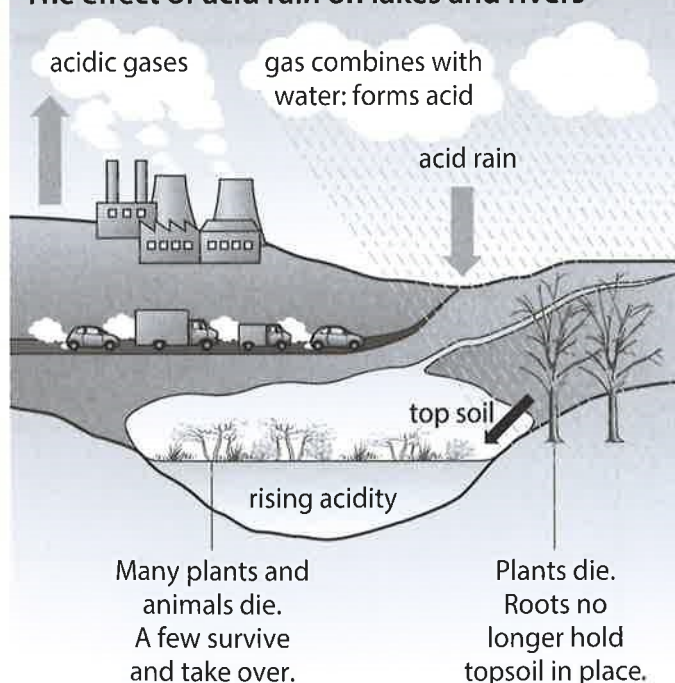
EXAM TASK: Writing Task 1

The diagram shows the process which results in acid rain, and its effects.

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

Write at least 150 words.

The effect of acid rain on lakes and rivers



Old and new media

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- How much time do you spend visiting websites each day?
- What do you think of advertisements on websites?
- Do you know what an ad-blocker is? Do you use one?

Exam tip

IELTS Writing Task 2 questions often ask you to 'include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience'. This means that you can use examples from your own life to support your arguments.

Did you give examples when you discussed the questions above? If you did, what were those examples?



2 Read the Task 2 question. Are the examples of relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience (1–6) suitable (S) or not suitable (NS)?

Many websites have advertisements. Some people say this is annoying because there they make websites difficult to use. Other people say that these advertisements are necessary, because they create money for the websites.

Discuss both views 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.

- I have little personal knowledge or experience of this topic, but I believe that ...* **S**
- Just yesterday, I was trying to book a train ticket online, and the website was really slow. I think this was because of the time it took for all the adverts to load. It took about ten minutes just to buy my ticket!*
- Using an ad-blocker has improved my own personal experience of using the internet.*
- I am not interested in computers, and I do not know anything about this topic. Instead, I will discuss advertising in general.*
- Ad-blockers are one of the most popular types of browser extension. They work across all major operating systems, except for some browser versions which are only for smartphones and tablets.*
- Ad-blocking software is free, easily available and has been downloaded by millions of people.*

Exam tip

The examiner will expect your 'relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience' to be written in the same academic style as the rest of the essay. Do not write in a conversational style.

3a Work in pairs. Read the Task 2 question, then discuss the questions below.

EXAM TASK: Writing (Task 2)

Around the world, the sales of newspapers are declining as people increasingly get the news from the internet instead. Is this a positive or a negative development?



- How do you find out about the news? Which of the ways shown in the photos do you use the most?
- How often do you buy a real newspaper? Has this changed?
- What do you like about reading a real newspaper?
- What do you like about getting news from the internet?

3b Think about why sales of newspapers are going down, and why more people are getting news from the internet. Complete the table with notes based on your own knowledge and experience.

Facts I know about this topic	My personal experience of this topic

3c Work in pairs. Look at the essay outline below. Discuss how you can follow the instructions to write the essay.

Paragraph 1	Introduce the topic and explain how you will answer the question.
Paragraph 2	Explain the benefits of getting news from websites. Explain why many people prefer to get news from the internet rather than buy a newspaper. If your own habits have changed, you can mention this.
Paragraph 3	Explain the benefits of real newspapers. Compare the experience of reading a newspaper with visiting a website. Compare the quality of journalism in newspapers and websites. Make comparisons based on your own knowledge/experience, if you can.
Paragraph 4	Say if you think the decline of newspapers and the increase of internet news is a good thing, a bad thing or neither. Explain why.

Exam tip

Describing your personal knowledge and experience must not be the main purpose of a Task 2 essay. The main purpose must be a more general discussion of the topic. Just use your personal knowledge and experience to support your arguments.

4 Write a Task 2 essay answering the question in exercise 3a. Include examples from your own knowledge and/or experience if possible. Write at least 250 words.

Answers

Getting started (pages 6–8)

Exam tip capital letters 10 (there are 5 capital letters in IELTS), full stops 3, commas 1, question marks 1

2 2 a 3 d 4 e 5 b

3b a) In the IELTS Writing test, you will see a picture (a diagram, a graph or a table). You need to describe the data in the picture. You have to report the important information. You do not need to give an opinion.

b) You have to write at least 150 words. You can write more than this, but you must not write less than this.

c) You only have about 20 minutes to understand the picture and write your description. You cannot afford to waste any time.

4a B

4b b pot c clay d firing e glaze f waste g minerals h pottery i pug mill

5a This diagram shows the process of making handmade pots from clay, starting with digging the clay out of the ground. It also shows how we can use waste clay, and how we can make coloured glaze.

5b A

6 a) This does not introduce the correct topic. The topic is how you make pots, not why people make pots by hand.

b) This does not give an overview of what the diagram is about. In Writing Task 1, we usually start by explaining what the diagram shows.

7a b pug mill c pottery d Waste e pug mill f kiln g glaze h minerals j firing

7b C We usually put these words at the beginning of a sentence. They start with a capital letter, and there is a comma after them.

8 **Sample answer**

This diagram shows the process of making handmade pots from clay, starting with digging the clay out of the ground. It also shows how we can use waste clay, and how we can make coloured glaze.

First, someone digs the clay from the ground. Next, the pieces of clay go into a pug mill, so that the clay can be usable. After that, the usable clay goes into a pottery, and someone makes it into pots.

The waste clay from this process can go into water. Then, the waste clay goes back into the pug mill, which turns it back into usable clay.

When the pots have been made, they go into a kiln for the first firing. After the first firing, we can apply coloured glaze to them. This glaze is made by mixing coloured minerals with clear glaze. Next, the pots

return to the kiln for the second firing. Finally, the pots are ready, and can go on sale in shops.

What's the topic? (pages 9–11)

2b 2) question 3) opinion 4) 250 5) 60

3 b) more than one c) is d) one clear topic e) first

5 b) 4 c) 3 d) 1

6a b) In my opinion c) For example, d) In this essay, I will

6b 2 d 3 a 4 b

8 **Sample answer**

In my country, thousands of old houses were destroyed because people wanted to build and live in apartment blocks. However, most people now want to protect the old houses we have left. Some people are in favour of this and some are not. In this essay, I will discuss reasons for and against protecting old houses.

Many of the old houses were in bad condition. They were unhealthy, unpleasant places to live. Many of them were too small and did not have proper kitchens and bathrooms. People wanted to move to new apartment blocks. The new flats were bigger, lighter and had good bathrooms and kitchens. Apartment blocks are also a better way to use space in a city. For example, a small area can be big enough for an apartment block with a large number of flats.

On the other hand, old houses are an important part of our history. They help us to understand how people lived in the past. If we destroy them, we cannot easily replace them. They are also attractive to look at. They help to make life in a city a more pleasant experience and it is also good for the tourist industry. For these reasons, I think that it is very important to protect the old houses we still have.

In conclusion, I believe that in the past it was reasonable to knock down some of the old houses. However, now there are not many of these old buildings left, and it is important to protect them.

Academic subjects (pages 12–13)

1b **Possible answers**

arts and humanities: art, design, literature

professional degrees: business, law

social sciences: psychology, sociology

sciences: chemistry, physics, biology

2 B is the best overview, because it summarises all the data that we can see, in a short and easy way. There is no need to give an opinion in IELTS Writing Task 1.

STARTER IELTS

WRITING

(4.0 – 5.5)

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LEVEL: 4.0–5.5
(CEF levels: B1–B2)

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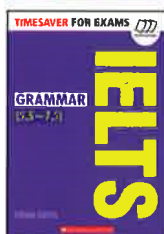
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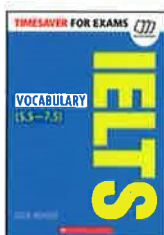
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