

What is IELTS Task 2 Advantage/Disadvantage Essay?

Worksheet

IELTS Task 2 advantage/disadvantage essay explores both benefits and drawbacks of an idea, policy or situation in 250+ words. Present 2-3 advantages and 2-3 disadvantages with examples, maintain balance, and optionally conclude with a judgment.

Questions

1. What is the minimum word count for Task 2 advantage/disadvantage?

- A) 200 words
- B) 250 words
- C) 300 words
- D) 400 words

2. How many advantages should you discuss?

- A) 1 advantage
- B) 2-3 advantages
- C) 4-5 advantages
- D) Only pros, no cons

3. Should this essay type take a clear stance?

- A) Always take a side
- B) Balance both sides; taking a side is optional
- C) Discuss only advantages
- D) Avoid any conclusion

4. What should your conclusion do?

- A) Repeat introduction verbatim
- B) Summarize both sides and optionally state which outweighs the other
- C) List all points again
- D) Introduce new ideas

5. Advantages and disadvantages of remote work.

6. Advantages and disadvantages of living in a megacity.

7. Advantages and disadvantages of artificial intelligence in healthcare.

8. Define: What is an advantage/disadvantage essay?

9. Define: Do you have to take a side in this essay type?

10. Define: How should you organize the essay?

Answer Key

1. B) 250 words — Task 2 requires at least 250 words.
2. B) 2–3 advantages — Aim for 2–3 well-developed advantages, balanced with disadvantages.
3. B) Balance both sides; taking a side is optional — This essay type prioritizes balanced analysis; you don't have to favour one side.
4. B) Summarize both sides and optionally state which outweighs the other — Conclude by summarizing the analysis and, if appropriate, stating which side you feel is more significant.
5. Introduction: Remote work has become widespread, offering both significant benefits and notable challenges to employees and employers. Advantages: First, remote work offers flexibility and better work-life balance. Employees save time commuting, can manage personal responsibilities, and often report higher job satisfaction. For example, a parent can attend school events without taking time off. Second, remote work reduces office overhead, allowing companies to cut costs on facilities. A firm with 100 remote workers saves rent, utilities, and maintenance. Disadvantages: However, remote work can reduce team cohesion and collaboration. Face-to-face interaction builds trust and spontaneous creativity. Many remote workers report isolation and difficulty separating work from personal life. Second, remote work is not suitable for all roles; positions requiring hands-on work, apprenticeships, or close supervision suffer. Manufacturing and healthcare roles remain desk-bound ineffective. Conclusion: While remote work offers flexibility benefits and cost savings, the disadvantages of isolation and reduced collaboration are significant. A hybrid approach balancing remote and office days may offer the best outcome.
6. Introduction: Megacities offer economic opportunities and cultural richness but also present serious challenges related to congestion, housing, and quality of life. Advantages: Megacities concentrate job markets, providing diverse career options. A professional in a megacity has access to opportunities rare in smaller towns. Second, megacities are cultural hubs with world-class universities, hospitals, and entertainment. London, Tokyo, and New York attract talent and offer unmatched services. Disadvantages: Megacities suffer from traffic congestion, long commutes, and air pollution, harming health. The cost of living is often prohibitively high; housing is unaffordable for many. Second, megacities experience overcrowding, straining public services (water, sanitation, waste). Crime rates can be higher, and a sense of anonymity may reduce community bonds. Conclusion: Megacities offer career and cultural benefits but at a significant cost to quality of life, health, and community. Developing mid-sized cities with good job markets and quality services may be a better long-term strategy.
7. Introduction: AI is transforming healthcare, offering diagnostic precision and efficiency improvements but raising concerns about privacy, employment, and over-reliance on algorithms. Advantages: AI improves diagnostic accuracy. Machine learning models can detect cancers from scans with accuracy rivaling specialists. AI also accelerates drug discovery, reducing time from laboratory to clinic. Second, AI frees doctors from repetitive tasks, allowing more time for patient care and complex cases. Disadvantages: AI systems are trained on data, which may embed biases. If training data underrepresents certain populations, AI diagnoses may be less accurate for them. Second, widespread AI adoption may displace medical professionals, creating unemployment. Privacy concerns arise as patient data is processed by algorithms; security breaches could expose sensitive information. Conclusion: AI in healthcare offers clear diagnostic and efficiency benefits, but implementation must address bias, employment transition, and privacy safeguards. A balanced approach integrating AI while preserving the human clinician's role is essential.
8. An essay discussing both pros and cons of a topic, typically 2–3 of each, with a balanced conclusion.

9. No. This essay type often does not require you to favour one side; balance is key.

10. Intro, Advantages paragraph(s), Disadvantages paragraph(s), Conclusion. Or: intro + alternating (advantage-disadvantage pairs).

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