

What is IELTS Task 2 Opinion Essay?

Worksheet

IELTS Task 2 opinion essay is a persuasive piece where you take a clear stance on a prompt, present 2-3 supporting reasons with examples, and conclude with a restatement of your position. Minimum 250 words, formal tone, organised paragraphs.

Questions

1. What is the minimum word count for Task 2 opinion essay?
A) 200 words
B) 250 words
C) 300 words
D) 400 words
2. What should the introduction of an opinion essay include?
A) Only your opinion
B) Paraphrase of prompt + clear thesis statement
C) All possible viewpoints
D) A question that is never answered
3. How many main reasons should you provide?
A) 1 reason
B) 2-3 reasons
C) 4-5 reasons
D) As many as possible
4. What is the purpose of acknowledging an opposing view?
A) To agree with the opposition
B) To show you understand other perspectives and strengthen your argument
C) To confuse the reader
D) To avoid stating your opinion
5. Prompt: Some believe university education is essential; others say practical training is better. What is your opinion?
6. Technology is making us less social. Agree or disagree?
7. Should governments invest in space exploration or solve Earth-based problems first?
8. Define: What is the minimum word count for Task 2?
9. Define: Should you present multiple viewpoints in an opinion essay?
10. Define: How many body paragraphs should you have?

Answer Key

1. B) 250 words — Task 2 requires at least 250 words; fewer words incurs a penalty.
2. B) Paraphrase of prompt + clear thesis statement — The introduction should rephrase the prompt and clearly state your opinion.
3. B) 2–3 reasons — Two to three well-developed reasons are sufficient and more coherent than many weak ones.
4. B) To show you understand other perspectives and strengthen your argument — Acknowledging counterarguments demonstrates critical thinking and makes your position stronger.
5. Introduction: While practical training is valuable, I believe that university education remains essential for personal and professional development in the modern world. Reason 1: University provides deep knowledge and critical thinking skills. Engineers need scientific theory; lawyers need legal reasoning. Without these foundations, practical skills alone are limiting. Example: A software developer with a degree understands algorithms and can adapt to new technologies; a self-taught coder may struggle with complex problems. Reason 2: University graduates have better career prospects and earning potential. Statistics show degree holders earn 30–40% more over their lifetime. Additionally, many professions (medicine, law, engineering) legally require a university qualification. Counterargument: Critics say universities are expensive and that apprenticeships are faster. True, but apprenticeships suit specific trades; they do not provide the breadth needed for leadership roles. Conclusion: While practical training has merits, university education's comprehensive knowledge, critical thinking development, and career advantages make it indispensable.
6. Introduction: While technology offers connectivity, I disagree with the view that it makes us less social; rather, it has expanded social interaction in new ways. Reason 1: Digital platforms enable people to maintain friendships across distances. Long-distance relationships, family video calls, and online communities allow people who would otherwise lose touch to stay connected. Example: Grandparents can video-call grandchildren daily; diaspora communities stay culturally connected online. Reason 2: Social media and messaging apps have created new forms of community. Forums, gaming groups, and online classes bring together people with shared interests who may never meet in person. These communities are as meaningful as offline ones. Counterargument: Critics cite increased loneliness and reduced face-to-face interaction. However, the issue is not technology but its misuse; technology itself is neutral. Conclusion: Technology has not made us less social but has added new dimensions to how we interact, allowing wider and more diverse social networks.
7. Introduction: While Earth-based challenges are pressing, I believe governments should pursue both space exploration and social development, as they are not mutually exclusive. Reason 1: Space exploration drives innovation with practical benefits on Earth. GPS, weather forecasting satellites, and medical technologies originated from space research. These technologies benefit billions daily and create jobs. Example: The International Space Station research has led to advances in material science and medicine. Reason 2: Investing in space signals long-term thinking and human ambition. It inspires youth in STEM fields, improves a nation's technological standing globally, and prepares for future challenges (asteroid deflection, climate monitoring). Counterargument: The argument that we should 'fix Earth first' ignores that space budgets are tiny (0.5% of government spending) and do not compete with social budgets. Conclusion: Space exploration and solving Earth problems are compatible priorities. Strategic space investment drives innovation, inspires progress, and ensures humanity's long-term security.
8. 250 words. Falling short incurs a penalty for task achievement.

9. You may acknowledge an opposing view but clearly state and support your own opinion.
10. Typically 2–3 body paragraphs, each with one main idea and supporting evidence.

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