



IELTS WRITING • TASK 2

# The 40-minute Task 2 plan

At least 250 words, worth twice as much as Task 1. Identify the question type, plan for 5 minutes, then write four clear paragraphs.

## 1 Spot the question type

| Type                                | Looks like                                             | What to do                                          |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Opinion</b>                      | To what extent do you agree or disagree?               | A clear position, kept the same all the way through |
| <b>Discussion</b>                   | Discuss both views and give your opinion.              | One paragraph per view, plus your opinion           |
| <b>Advantages and disadvantages</b> | Do the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?          | Weigh both sides and say which is greater           |
| <b>Problem and solution</b>         | What problems does this cause? How can they be solved? | One paragraph each for problems and solutions       |
| <b>Two-part question</b>            | Why is this happening? Is it positive or negative?     | Answer both questions fully, one paragraph each     |

## 2 Use your 40 minutes like this

- **0–5:** underline every part of the question, decide your position and note 2 main ideas with support.
- **5–35:** write the introduction (2–3 sentences), two body paragraphs (each a topic sentence, explanation and example) and a conclusion.
- **35–40:** check spelling, articles, verb forms and that every part of the question is answered.

### Paragraph plan (about 270 words)

Introduction 40–50 · Body 1 90–100 · Body 2 90–100 · Conclusion 30–40. Each body paragraph has **one central idea**.

## 3 What band 7 needs, by criterion

### Task Response

Every part answered, a clear position throughout, and main ideas extended and supported.

### Coherence and Cohesion

Logical order, clear paragraphs, and linking words used naturally, not in every sentence.

### Lexical Resource

Some less common words and collocations, used precisely. Few spelling or word-choice errors.

### Grammatical Range and Accuracy

A mix of complex sentences, with many sentences completely error-free.



### Get a free band estimate for your essay

Scan the code or visit [englishcoaching.au/tools/ielts-writing-checker/](https://englishcoaching.au/tools/ielts-writing-checker/)

Free PTE, IELTS and OET practice, marked instantly. © 2026 englishcoaching.au. Free to print and share, not for resale. Practice material only. Not affiliated with or endorsed by Pearson, IELTS or any test provider.