

Band 7 Writing Task 2 Template

A four-paragraph structure for opinion and discussion essays. Aim for 260–290 words in 40 minutes: plan for 5, write for 30, check for 5.

1. Introduction · 2 sentences · about 45 words

1. Paraphrase the question: *"It is often argued that [topic in your own words]."*
2. Give a clear position: *"This essay argues that [your view], because [reason 1] and [reason 2]."*

2. Body paragraph 1 · 4–5 sentences · about 90 words

1. Topic sentence: *"The main reason [your view] is that [reason 1]."*
2. Explain: *"This is because ..."*
3. Example: *"For instance, ..."*
4. Link back: *"As a result, ..."*

3. Body paragraph 2 · 4–5 sentences · about 90 words

1. Topic sentence: *"Furthermore, [reason 2]."* (In a discussion essay, present the other view here.)
2. Explain and give an example, as in paragraph 1.
3. Link back: *"Therefore, ..."*

4. Conclusion · 2 sentences · about 40 words

1. Restate your position in new words: *"In conclusion, I firmly believe that ..."*
2. Summarise both reasons in one sentence. Add no new ideas.

20 linking phrases that score

ADDING A POINT

1. Furthermore,
2. In addition,
3. Moreover,
4. Not only ... but also ...
5. Another key factor is ...

CAUSE AND EFFECT

11. As a result,
12. Consequently,
13. This leads to ...
14. Due to ...
15. Therefore,

CONTRASTING

6. However,
7. On the other hand,
8. Nevertheless,
9. Although ...,
10. Whereas ...

EXAMPLES AND CONCLUSIONS

16. For instance,
17. A clear example of this is ...
18. This is evident in ...
19. In conclusion,
20. Overall,

Three habits that hold students at Band 6

- Starting every sentence with a linking word. Use 1–2 per paragraph, not in every sentence.
- No clear opinion in the introduction. The examiner should know your view after sentence 2.
- Memorised phrases that don't fit the question. Examiners spot them and mark them down.