



# English Language Assessment Guide

for Undergraduate Applicants





## STRUCTURE

SECTION	TIME
Speaking	11 - 14 minutes (Approximately)
Writing	40 minutes

## SPEAKING TEST (11-14 minutes)

PART	TIME	CATEGORY
1	4-5 minutes	Introduction & Interview on Familiar Topics
2	3-4 minutes	Individual Long Turn or Extended Speaking or Monologue
3	4-5 minutes	Two-Way Discussion or Topic Discussion





## TIPS

- ✓ Do not try to give a prepared speech, or talk about a different topic from the one you are asked to discuss.
- ✓ Whenever you reply 'Yes' or 'No' to the examiner's questions, add more details to your answer. In each case, aim to explain at least one point.
- ✓ Remember that you are not being tested on your general knowledge but on your ability to communicate effectively.
- ✓ Organise and link your ideas and sentences appropriately, talking clearly at normal speed and using a wide range of structures and vocabulary.

## WRITING TEST

In the Writing task, you will be asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. There are two topics to choose from. You will need to write about one of the given topics. You will need to write the number of topic you have chosen to write about into the provided box – topic 1 or topic 2 - and write no less than 250 words. The time limit is 40 minutes.

## TIPS

- ✓ Use paragraphs clearly; put one idea in each paragraph
- ✓ Do not repeat ideas using different words
- ✓ Do not copy whole sentences from the question – you will receive no marks for this
- ✓ Keep to the topic; do not write about unrelated subjects
- ✓ Pay attention to the number of words required for the writing; you will lose marks if you do not write at least 250 words.





- ✓ Learn to recognize how long 250 words look; you will not have time to count during the test
- ✓ You must write your answers in full; answers written in note form or in bullet points will lose marks
- ✓ Pay attention to spelling, grammar and punctuation; you will lose marks for mistakes
- ✓ Avoid informal language
- ✓ Do not memorize model answers; examiners are trained to recognize them and your test will be invalid
- ✓ Spend several minutes re-reading and correcting your answers

## SAMPLE ESSAYS

1. 'Boys are most influenced by their fathers and girls are most influenced by their mothers. Do you agree or disagree? Use specific reasons to support your opinion.' You should write at least 250 words.

Model Answer (the following essay is IELTS band of 5.5)

It is true that nowadays parents have a great influence over the children. Some people hold the opinion that the same sex is the major determination of influencing parent, but others have a negative attitude. As far as I am concerned, I agree that boys are most influenced by their fathers and girls are most influenced by their mothers. My arguments for this point are listed below.

First of all, a father is the person who has already passed that way which his son is passing now, in other words, sons are following their father's footsteps. So, based on experience it is easy for a father to notice his sons' drawbacks and to influence them.





Secondly, it is true that a boy is counted as a strong characteristics human, but a girl is a subtle and fragile one. It is hard for mothers to influence their sons, because it is not likely that vulnerable something can affect a strong one.

In conclusion, it seems to me unfair that boys are most influenced by their mothers. Based on at least two points above I strongly agree that children are influenced by a parent of the same gender.

### Comments:

This essay is too short, 190 words instead of the minimum requirement of 250. It doesn't say anything about girls being influenced by their mothers, which is also a part of the task – therefore the task is only partially covered. The sentences are not complex enough, there are grammatical mistakes and inaccuracies (see comments underlined in blue). Overall, this looks like a Band 5.5 essay

**2. 'Full time university students spend most of the time studying. They should be doing other activities too. To what extent do you agree or disagree?' You should write at least 250 words.**

### Model Answer (the following essay is IELTS band of 6)

Full time study in university is a great experience in life but in parallel to that students become inactive in other activities such as working for their pocket money, sports, participating in debates and socialization. People differ in their opinion if students must engaged in other things or stay concentrated on their studies only. The discussion will be presented below, followed by my opinion.

Some people say that mere studying does not product an overall youth for a country. This way, students only earn theoretical knowledge --not practical. For instance, students can be intelligent during their studies but at the same time when they come in the market to work n, they fail and cannot develop their confidence and work as brilliantly as they were in university. Hence, the best approach for them need to be engaged here and there for practical experience.





On the other hand, others believe that building a better career is the foremost thing in today's world. So, they are targeted to their studies and gain as much knowledge as they can. Furthermore, if they are diverted from their studies, they will not be able to make their target.

In my point of view, there must be blending of full time education and extra activities. It refreshes students' minds and provides more energy to concentrate on it. Moreover, by this way, they will learn how to be mingled with other people in the society.

To summarize, it can be said that it is important to concentrate on study but on the other hand there must be something to keep them active and relaxed being involved in games, music, work and other extra activities.

### Comments:

The writer's position is relevant to task prompt, although the conclusions are somewhat repetitive. The main ideas are relevant but not all of them are developed well enough. The linking words and phrases are used, however at times they are either repetitive or seem forced (not natural). It is not always clear what the writer refers to in the essay. There are some attempts to use more sophisticated words but they are mostly inaccurate. The writer's occasional word-formation and grammar errors detract from the good impression, but overall the response is still easy enough to understand. Overall seems to be worthy of Band 6.

Popular events like the football world cup and other international sporting occasions are essential in easing international tensions and releasing patriotic emotions in a safe way. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?





3. 'Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.' You should write at least 250 words.

Model Answer (the following essay is IELTS band of 7)

The World Cup football match and the Olympics are held worldwide with great national support and expectations. As a fan of those competitions, I agree with the idea that sporting events can be necessary for international relations and national unity. In this essay, I will think about the effects of these popular sporting events.

First of all, the World Cup, Olympics and other international games work for easing tensions among different nations. For example, South and North Korea have football games regularly which give two nations a chance to understand each other deeply. In the mid-1990s, a hundreds of North Korean supporters came to South Korea with the footballers and they were very excited during the sporting events. Even if it sounds ridiculous, many South Koreans were quite surprised at that moment when North Koreans shouted and cried during the match. We all realized that they were very normal sports fans even though they were occasionally very secretive. Through the sports, two divided nations could reduce their political and ideological tensions and could feel the patriotic unity.

On the other hand, some sports matches can make international relations worse. For instance, football or baseball games between Korea and Japan are always big matches in two countries where full of tensions overflow. Sometimes, after the matches, the two rivals blame each other and their patriotic emotions explode in an aggressive way. Even much worse scenario is that the troubles caused by losing games affect the players directly. As far as I know, a couple of Korean players in Japan are suffered from invisible discrimination after the match between two countries.

In conclusion, I think that international sporting occasions can be one of the good ways to ease tensions or to release patriotism safely. However, I believe that games cannot be the fundamental ways for the sound patriotism or peaceful international relations.

**Comments:**

Well done. This is an advanced level essay.





4. 'As computers are being used more and more in education, there will be soon no role for teachers in the classroom. Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.' You should write at least 250 words.

Model Answer (the following essay is IELTS band of 8)

There is no doubt that education and the learning process has changed since the introduction of computers: The search for information has become easier and amusing, and connectivity has expedited the data availability. Though experts systems have made computers more intelligent, they have not yet become a substitute of the human interaction in the learning process. In my opinion what can be expected is a change of the teachers' role, but not their disappearance from the classroom.

Nobody can argue that the acquisition of knowledge is more fun and easier with computers. The mere activity of touching and exploring this device constitutes an enjoyable task for a child. This, accompanied by the relaxing attitude and software interactivity, usually contributes to a better grasping of new knowledge. At a higher educational level the availability of digital books, simulators and other academic materials provide the student with an ever accessible source of information, that otherwise would not be at hand.

But, besides the increasing complexity and behaviour of intelligent software, which is usually embedded in the academic digital material, the need for human interaction in the learning process will always be present, at least in the foreseeable future. There is the necessity for a human being to be able to determine what the specifics needs of each individual are. The expertise of a teacher in how to explain and adapt complex concepts to different individuals can hardly be mimicked by a computer, no matter how sophisticated its software is.

As computers are becoming a common tool for teaching, teachers should be more aware of their role as guides in the acquisition of knowledge rather than transmitters of facts. They have to be open minded to the changes that are taking places, keep updated and serve as problem solvers in the learning process, thus allowing students to discover the fact for themselves.

To summarize, in my personal view, teachers play and will continue to play an important role in the classroom, especially at the primary level. No matter how complex computers become, there will be no replacement for the human interaction, but in the way haw this interaction takes place.

**Comments:**

Well done. This is an excellent essay.







## Additional sample essay topics that will help you practice:

- ✓ Is it important to preserve historic buildings?
- ✓ How does family and friends influence children?
- ✓ How is dieting affecting our lives?
- ✓ Is smoking bad for you, if so, why?
- ✓ How are current affairs affecting children's behaviour?
- ✓ Are robots and computers making our lives easier? Give examples.
- ✓ What would you prefer doing, longer working hours with high pay or shorter working hours with lower pay?
- ✓ How important it is it to expose children to more than one language since early age?
- ✓ Is it easier for you to study on your own or with teachers, explain why?
- ✓ What are positives and negatives of living in small or big cities?

