

# IELTS

**Academic Module  
Writing Test**



# Aims of the Session

- To give a brief overview of the test.
- To look at the two types of tasks you have to do in the test.
- To suggest ways to prepare for the paper.
- To offer tips on how to do the tasks.
- To suggest possible resources.

# Academic Writing Module – Test Overview

- ❖ third test
- ❖ 2 tasks (60 mins)
- ❖ Task 1 - 150 words (20 mins)
- ❖ Task 2 - 250 words (40 mins)
- ❖ under word limit penalised
- ❖ notes unacceptable
- ❖ card with task on either side
- ❖ answer booklet

# Writing Task 1

- **Given graphic or pictorial information – need to write a description.** (OHT 1)
- **Bar charts/line graphs/pie charts & tables most frequent.** (OHTs 1,2,3,4,5)
- **But sometimes – object/series of pictures /diagrams or flow charts.** (OHTs 6,7,8)
- **Could be more than one graph or chart.** (OHT 9)

# Writing Task 1

**Tests ability to:**

- **describe & interpret graphic data**
- **describe stages of a process**
- **describe an object or event or sequence of events**
- **explain how something works**

# Marking Task 1

**Assessed on:**

## **1. Task Fulfillment**

**Following instructions properly.**

**Writing clear, accurate & relevant description of info.**

**Focusing on important trends presented as graphic info.**

## **2. Coherence & Cohesion**

**Organising writing using suitable structure.**

**Using connective words to link sentences & paragraphs logically.**

## **3. Vocabulary & Sentence Structure**

**Using a range of appropriate vocabulary.**

**Using a variety of sentence structures.**

# How to Prepare for Task 1

**Become familiar with graph types.**

**Do practise exercises describing graphs.** (OHT 10)

**Become familiar with ways to:**

- **express percentages.** (OHT 11)

- **express numbers & statistical data.** (OHT 11)

- **express trends.** (OHT 12)

- **make comparisons between data.** (OHT 13)

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# How to Prepare for Task 1

Look at language for:

- **describing how something works** (OHT 14).
- **making reference to graphs/figures** (OHT 15).
- **sequencing in a process** (OHT 15).

**Think about topics in tables & graphs etc.**



# Tips on How to Do Task 1

**Spend 5 minutes reading the graphs/charts etc.**

**Make sure you understand axes.** (OHT 9)

**Make sure you follow lines on graph.** (OHT 16)

**Focus on the key information.**

**If two graphs – compare.**

**Think about the time period – tenses.**

**Vary your vocabulary.**

**Organize information clearly.**

**Write neatly & cross out errors with one line.**

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# Tips on How to Do Task 1

**DON'T copy phrases from the question.**

**DON'T include info. not in the graph/picture.**

**DON'T take more than 20 minutes.**

**DON'T forget to leave time to read it through.**

# Writing Task 2

**Given a discussion topic.**

**Tests ability to:**

- **discuss a problem & present a solution.**
- **present & justify opinions.**
- **compare and contrast evidence or opinions.**
- **argue a case.**
- **evaluate & challenge ideas, evidence & argument.**

(OHT 17 & 18)

# Marking Task 2

**Assessed on:**

## **1. Arguments, Ideas & Evidence -**

- clear, logical, well-supported.
- support with personal experience.
- focus on topic.

## **2. Communicative Quality -**

- write fluently.
- write cohesive sentences & paragraphs.

## **3. Vocabulary & Sentence Structure**

- range & variety.
- good spelling & punctuation.

**Carries more weight than Task 1.**

# How to Prepare for Task 2

Look at as many sample questions as possible.

Practise underlining key points & brainstorming questions.

Do practice questions with sample answers.

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# How to Prepare for Task 2

Look at language used for:

- **linking ideas between sentences & paragraphs** (OHT 19).
- **expressing views** (OHT 20).
- **making concessions** (OHT 20).
- **giving opposing arguments** (OHT 20).
- **providing support to main points** (OHT 21).
- **referring to cause & effect** (OHT 21).
- **making comparisons & contrasts** (OHT 22).
- **concluding** (OHT 23).

# How to Prepare for Task 2

**Think about possible topics.**

**Brainstorm the topics for questions.**

**Write timed essays.**

# Tips on How to Do Task 2

**Study question carefully.**

**Underline key points.**

**Quickly brainstorm the topic.**

**Decide on main points & supporting detail.**

**Organise points in a plan.**

**Structure according to type of essay.**(OHT



# General Tips for Writing Module

## Before the exam

- Practise writing timed essays.
- Keep up-to-date with current affairs.
- Write a list of your typical errors. (OHT 26)

## During the exam

- Use a pen.
- Check your essay.

# Resources for Writing Module Practice

**IELTS Specimen Pack** - practice material with answers.

**Homesglen web site**— excellent booklet to download.

- Gives different types of graphs.
- Gives language for describing trends etc.
- Gives sample answers.
- [http://international.holmesglen.vic.edu.au/ie\\_writ.htm](http://international.holmesglen.vic.edu.au/ie_writ.htm)

# Resources for Writing Module Practice

## Books:

### Advice & practice books:

Sahanaya, W et al, 2000. IELTS: Preparation and Practice - Reading and Writing.

- graphs & useful language for Task 1.

### Practice books:

Cambridge Examination Papers: IELTS 1 IELTS 2  
IELTS 3

### Course books:

Jakeman, V & McDowell, C (1999) Insight into IELTS,  
CUP.

O'Connell, Sue (2002) Focus on IELTS, Longman.

# Resources for Writing Module Practice

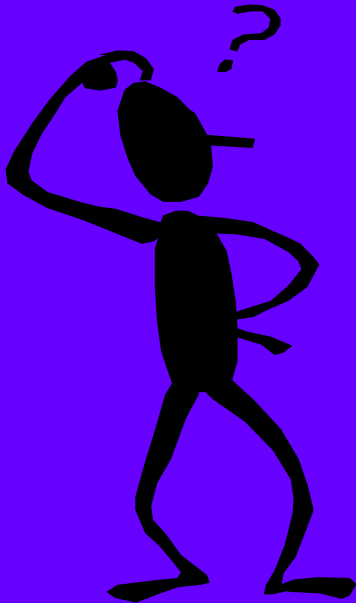
## Additional help:

English language Centre (ELC) 'How to prepare for IELTS – Writing' booklet.

Language Learning Advisors in the Self Access Centre, ELC.

Workshops coming up.

# Questions?



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END**

