

## C. WRITING

### Exercise 1 :

In IELTS Writing Task 2, you may be asked to write an agree/disagree essay. For example:

*Some people believe the mass media have too much influence over people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

In this essay, you will have to write about the influence of the media on people. Which types of media do people like to get the news from?

Complete the media words. The first letter of each word is given.

1



n \_\_\_\_\_

2



4



i \_\_\_\_\_

r \_\_\_\_\_

3



5



m \_\_\_\_\_

t \_\_\_\_\_

**Exercise 2:** Planning your essay in IELTS Writing Task 2 is very important. This makes sure that your ideas are relevant and answer the question. Look at the essay question again.

*Some people believe the mass media have too much influence over people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?*

Select the ideas that are not relevant.

| Agree                                                  | Disagree                             |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Owners of media groups force their own ideas on people | Newspapers have lots of gossip       |
| TV is boring and has too many ads                      | Freedom of choice is important       |
| Stops creativity as we always follow fashion           | Helps us understand different issues |
| Too many people play computer games                    | Gives us a common interest           |
| Stops individual thought – we are told what to think   | Radio and TV can stop loneliness     |

**Exercise 3: Put the paragraphs in the correct order to complete the essay.**

There are several key reasons why the influence of mass media is negative. The first reason is political; the owners of newspapers, television stations, etc. are very rich and powerful and only give news and opinions which support their political view. I believe this can be very dangerous for people's freedom because different opinions are not discussed and we receive only one side of an argument.

As communications technology improves, there is no doubt that mass media like television, radio and internet have an increasing influence on the lives of everybody. Some people think this influence is positive as it allows freedom of choice, but many people worry that this situation has a negative impact on society. I strongly agree with the second opinion and will discuss below the reasons why.

The second main problem is that mass media destroy creativity. It is a fact that everybody wants to copy what is fashionable, but if only one view of the world is presented in the media, there is no room for different cultures and ideas. This leads to a further problem in that we may lose independent thought which could lead to a society full of people who behave like robots. Therefore, in my opinion, the world becomes a much more boring place.

Some people will argue that the influence of mass media is positive because people obviously feel good sharing the same experience with millions of others. It is my belief, however, that the negative aspects are much greater than the positive because if everybody does and thinks the same thing, all the richness and variety of life will be lost.

**Exercise 4 :**

**Look at the essay question again.**

***Some people believe the mass media have too much influence over people. To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

**Then read the student's essay again. Which ideas did the student include in his/her answer? Choose the correct answers.**

### Agree

1 Owners of media groups force their own ideas on people

☐ Yes ☐ No

2 TV is boring and has too many ads

☐ Yes ☐ No

3 Stops creativity as we always follow fashion

☐ Yes ☐ No

4 Too many people play computer games

☐ Yes ☐ No

5 Stops individual thought – we are told what to think

☐ Yes ☐ No

### Disagree

6 Newspapers have lots of gossip

☐ Yes ☐ No

7 Freedom of choice is important

☐ Yes ☐ No

8 Helps us understand different issues

☐ Yes ☐ No

9 Gives us a common interest

☐ Yes ☐ No

10 Radio and TV can stop loneliness

☐ Yes ☐ No

### Exercise 5 :

Look at the notes. Then put the words in the correct order to complete the sentences.

TV, etc. becoming more important

There is no

on

of

lives

media

the

increasing

that

have

everybody.

doubt

an

influence

mass

**good – lots of options for people**

Some people think as allows is influence this positive  
it freedom of choice.

**support one political position**

They only give political their which view. news and opinions  
support

**only get one opinion from mass media**

Different opinions one not are receive only discussed  
an argument. and we of side

**people like to follow new trends**

It is a fact to what that wants fashionable. copy is  
everybody

**life is less interesting**

The world is more much a boring becoming place.

**people like mass media**

People obviously feel with of good millions same the  
others. experience sharing

### Exercise 6:

Complete the sentences. Use the words and phrases in the box. You should use each word or phrase only once.

agree   belief   believe   connected   key reasons   main problem   opinion

- 1 I strongly \_\_\_\_\_ with this opinion.
- 2 There are several \_\_\_\_\_ why this is not correct.
- 3 The first reason is \_\_\_\_\_ with politics.
- 4 I \_\_\_\_\_ these people are wrong.
- 5 The second \_\_\_\_\_ is with people's opinions.
- 6 In my \_\_\_\_\_, we must do something about it.
- 7 It is my \_\_\_\_\_ that governments should make stricter laws.

### Exercise 7: An agree/disagree essay should contain both facts and opinions.

Read the information. Then read the student's essay again and decide if the points in bold are facts or opinions.

Facts and opinions can be shown by using specific language.

Facts are general statements which cannot be argued.

**Example:**

*It has been shown that more people find out about the news through the internet.*

This is a **fact**.

We use words such as 'think' and 'believe' to express opinions. These ideas are personal.

**Example:**

*I think the TV news is much better than online news.*

This is an **opinion**.

As communications technology improves, there is no doubt that **mass media like television, radio and internet have an increasing influence** on the lives of everybody. **Some people think this influence is positive** as it allows freedom of choice but many people worry that this situation has a negative impact on society. I strongly agree with the second opinion and will discuss below the reasons why.

There are several key reasons why the influence of mass media is negative. The first reason is political; **the owners of newspapers, television stations, etc. are very rich and powerful** and only give news and opinions which support their political view. **I believe this can be very dangerous for people's freedom** because different opinions are not discussed and we receive only one side of an argument.

The second main problem is that mass media destroy creativity. It is a fact that **everybody wants to copy what is fashionable**, but if only one view of the world is presented in the media, there is no room for different cultures and ideas. This leads to a further problem in that **we may lose independent thought** which could lead to a society full of people who behave like robots. Therefore, in my opinion, **the world becomes a much more boring place**.

Some people will argue that the influence of mass media is positive because **people obviously feel good sharing the same experience with millions of others**. It is my belief, however, that the negative aspects are much greater than the positive because **if everybody does and thinks the same thing, all the richness and variety of life will be lost**.

1 Mass media like television, radio and internet have an increasing influence.

☐ Fact ☐ Opinion

2 Some people think this influence is positive.

☐ Fact ☐ Opinion

3 The owners of newspapers, television stations, etc. are very rich and powerful.

☐ Fact ☐ Opinion

4 I believe this can be very dangerous for people's freedom.

☐ Fact ☐ Opinion

5 Everybody wants to copy what is fashionable.

☐ Fact ☐ Opinion

6 We may lose independent thought.

☐ Fact ☐ Opinion

7 The world becomes a much more boring place.

☐ Fact ☐ Opinion

8 People obviously feel good sharing the same experience with millions of others.

☐ Fact ☐ Opinion

9 If everybody does and thinks the same thing, all the richness and variety of life will be lost.

☐ Fact ☐ Opinion

**Exercise 8. Read the sentences. Are they facts or opinions? Change the facts to opinions or the opinions to facts. Use the words in brackets. The first one has been done for you.**

- 1 The influence of mass media is growing. (think / probably)

I think the influence of mass media is probably growing .

- 2 Many people think this influence is negative. (is / definitely)

This \_\_\_\_\_ .

- 3 Control of the media by a few people is dangerous. (believe / can)

I \_\_\_\_\_ .

- 4 In my opinion, people often like to follow fashion. (always / follow)

People \_\_\_\_\_ .

- 5 It's boring when everyone is the same. (people / feel)

Many \_\_\_\_\_ .

- 6 Mass media influence has more negative than positive effects. (opinion / may)

In \_\_\_\_\_ .

### **Exercise 9.**

#### **WRITING TASK 1**

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic.

***Newspapers are less important nowadays because we have up-to-date access to the news on the internet. To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

You should write at least 250 words

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