

C. WRITING

Exercise 1. In IELTS Writing Task 2 there are different types of essay questions. You may be required to write a discussion essay. Are the statements about IELTS Writing Task 2 True or False?

1 You must write at least 200 words.

☐ True ☐ False

2 You are given a chart, table or diagram to describe.

☐ True ☐ False

3 Writing Task 2 is worth the same marks as Task 1.

☐ True ☐ False

4 You need to give your opinion and support it with reasons, arguments and examples from your own experience and knowledge.

☐ True ☐ False

5 You should spend 30 minutes on Writing Task 2.

☐ True ☐ False

6 You should use an informal writing style when writing your essay.

☐ True ☐ False

Exercise 2 :

In IELTS Writing Task 2, you may be asked to write an essay describing the advantages and disadvantages of a given topic. In this unit, the essay question is about competitive sports. What competitive sports do you know? Match the sports with the pictures.

athletics	badminton	gymnastics	hockey	ice-skating	rugby
swimming	tennis				

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



Exercise 3: It's useful to plan your answer before you start writing. Look at the essay question.

Some people think that competitive sports have a positive effect on the education of teenagers while others argue that the effect is negative.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

Write at least 250 words.

In this essay, you have to write about the advantages and disadvantages of competitive sports for teenagers. Put the advantages and disadvantages in the correct columns.

pressure makes sport less fun	some people don't like sports
can build confidence	can help teenagers to focus more
	waste of study time
reduce stress	sports help teenagers learn team-building skills
may cause serious issues with confidence	
some people cannot perform as well as others	improve their physical well-being

Exercise 3

Advantages	Disadvantages

Exercise 4. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 An advantage/ benefit/ positive of playing sports at school is that you can make friends.
- 2 Many people see no positive/ reason/ value in competitive sports.
- 3 An argument/ positive/ reason for sports is that they build teamwork.
- 4 The main argument/ issue/ negative many young people have with team sports is the competitiveness.
- 5 Wanting to win can cause lots of concern/ negative/ problem emotions.
- 6 Lack of confidence is a big concern / unsatisfactory / value for many young people.
- 7 Bad performance can be a/an negative/ reason/ unsatisfactory for not liking sports.
- 8 If you are too competitive, it can be a help/ problem/ value for you in daily life.

Exercise 5. Complete the essay. Use the phrases in the box.

can help teenagers to focus more

may cause serious issues with confidence

pressure makes sport less fun

reduce stress

some people cannot perform as well as others

sports help teenagers learn team-building skills

Competition in sport can play an important role in a teenager's development. However, we must be careful as this can have both positive and negative effects on the child and people disagree about which is the most significant.

Initially, let's think about the reasons why teenagers benefit from competition in sports. On the one hand, sport is a great way to [] and focus the mind away from lessons. Furthermore, a little competition [] and give them a reason to perform better. In addition, when playing in teams, these [] and can improve their physical well-being, which is a really important benefit.

On the other hand, competitive sports can also cause problems for individuals if people feel that when they lose, they fail. This is clearly unsatisfactory and []. It is certain that this [] and means teenagers do not want to take part. Although being part of a team can be enjoyable, [] and they may feel isolated from other team members. This can be a serious concern for teenagers who want to fit in with others around them.

To sum up, there are good arguments on both sides. While competitive sports can play a useful role in developing a teenager, it is important that sports are monitored to ensure individuals do not feel pressured or stressed when playing. It is important that young people understand the value of competition and that even if they fail, they feel that they have achieved something.

Exercise 6: Useful words and phrases can help you organise your essay.

Read the essay and look at the words or phrases in bold which *introduce*, *connect* or *contrast* ideas. Then put the words and phrases in the correct columns.

Introducing ideas	Connecting ideas	Contrasting ideas

On the other hand

Also

In addition (to)

However

While

It is certain that

Furthermore

On the one hand

Initially

Although

Exercise 7. Choose the correct words to complete the sentences.

- 1 Although/ However/ It is certain that, children are spending more time playing computer games.
- 2 Sport should be fun. However/ In addition/ While, the pressure can make it unpleasant.
- 3 Firstly/ On the other hand/ While sports remain popular as entertainment, fewer people are actually taking part.
- 4 Young people don't always have the time to play sports although/ furthermore/ in addition to their school work.
- 5 On the one hand, sports are good for your body. Also/ Although/ On the other hand, they can take up a lot of time.
- 6 Spending time playing games can be fun, but it can also/ furthermore/ in addition be a problem if you do it too much.
- 7 Computer games can be educational, although/ and/ while more often they are not.
- 8 I believe computer games are boring. But/ Furthermore/ On the other hand, they are harmful.

Exercise 8. WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.
Write about the following topic.

Nowadays many people have access to computers and a large number of children enjoy playing video games. What are the advantages and disadvantages of playing video games for children?

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

[illegible]

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.