

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



m _____

5



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

