

UNIT 7

WRITING

Exercise 1. Before planning your IELTS Writing Task 2 essay, you need to have enough ideas. If you know the IELTS topics well, you will have more ideas of what to write. Match the topics in the box with the essay questions.

culture	culture	family or friends	food and drink	free time
history	shopping	travel	work or studies	work or studies

1. Today many parents spend less time with their children than parents in the past. Some people say that this is a serious problem. Do you agree or disagree? _____
2. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for countries where governments spend a lot of money on museums and monuments. _____
3. Some people believe that drinking water is the most important part of being healthy while others think eating fruit is. Discuss both views and give your opinion. _____
4. A lot of people want to get a university education. Discuss the arguments for and against going to university. _____
5. In some countries it is traditional for men to work and women to stay to look after the family. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this? _____
6. Some people think that nurses should be paid more than teachers while others believe that teachers deserve higher pay than nurses. Compare both opinions and give your own view.

7. Traffic in big cities is increasing. What are the problems associated with too much traffic and what could the solutions be?

8. Some people prefer to buy things online while others choose to go into a shop. What are the advantages and disadvantages of shopping in these ways? _____
9. Knowing the history of their country is very important to some people. What is your opinion about this? _____
10. Many people prefer to watch sport on TV rather than playing it themselves. Why is this case? What problems can this cause? _____

Exercise 2. Look at the map and the pictures of famous museums and landmarks. Match the countries with the places.



<i>Australia</i>	<i>Russia</i>	<i>Egypt</i>	<i>Zambia/Zimbabwe</i>	<i>Peru</i>	<i>Greece</i>
<i>China</i>			<i>Algeria</i>		

Picture 1: Tipasa _____

Picture 2: The Acropolis _____

Picture 3: The Hermitage _____

Picture 4: The Great Wall _____

Picture 5: Uluru _____

Picture 6: The Victoria Falls _____

Picture 7: The pyramids _____

Picture 8: Machu Picchu _____

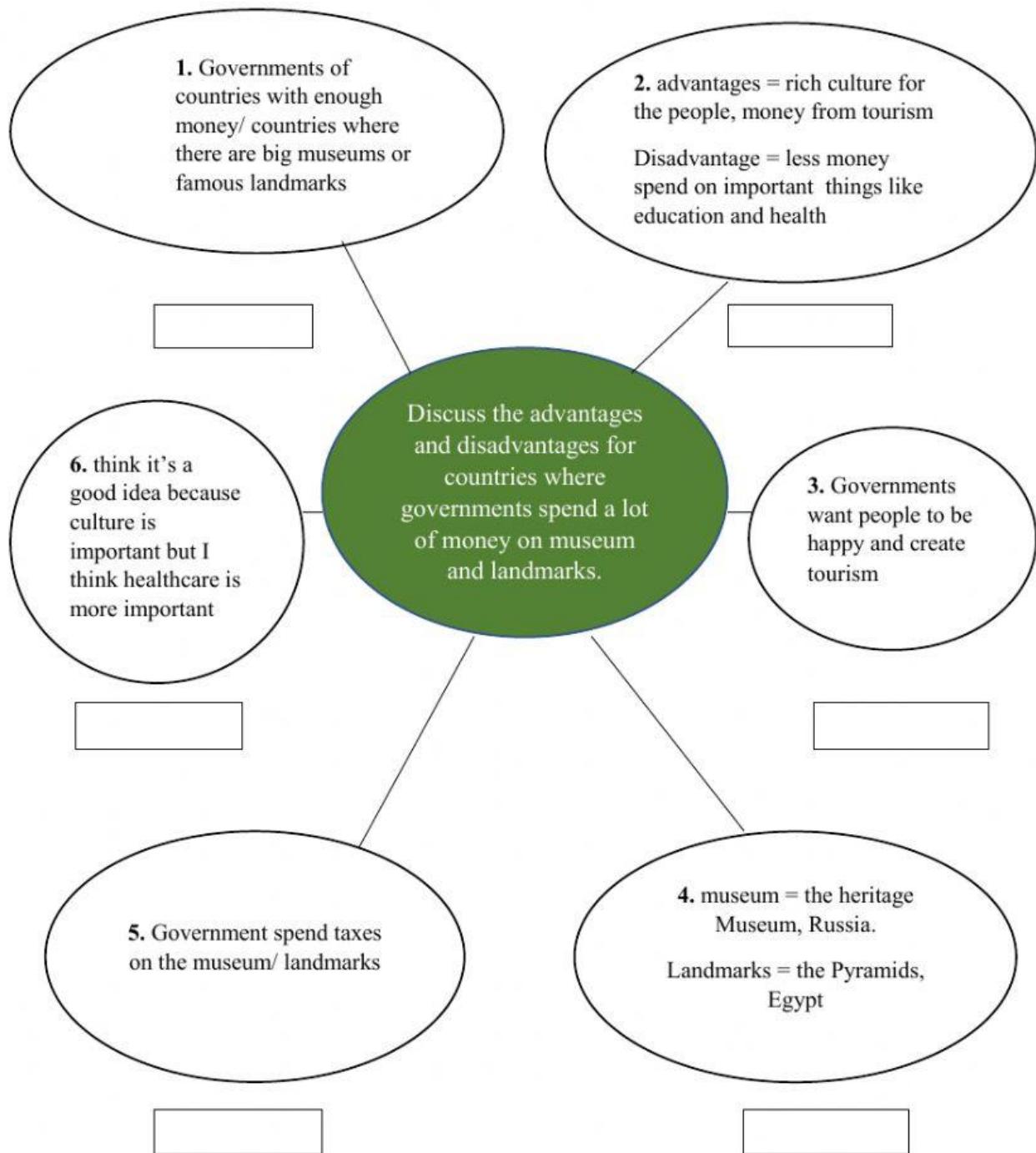
Exercise 3. Read the IELTS Writing Task 2 question.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for countries where governments spend a lot of money on museums and landmarks.

One way to have enough ideas of what to write is to do a mind-map activity like the 'six-question technique'.

Complete the mind map. Use the questions in the box.

How?	My opinion?	What?	? Who?	Why?
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Exercise 4. Read the IELTS Writing Task 2 question

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for countries where governments spend a lot of money on museums and landmarks.

Use the phrases in the box to complete the student's essay notes.

attract tourists	for education and health	good and bad points	happiness
landmarks and school/ hospitals		rich cultural life	
	services like healthcare are more important		

Introduction :

True = some governments use a lot of tax income for museums and landmarks. In my view, this has both _____.

Advantages:

1. Provides _____
2. Increases _____
3. Landmarks _____

Disadvantages:

1. Less money _____
2. Some countries must choose between _____

Conclusion:

There are advantages and disadvantages. Although it is a good idea, I think _____

Exercise 5. Use the student's notes to help you complete the essay. Write the correct word or phrase in each gap.

Student's notes:

Introduction:

True = some governments use a lot of tax income for museums and landmarks. In my view, this has both good and bad points.

Advantages:

1. Provide rich culture life
2. Increases happiness
3. Landmarks attract tourists

Disadvantages:

1. Less money for education and health
2. Some countries must choose between landmarks and schools/ hospitals

Conclusion:

There are advantages and disadvantages. Although it is a good idea, I think services like healthcare are more important.

There is no doubt that governments of countries with enough money use a lot of tax income for museums and landmarks. In my view, _____: looking after the culture of any country is important but services like healthcare are more important. In this essay, I am going to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of supporting museums and landmarks financially and lastly, give my opinion.

On the one hand, governments spending taxes on museums and landmarks has clear advantages. Providing a _____ for the population increases national _____.

Landmarks that are looked after well also _____. For example, a lot of Russians visit the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg and think it is an important part of their country. The pyramids in Egypt are important to the local economy with lots of visitors staying in hotels nearby and going to shops and restaurants.

On the other hand, if the government spends taxes on museums and landmarks it has less money to spend on services like _____. Some countries that have famous _____ must choose between looking after them and spending the money on schools and _____. In Zimbabwe, for example, looking after the roads, paths and land near the Victoria Falls costs as much money as paying for several schools and medical centers.

In conclusion, there are _____ to a government supporting museums and landmarks with taxes. Although, I think _____, I think services like healthcare are more important.

Exercise 6. Look at the six-question plan that a student wrote for this task. Read the essay and find the information to complete the student's notes.

There is no doubt that some nations do not earn enough income to support their cultural attractions. In my opinion, these countries should spend most money on the museums and landmarks that will provide the highest profit for the country. In this essay, I am going to discuss some of the difficulties associated with not looking after museums and landmarks and give some possible answers to them.

On the one hand, it might be difficult for countries without high tax incomes to look after their museums and landmarks. Some countries need to spend money first on schools and hospitals. This might cause famous paintings or monuments to be damaged or for people to forget about their country's history. For example, in 2011 I visited a Roman town in Algeria called Tipasa. The government does not have enough money to support it and so the local people do not learn much about it.

On the other hand, spending money on cultural attractions can make a profit. Famous museums and landmarks attract tourists and these visitors spend a lot of money. The people then pay more taxes and the government has more money to spend on things like healthcare. In Greece most tourists who go to Athens want to visit the Acropolis where they spend money in gift shops and cafés. It is, therefore, important that the Greek government looks after the Acropolis.

In conclusion, if countries without a lot of money pay for the cultural attractions that will make the most profit for the country, they can then spend that money on important services like healthcare.

1. Who am I writing about? Nations which do not earn enough income to support their cultural _____.	2. What are the problems? Some countries need to spend money first on _____ and hospital. What are the solutions? Nations without a lot of money should at least pay for the cultural attractions that will make the most _____ for the country.
3. Why it is important to find solutions? If countries don't support their cultural attractions, this might cause famous paintings or _____ to be damaged or people to forget about their _____.	5. How does the solution work? Spending money on cultural attractions can make a profit. Famous museums and landmarks attract tourists and these _____ spend a lot of money.
4. Where will I write about? Tipasa in _____. The _____ in Athens, Greece.	6. My opinion? If countries without a lot of money pay for the cultural attractions that will make the most profit for the _____. They can then spend that money on important services like _____.

Exercise 7. Complete the essay with the correct forms of the verbs in brackets.

Some countries may not have enough money to look after their museums and landmarks. What are some of the problems associated with not looking after museums and landmarks, and what are some of the possible solutions?

There is no doubt that some nations do not _____ (earn) enough income to support their cultural attractions. In my opinion, these countries should spend most money on the museums and landmarks that will provide the highest profit for the country. In this essay, I _____ (go) to discuss some of the difficulties associated with not looking after museums and landmarks and give some possible answers to them.

On the one hand, it _____ (might) be difficult for countries without high tax incomes to look after their museums and landmarks. Some countries need to spend money first on schools and hospitals. This might cause famous paintings or monuments to _____ (be) damaged or for people to forget about their country's history. For example, in 2011, I _____ (visit) a Roman town in Algeria called Tipasa. The government _____ (do) not have enough money to support it and so the local people _____ (do) not learn much about it.

On the other hand, spending money on cultural attractions can make a profit. Famous museums and landmarks attract tourists and these visitors spend a lot of money. The people then pay more taxes and the government have more money to spend on things like healthcare. In Greece most tourists who go to Athens want to visit the Acropolis where they spend money in gift shops and cafés. It is, therefore, important that the Greek government look after the Acropolis.

In conclusion, if countries without a lot of money pay for the cultural attractions that will make the most profit for the country, they can then spend that money on important services like healthcare.

Exercise 8. WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In some countries it is traditional for men to work and women to stay at home to look after the family. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this?

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

You should write at least 250 words.

