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Book 2

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Introduction

This book aims to improve the IELTS candidates' writing skill. First, it offers a detailed explanation of the essay writing assessment criteria so that the criteria will be demystified and in that light writers get to know how their essays will be evaluated and scored. Moreover, it provides the reader with the best strategies, tips and information needed to get to know what features enhance your writing skill and hence your essay score. More than 100 top-notch writing samples, written by an IELTS native expert, are offered in this book. The sample essays give you a practical knowledge of what a perfect sample is and with a little bit scrutiny you can come to the conclusion why such samples deserve 8-9 band score. Respected readers are highly recommended that they read an essay several times from different perspectives to see how the writer has offered the best introduction, body and conclusion. TR, CC, LR and GRA can be scrutinised to see why the features provided holistically in the essay guarantee a top score. You can learn a lot through the samples as they are rich in cohesive devices, lexical resources and grammatical range.

Having offered the best model essays, the book provides you with a bonus that can be very useful. Many candidates get low scores on GRA. That is why a grammar section has been provided in the appendix so that you would improve your knowledge of grammar and learn how to produce error free sentences and satisfy the variety and accuracy requirements.

Undoubtedly, having a practical knowledge of collocations will contribute to the naturalness of your writing. Hence, in the appendix you are also provided with the most frequently used and highly applicable nouns, adjective, and verb collocations.

Finally, this book offers you the best tips through the audio and video files provided on the book CD to enhance your writing skill. The e-books available on the book CD help you a lot to make your writing skill advanced, impeccable and unbeatable.

Board of Editors

List of Topics

Topic 1: Traveling to other countries enables people to learn different cultures and decreases tension among people from different countries and nations. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 2: When international media (including movies, fashion shows, advertisements and other TV programmes) convey the same messages to the global audience, people argue that the expansion of international media has negative impacts on cultural diversity. What is your opinion?

Topic 3: There is a disagreement on the impact of increased business and culture contact between countries on a country's identity. What is your opinion?

Topic 4: Some people believe that culture will be ruined if it is used to earn tourism revenue, but others consider that tourism is the only way of protecting a culture. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Topic 5: Some people argue that immigrants should adopt the local culture when immigrating to a new country. An alternative view is that they can adapt to a new environment by establishing a minority community. Discuss these two views and give your opinion.

Topic 6: The advantages of the spread of English as a global language will continue to outweigh its disadvantages. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 7: Aircrafts have been increasingly used to transport fruits and vegetables to some countries where such plants hardly grow or are out of season. Some people consider it a good trend, but some people oppose it. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Topic 8: Millions of dollars are spent on space research every year. Some people argue that the money should be spent on improving living standards on Earth. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 9: Space travel to the Moon is often cited as one giant leap for mankind. Yet some people argue that this achievement made little difference to our daily lives. What is your opinion?

Topic 10: Some people argue that the government should spend money on public services and facilities, but not on the arts. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 11: Some people argue that the government should spend money only on medical care and education but not on theatres or sport stadiums. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 12: The advocates of international aid believe that countries have a moral obligation to help each other, while the opponents consider it unnecessary, because money is misspent by the governments that receive it. Discuss these two points of view and give your opinion.

Topic 13: Some people think the government should pay for health care and education, but there is no agreement about whether it is the government's responsibility. What is your opinion?

Topic 14: People should keep all the money they earn and should not pay taxes to the state. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 15: It is widely accepted that people who have post-school qualifications earn a higher salary than those less educated do. University students should, therefore, pay all the full cost

incurred over the course of obtaining a college education. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 16: Only government action can solve housing shortages in big cities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 17: There are social, medical and technical problems associated with the use of mobile phones. What form do these problems take? Do problems of using mobile phones outweigh the benefits?

Topic 18: Do you agree that modern technology has given us more leisure time than before?

Topic 19: Earlier technological development brought more changes to the life of ordinary people than recent technological development do. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 20: It is said that the fast pace of our everyday life, as a direct result of the rapid development of telecommunications technology and travel industry, has negative effects on individuals, nations and the globe. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 21: Nowadays people can carry out tasks such as shopping and banking even business transactions without meeting each other face to face. What are the effects on individuals and the society?

Topic 22: Many people are optimistic about the 21st century and expect scientists to make positive changes to the world. To what extent do you agree or disagree with their optimism? What changes would you like to see in the new century?

Topic 23: Many employees may work at home with modern technology. Some people claim that it benefits only workers, but not employers. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 24: The leisure industry is growing rapidly. The active role of modern technology in people's leisure lives nowadays has made them less creative. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 25: Many people think that public libraries should only provide books and should not waste their money on expensive hi-tech media, such as software, DVDs or videos. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 26: It seems that with the increase in use of mobile phones and computers, fewer people prefer to write letters. Will the skill of writing disappear completely?

Topic 27: Some people think that radio has become out-of-date, and there is no need to listen to the radio for entertainment and news. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 28: People in many countries do not wear their traditional costume. Some argue that they would forget their history and tradition. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 29: People think that old buildings should be knocked down and give way to the new buildings. Do you agree or disagree? How important are old buildings to us?

Topic 30: Some people believe that new buildings should be built in traditional styles. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

Topic 31: It is more important for a building to serve its purposes than to look beautiful. Architects do not need to worry about whether it is a real work of art. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 32: Do you think a museum is to educate or entertain people?

Topic 33: People tend to work longer hours nowadays. Working long hours has a negative effect on themselves, their families and the society, so working hours should be restricted. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 34: What is the difference between traditional food and fast food?

Topic 35: As most people spend a major part of adult life at the place of work, job satisfaction is an important part of individual well-being. What are the factors that contribute to job satisfaction? Are all the expectations for job satisfaction realistic?

Topic 36: Some people think that changing jobs periodically is good. What is your opinion?

Topic 37: What are the factors that cause stress and how can we cope with stress?

Topic 38: Fashion is difficult to follow, and some people argue that we should not follow it. They think that we should dress what we like and feel comfortable. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 39: Discuss the reasons why people define happiness differently and how can we obtain happiness?

Topic 40: Some people think that telling the truth is not always essential. It is necessary to tell lies sometimes. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 41: Today, people are getting greedy and selfish. Some people argue that we should go back to the old days, and show respect for the family and community, so that we can make the world a better place to live in. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 42: Creative artists should be given freedom to express their ideas through words, pictures, music or films. Some people nevertheless think that the government should restrict artists' freedom of expression. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 43: The advance of science and technology has a significant impact on people, but the role of artists, such as musicians, painters and writers is also important. What can the arts tell us about life that science cannot?

Topic 44: The government should control the amount of violence in films and on television in order to control violent crimes in society. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this action?

Topic 45: Some people suggest that there should be restrictions on a detailed description of crimes in the newspapers and on television. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 46: We can get knowledge from news, but some people think we cannot trust journalists. What do you think? What qualities do you think a successful journalist should have?

Topic 47: People think that the news media has influenced people's lives nowadays and it is a negative development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 48: There are many advertisements directed at children. Parents argue that children are misled, while advertisers consider advertising a source of useful information. What is your opinion?

Topic 49: Do the positive effects outweigh negative effects, when advertising gains in popularity?

Topic 50: Some people argue that advertising is discouraging people from being different individuals, and makes people be or seem to be the same. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 51: The high sales of popular consumer goods reflect the power of advertising but not the real need of the society where such products are sold. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 52: Advertising encourages customers to buy in quantity not in quality. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 53: Some industrialised countries have serious environmental problems. The damage to the environment is an inevitable result when a country tends to improve the standard of living. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 54: Environmental problems are serious in many countries. It means that the only possible way to protect the environment is at an international level. To what extent do you agree or disagree on this hypothesis?

Topic 55: Some people believe that air travel should be restricted because it causes serious pollution and will use up the world's resources. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 56: It is said that the best way to solve the world's environmental problems is to increase the price of fuel. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 57: Water resources around the world are falling deficient. Analyse the possible reasons and provide your suggestions.

Topic 58: Many people believe that the human society has developed into a throw-away society, which is filled with plastic bags and rubbish. What are the causes and solutions?

Topic 59: Food can be produced much more cheaply today because of improved fertilisers and better machinery. However, some of the methods used to do this may be dangerous to human health and may have negative effects on local communities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 60: Some people hold that we should spend money and time on the protection of wild animals while others suggest that the money should be spent on populations living in the poorest areas of the world. What is your opinion?

Topic 61: Some people strongly oppose animal experimentation, believing that it causes pain to animals, while some other people consider it necessary. What is your opinion?

Topic 62: Far too little has been done to prevent animals and plants from dying out, although people have noticed this problem for a long time. Why have people failed to improve this situation? What are your suggestions?

Topic 63: Some people think that killing animals for food is cruel, but others claim that animals are a necessary part of diet. What's your opinion?

Topic 64: Discuss the arguments for and against raising pets.

Topic 65: Good facilities can be found in cities but not in the countryside. Therefore, new

doctors and teachers should be sent to the countryside. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 66: Some findings have revealed that cities around the world are growing large. Could you outline the possible causes and predict consequences?

Topic 67: The only way to improve road safety is to impose severe punishment for driving offences. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 68: Police in Britain do not carry guns. Some people believe that unarmed police are unable to protect citizens, but some suggest that arming the police will lead to a surge in violence in society. Discuss those two views.

Topic 69: Do you think it is better to send criminals to jail or let them receive education or job training?

Topic 70: Many people are afraid of leaving their houses because of the spread of crimes. Some think that more actions can be taken to prevent crime from occurring, but others think little can be done. What is your opinion?

Topic 71: There are more and more effective security measures in large cities to reduce the crime. Does this endeavour bring more benefits than problems?

Topic 72: With the ageing of society, we are now beginning to see a growing interest in further abolishment of mandatory retirement. Do you think that mandatory retirement is obsolete or should be sustained?

Topic 73: In many countries, the proportion of older people is increasing steadily. Do you think it is a positive or negative change to the society?

Topic 74: Currently more and more people respect elders and become convinced that older people should live with their families, which is in contrast to the view that older people should live at a nursing home. What is your opinion?

Topic 75: In many countries, women join the army as men do. However, some people argue that the army solely needs males. What is your opinion?

Topic 76: Gender imbalance has long been a general phenomenon not only in the labour market but also in formal education. Some analysts argue that it is impossible to eliminate the underrepresentation of women in some subjects in the university. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 77: Throughout the history, male leaders often made the society more violent and conflicting. If women governed the world, the world would be more peaceful. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 78: Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of playing sports and participating in physical exercises.

Topic 79: Some people believe that national sports teams and individual athletes who represent their country should be financially supported by the government. Some people think that they should be funded by non-government groups (e.g. business, sponsorship.) What is your opinion?

Topic 80: Do you think that international sports events like the Olympic Games would continue or gradually lose their momentum?

Topic 81: Wearing uniforms is popular in schools, but some people argue that it might cause damage to children's individuality. What is your opinion?

Topic 82: Some people think that children should learn to compete, but others think that they should be taught to cooperate with others. What's your opinion?

Topic 83: Some people believe that educating children altogether will benefit them. Others think intelligent children should be taught separately and given special courses. Discuss those two views.

Topic 84: Some people who have been successful in the society do not attribute their success to the theoretical knowledge they learned at university. What is your opinion on the factors contributing to one's achievement?

Topic 85: It is generally believed that education is of vital importance to individual development and the well-being of societies. What should education consist of to fulfil both these functions?

Topic 86: Nowadays, some universities offer graduate students skills that assist them to find employment, but some people believe that the main function of university should be to access knowledge for its sake. What is your opinion?

Topic 87: Some people think that teachers should be responsible for teaching students to judge right and wrong and to behave well. Some say that teachers should only teach students about academic subjects. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Topic 88: Education used to be a short period of training, but today, people treat it like a lifelong practise. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 89: Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of studying abroad.

Topic 90: Some people argue that learning a second language involves learning the culture of the country where this language is spoken (including lifestyles). What is your opinion?

Topic 91: Some people argue that history is of little or no use to us. Others believe that studying history gives many benefits. Discuss those views and give your own opinion.

Topic 92: Do you think middle school students should study international news as a subject?

Topic 93: Opinions divide concerning what plays a more important role in people's personality development, nature or nurture. What is your opinion?

Topic 94: Do you think that parents should be punished if their five-year-old child commits a crime? From what age should children be held responsible for their own behaviours?

Topic 95: Some scientists believe that studying the behaviour of 3-year-old children can predict their criminality. To what extent do you think a crime is a product of human nature or is it possible to stop children from growing up to be criminals?

Topic 96: Computers do not help children learn more effectively. On the contrary, the use of computers has a negative effect on children's physical and mental development. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Topic 97: In modern society, some people argue that schools become unnecessary as children can study at home via the Internet. Do you agree or disagree?

- Topic 98:** The computer is widely used in education and some people think that teachers will not play important roles in the classroom. To what extent do you agree?
- Topic 99:** Although it is generally prohibited, corporal punishment persists in many families. Do you think corporal punishment is an acceptable way to regulate children's behaviours?
- Topic 100:** It is not uncommon that children are required to obey the rule of their parents and teachers. Some people are worried that too much control over children will not prepare them well for their adult life. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.
- Topic 101:** The children who grow up in a family short of money are more capable of dealing with problems in adult life than children who are brought up by wealthy parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- Topic 102:** One's character traits are strongly influenced by the place where he or she grew up. Discuss the impacts of an urban environment and those of a rural environment on a child's character development
- Topic 103:** Do you think it is good to push students to study hard in their youth?
- Topic 104:** Some people argue that it is good for children to stay away from their families and go to a boarding school. Others suggest that children live with their families and attend a day school. What is your opinion?
- Topic 105:** People tend to believe that all young adults should undertake a period of unpaid work for the good of the community. Do you agree or disagree?
- Topic 106:** Some people think that students benefit greatly from going to private secondary schools, but others assert that private secondary schools have a negative impact on the young generation and the society alike. Discuss both views.
- Topic 107:** Some people believe that students who graduate from high school should have one year's time to obtain work experience before going to university. Do you agree or disagree?
- Topic 108:** In order to improve the quality of education, high school students should be encouraged to evaluate and criticise their teachers, but others think it will result in loss of respect and discipline in classroom. What is your opinion?
- Topic 109:** Schools should teach children the academic subjects which have a close relationship with their future careers, so other subjects like music and sports are not important. To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- Topic 110:** Today, more school leavers are unable to find jobs. Discuss the causes of unemployment rising among young adults and suggest any solutions.
- Topic 111:** In recent years, the proportion of the crimes committed by youngsters is on the rise. Discuss causes to this problem and suggest solutions.
- Topic 112:** What are the benefits of requiring young people to serve the army? Does participation in community work qualify as an alternative?
- Topic 113:** Many people join distance-learning programmes (study material, post, TV, Internet) and study at home, but some people think that it cannot bring the same benefit as attending colleges or universities does. Do you agree or disagree?

Topic 114: It is argued that university students should study a full range of subjects, instead of some specific subjects. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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