

IELTS WRITING TASK 2 (ACADEMIC & GENERAL) CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE 4 TEST 1

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Compare the advantages and disadvantages of three of the following as media for communicating information. State which you consider to be the most effective.

Comics, books, radio, television, film, theatre

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

Write at least 250 words.

CAMBRIDGE 4 TEST 2

Happiness is considered very important in life.

Why is it difficult to define?

What factors are important in achieving happiness?

CAMBRIDGE 4 TEST 3

Creative artists should always be given the freedom to express their own ideas (in words, pictures, music or film) in whichever way they wish. There should be no government restrictions on what they do.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

CAMBRIDGE 4 TEST 4

In many countries schools have severe problems with student behaviour.

What do you think are the causes of this?

What solutions can you suggest?

CAMBRIDGE 4 TEST A (GENERAL TRAINING)

In the past, many people had skills such as making their own clothes and doing repairs to things in the house. In many countries, nowadays, skills like these are disappearing.

Why do you think this change is happening?

How far is this situation true in your country?

CAMBRIDGE 4 TEST B (GENERAL TRAINING)

Some people believe that children should be allowed to stay at home and play until they are six or seven years old. Others believe that it is important for young children to go to school as soon as possible.

What do you think are the advantages of attending school from a young age.

CAMBRIDGE 5 TEST 1

Universities should accept equal numbers of male and female students in every subject.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

CAMBRIDGE 5 TEST 2

In some countries young people are encouraged to work or travel for a year between finishing high school and starting university studies.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for young people who decide to do this.

CAMBRIDGE 5 TEST 3

Some people think that a sense of competition in children should be encouraged. Others believe that children who are taught to co-operate rather than compete become more useful adults.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 5 TEST 4

Research indicates that the characteristics we are born with have much more influence on our personality and development than any experiences we may have in our life.

Which do you consider to be the major influence?

CAMBRIDGE 5 TEST A (GENERAL TRAINING)

Some people believe that children are given too much free time. They feel that this time should be used to do more school work.

How do you think children should spend their free time?

CAMBRIDGE 5 TEST B (GENERAL TRAINING)

Nowadays we are producing more and more rubbish.

Why do you think this is happening?

What can governments do to help reduce the amount of rubbish produced?

CAMBRIDGE 6 TEST 1

Today, the high sales of popular consumer goods reflect the power of advertising and not the real needs of the society in which they are sold.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

CAMBRIDGE 6 TEST 2

Successful sports professionals can earn a great deal more money than people in other important professions. Some people think this is fully justified while others think it is unfair.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 6 TEST 3

Some people believe that visitors to other countries should follow local customs and behaviour. Others disagree and think that the host country should welcome cultural differences.

Discuss both these views and give your opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 6 TEST 4

Some people prefer to spend their lives doing the same things and avoiding change. Others, however, think that change is always a good thing.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 6 TEST A (GENERAL TRAINING)

Some people think it would be a good idea for schools to teach every young person how to be a good parent.

Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Describe the skills a person needs to be a good parent.

CAMBRIDGE 6 TEST B (GENERAL TRAINING)

Using a computer every day can have more negative than positive effects on young children.

Do you agree or disagree?

CAMBRIDGE 7 TEST 1

It is generally believed that some people are born with certain talents, for instance for sport or music, and others are not. However, it is sometimes claimed that any child can be taught to become a good sports person or musician.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 7 TEST 2

Some people believe that there should be fixed punishments for each type of crime. Others, however, argue that the circumstances of an individual crime, and the motivation for committing it, should always be taken into account when deciding on the punishment.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 7 TEST 3

As most people spend a major part of their adult life at work, job satisfaction is an important element of individual wellbeing.

What factors contribute to job satisfaction?

How realistic is the expectation of job satisfaction for all workers?

CAMBRIDGE 7 TEST 4

Some people think that universities should provide graduates with the knowledge and skills needed in the workplace. Others think that the true function of a university should be to give access to knowledge for its own sake, regardless of whether the course is useful to an employer.

What, in your opinion, should be the main function of a university?

CAMBRIDGE 7 TEST A (GENERAL TRAINING)

Some people prefer to live in a house, while others feel that there are more advantages to living in an apartment.

Are there more advantages than disadvantages of living in a house compared with living in an apartment?

CAMBRIDGE 7 TEST B (GENERAL TRAINING)

Some people feel that entertainers (e.g. film stars, pop musicians or sports stars) are paid too much money:

Do you agree or disagree?

Which other types of job should be highly paid?

CAMBRIDGE 8 TEST 1

Some people think that parents should teach children how to be good members of society.

Others, however, believe that school is the place to learn this.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 8 TEST 2

Nowadays the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology.

In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make?

Has this become a positive or negative development?

CAMBRIDGE 8 TEST 3

Increasing the price of petrol is the best way to solve growing traffic and pollution problems.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the above statement?

What other measures do you think might be effective?

CAMBRIDGE 8 TEST 4

In some countries, the average weight of people is increasing and their level of health and fitness is decreasing.

What do you think are the causes of these problems and what measures could be taken to solve them?

CAMBRIDGE 8 TEST A (GENERAL TRAINING)

Today more people are travelling than ever before.

Why is this the case?

What are the benefits of travelling for the traveler?

CAMBRIDGE 8 TEST B (GENERAL TRAINING)

Some people think that it is better to educate boys and girls in separate schools. Others, however, believe that boys and girls benefit more from attending mixed schools.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 9 TEST 1

Some experts believe that it is better for children to begin learning a foreign language at primary school rather than secondary school.

Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

CAMBRIDGE 9 TEST 2

Some people believe that unpaid community service should be a compulsory part of high school programmes (for example working for a charity, improving the neighbourhood or teaching sports to younger children).

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

CAMBRIDGE 9 TEST 3

Some people say that the best way to improve health is by increasing the number of sports facilities. Others, however, say that this would have little effect on public health and that other measures are required.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 9 TEST 4

Every year several languages die out. Some people think that this is not important because life will be easier if there are fewer languages in the world.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

CAMBRIDGE 9 TEST A (GENERAL TRAINING)

Being a celebrity - such as a famous film star or sports personality - brings problems as well as benefits.

Do you think that being a celebrity brings more benefits or more problems?

CAMBRIDGE 9 TEST B (GENERAL TRAINING)

Some people think that the teenage years are the happiest times of most people's lives. Others think that adult life brings more happiness, in spite of greater responsibilities.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 10 TEST 1

It is important for children to learn the difference between right and wrong at an early age. Punishment is necessary to help them learn this distinction.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

What sort of punishment should parents and teachers be allowed to use to teach good behaviour to children?

CAMBRIDGE 10 TEST 2

Some people think that all university students should study whatever they like. Others believe that they should only be allowed to study subjects that will be useful in the future, such as those related to science and technology.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 10 TEST 3

Countries are becoming more and more similar because people are able to buy the same products anywhere in the world.

Do you think this is positive or negative development?

CAMBRIDGE 10 TEST 4

Many museums charge for admission while others are free.

Do you think the advantages of charging people for admission to museums outweigh the disadvantages?

CAMBRIDGE 10 TEST A (GENERAL TRAINING)

In many countries, the amount of crime is increasing.

What do you think are the main causes of crime?

How can we deal with those causes?

CAMBRIDGE 10 TEST B (GENERAL TRAINING)

Some parents buy their children a large number of toys to play with.

What are the advantages and disadvantages for the child of having a large number of toys?



CAMBRIDGE 11 TEST 1 (GENERAL)

Employers sometimes ask people applying for jobs for personal information, such as their hobbies and interests, and whether they are married or single.

Some people say that this information may be relevant and useful. Others disagree.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 11 TEST 2 (GENERAL)

Some people say that in all levels of education, from primary schools to universities, too much time is spent on learning facts and not enough on learning practical skills.

Do you agree or disagree?

CAMBRIDGE 11 TEST 3 (GENERAL)

New stories on TV and in newspaper are very often accompanied by pictures. Some people say that these pictures are more effective than words.

What is your opinion about this?

CAMBRIDGE 11 TEST 4 (GENERAL)

Some people say that it is possible to tell a lot about a person's culture and character from their choice of clothes.

Do you agree or disagree?



CAMBRIDGE 11 TEST 1 (ACADEMIC)

Governments should spend money on railways rather than roads.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

CAMBRIDGE 11 TEST 2 (ACADEMIC)

Some people claim that not enough of the waste from homes is recycled. They say that the only way to make people recycle more is to make it a legal requirement.

To what extent do you think laws are needed to make people recycle more of their waste?

CAMBRIDGE 11 TEST 3 (ACADEMIC)

Some people say that the only reason for learning a foreign language is in order to travel to or work in a foreign country. Others say that these are not the only reasons why someone should learn a foreign language.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 11 TEST 4 (ACADEMIC)

Many governments think that economic progress is their most important goal. Some people, however, think that other sorts of progress are equally important for a country.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 12 TEST 1 (GENERAL)

Today more and more tourists are visiting places where conditions are difficult, such as the Sahara desert or the Antarctic?

What are the benefits and disadvantages for tourists who visit such places?

CAMBRIDGE 12 TEST 2 (GENERAL)

In many places, new homes are needed, but the only space available for building them is in the countryside. Some people believe it is more important to protect the countryside and not build new homes there.

What is your opinion about this?

CAMBRIDGE 12 TEST 3 (GENERAL)

Some people say that parents should encourage their children to take part in organised group activities in their free time. Others say that it is important for children to learn how to keep themselves occupied on their own.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 12 TEST 4 (GENERAL)

In recent years, many small local shops have closed because customers travel to large shopping centers or malls to do their shopping.

Is this a positive or negative development?

CAMBRIDGE 12 TEST 1 (ACADEMIC)

Some people believe that it is good to share as much information as possible in scientific research, business and the academic world. Others believe that some information is too important or too valuable to be shared freely.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 12 TEST 2 (ACADEMIC)

At the present time, the population of some countries includes a relatively large number of young adults, compared with the number of older people.

Do the advantages of this situation outweigh the disadvantages?

CAMBRIDGE 12 TEST 3 (ACADEMIC)

In a number of countries, some people think it is necessary to spend large sums of money on constructing new railway lines for very fast trains between cities. Others believe the money should be spent on improving existing public transport.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 12 TEST 4 (ACADEMIC)

Some people believe that allowing children to make their own choices on everyday matters (such as food, clothes and entertainment) is likely to result in a society of individuals who only think about their own wishes. Other people believe that it is important for children to make decisions about matters that affect them.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.



CAMBRIDGE 13 TEST 1 (GENERAL)

In some areas of the US, a 'curfew' is imposed, in which teenagers are not allowed to be out of doors after a particular time at night unless they are accompanied by an adult.

What is your opinion about this?

CAMBRIDGE 13 TEST 2 (GENERAL)

Many working people get little or no exercise either during the working day or in their free time, and have health problems as a result.

Why do so many working people not get enough exercise?

What can be done about this problem?

CAMBRIDGE 13 TEST 3 (GENERAL)

Some people say that now we can see films on our phones or tablets there is no need to go to cinema. Others say that to be fully enjoyed, films need to be seen in cinema.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 13 TEST 4 (GENERAL)

Some people say that it is important to keep your home and workplace tidy, with everything organized and in the correct place.

What is your opinion about this?

CAMBRIDGE 13 TEST 1 (ACADEMIC)

Living in a country where you have to speak a foreign language can cause serious social problems, as well as practical problems.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

CAMBRIDGE 13 TEST 2 (ACADEMIC)

Some people believe that we have too many choices these days.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

CAMBRIDGE 13 TEST 3 (ACADEMIC)

Some people say History is one of the most important school subjects. Other people think that, in today's world, subjects like science and technology are more important than history.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 13 TEST 4 (ACADEMIC)

In spite of the advances made in agriculture, many people around the world still go hungry.

Why is this the case?

What can be done about this problem?



CAMBRIDGE 14 TEST 1 (GENERAL)

The growth of online shopping will one day lead to all shops in towns and cities closing.

Do you agree or disagree?

CAMBRIDGE 14 TEST 2 (GENERAL)

Some people think it's better to choose friends who always have same opinions as them. Other people believe it's good to have friends who sometimes disagree with them.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 14 TEST 3 (GENERAL)

Some people say the main way to be happy in life is to have a lot of money.

How might having a lot of money make people happy?

What other things in life can make people happy?

CAMBRIDGE 14 TEST 4 (GENERAL)

Many people work long hours, leaving very little time for leisure activities.

Does this situation have more advantages?



CAMBRIDGE 14 TEST 1 (ACADEMIC)

Some people believe that it is best to accept a bad situation, such as an unsatisfactory job or shortage of money. Others argue that it is better to try and improve such situations.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 14 TEST 2 (ACADEMIC)

Some people say that the main environmental problem of our time is the loss of particular species of plants and animals. Others say that there are more important environmental problems.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

CAMBRIDGE 14 TEST 3 (ACADEMIC)

Some people say that music is a good way of bringing people of different cultures and ages together.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

CAMBRIDGE 14 TEST 4 (ACADEMIC)

Nowadays many people choose to be self-employed, rather than work for a company or organization.

Why might this be the case?

What could be the disadvantages of being self-employed?