



IELTS Writing Task II Test Tips

Answer the following questions about the IELTS Writing Task II Essay.

1. How long should you spend on task II? **You should spend about 40 minutes on task II and 20 minutes on task I.**
2. Which writing task should you write first? **You should write task II first since it is worth more points than task I.**
3. How many words should you write on task II? Correct Answer: **B**
You must write at least 250 words, but it is best not to write too many more than that. The more words you write, the more likely you will include unnecessary information and make mistakes. Part of the essay is being concise and getting your thoughts across in just over 250 words.
4. How many points more is writing task II worth than writing task I? Correct Answer: **A**
Writing task II is worth twice as many points as writing task I.
5. What are they NOT grading you on in your answer? Correct Answer: **C**
You are not graded on which opinion you state in your answer. If the question asks you to agree or disagree, the examiner does not care which opinion you hold, as long as you can back it up with relevant reasons and examples. You will be graded on your wide use of vocabulary, grammar, and if you have a clear message throughout your essay.
6. What should you make sure your essay has? Correct Answer: **D**
To achieve above a band 5 or 6, you must write your essay in paragraphs and you must include a variety of sentence types, such as simple, compound, and complex sentences. Additionally, if you write less than 250 words, you will also incur a penalty.
7. If this sentence were found on a writing task II essay, what about it would cause you to lose points?

“In my opinion, children **don't** need to attend extracurricular activities to achieve high marks in school.”

The problem with this sentence is the contraction. You should write out all contractions and abbreviations in both writing tasks I and II. Keep your language formal.