



## IELTS/TOEFL Opened-Ended Essay

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### *Open-Ended Model Response*

Example Prompt:

Happiness is considered very important in life. Why is it difficult to define? What factors are important in achieving happiness?

This question has two sub-questions. I need to make sure I completely answer both of these questions in my answer. I should format this essay-type as follows:

Introduction: Paraphrase statement given in the prompt. Outline what the questions ask you to answer (in either one or two sentences).

Body paragraph 1: Focus on one sub-question –why is happiness difficult to define- and given reasons and examples.

Body paragraph 2: Focus on the second sub-question –what factors are important in achieving happiness- and give reasons and examples.

Conclusion: Summarize what your essay was about in 1-3 sentences.

### **Model Answer**

Word Count: 273 words

The quest for happiness is something people all over the world work toward. However, how we determine what constitutes happiness and what specific components are needed to be “happy” are a matter of debate.

Defining happiness is complicated because each individual has a different idea of what makes them happy. One person may find happiness through comforts in life, such as a nice house and car, or other material things, while someone else may only find happiness through non-material objects, such as family and religion. The constitution of the United States says that each person has the right to the “pursuit of happiness,” but they do not define what this means. What makes one person feel the truest happiness, may leave another feeling empty and unfulfilled.

As this indicates, what factors are necessary to achieve happiness is going to depend on the individual. However, in my opinion, most people would agree that basic health, wellness, and safety are things that would help assure happiness in an individual. Most people would also agree that some level of financial independence would create happiness. As mentioned above, being wealthy would not by itself create happiness for everyone, but if one feels comfortable in their financial situation and is able to provide food, shelter, clothing, and some extra non-essential wants to themselves and their families, this may assist in their quest for happiness.

To sum up, happiness is important for people all over the world, but how it is defined can only be determined by the individual. Because each person will find happiness through differing means, society cannot truly determine what brings or does not bring happiness.