

General and Academic Task 2 Questions (Separated Lists)

(This document provides a separated list of the General and Academic Task 2 Essay Questions from Recent Exams)

There is absolutely no difference in strategy. What I say and teach to a General student is EXACTLY the same as what I would state to an Academic student. I would literally repeat the same thing. This is a strategy and tactics course, and for application of this strategy it does not matter if you are doing the academic or general exam. In general and academic IELTS Task 2 is to write an essay. The essays are marked using the same criteria (so TR, C+C, LR, and GRA) and they are more or less the same “types” of essay i.e. Discuss Both Sides, Positive or Negative development, etc.

Generally Speaking, because the GT exam is used for migration purposes, the topics of the questions tend to be based on work, family, education and social trends, whereas the academic exam includes a wider range of topics science/technology/government/jobs/studying/education. **However, this is not a hard and fast rule. I have seen General questions that are about government, technology, education, or science.**

Note: Apply our strategy to questions for the General List if you are doing the General Exam. Apply our strategy for the Academic List if you are doing the Academic Exam. The strategy is the same.

Look at this list of Academic and General Task 2 Questions from recent exams. You can see that the same topic areas appear. Also, I could argue that some of the Academic questions are actually easier than the General Questions.

Academic Task 2 Recent Questions

Nowadays online shopping is extremely popular. Discuss the impact of it on the environment and on people, who lost their jobs because of it.

Some cities create new housing for their growing populations by constructing a smaller number of high-rise buildings. Other cities create more of low-rise buildings. Which solution is better, in your opinion?

Many people believe that big businesses in addition to generating profits should be involved in and responsible for the social life of the community. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion.

People are spending more hours at workplace in some countries. What are the positive and negative impacts of this trend?

Some schools prefer to teach specialised subjects to students after the age of 15, while others suggest that all the subjects should be taught throughout school life. What are the benefits of these 2 approaches? Which one is better, in your opinion?

Some people think that economic development is the only way to end world poverty and hunger. Others argue that economic development is damaging the environment and needs to stop. Discuss both sides and give your own opinion.

Some people think that music plays an important role in society. Others, however, disagree and say that music is merely a form of entertainment. Discuss both views and state your own opinion.

The main purpose of public libraries is to provide books, and they should not waste their limited resources and space on providing expensive hi-tech media such as computer software, videos and DVDs. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Some people believe that restoration of old buildings costs too much; we should demolish them and build new ones instead. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Nowadays celebrities earn more money than politicians. What are the reasons for this? Is it a positive or negative development?

In many countries students do not want to study science subjects at university. Why is this happening? What will be the consequences of this for the society?

Full-time university students spend a lot of time studying, however they should perform other activities too. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some people believe that women should be treated as equal to men when applying for a job with police or the military. Others think women are less suitable for this kind of job. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Scientific researches should be the responsibility of governments rather than commercial organizations. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

More and more people decide to eat healthy food and exercise regularly. What are the reasons for this trend? What can be done to encourage more people to eat healthier and exercise?

Some people think that international news is more important than local news. Others argue that local news is more important. Discuss both sides and give your opinion.

The most effective way to solve traffic and transport problems in the cities is to encourage people from suburbs or the countryside to live in the cities. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Many people around the world believe that competition is important, while others say it has its drawbacks. Do you think the positives of competition outweigh the negatives?

Some schools have restricted the use of mobile phones. Is this a positive development or a negative one?

Today children are spending much more time watching TV compared to the past. Why do you think this happens? Is this a positive or a negative change?

Some think that economic progress is completely dependent on the country's success, while others believe that other factors are also important. What are the different factors contributing to the success of a country? Do you believe that only one factor is important, compared to others?

Nowadays international tourism is the biggest industry worldwide. Unfortunately, sometimes it creates tension between people from different cultures, instead of better understanding. Why do you think it is happening and how can it be improved?

Some people believe that face to face communication is always more powerful than written communication. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your own opinion and include relevant examples.

Many people these days change careers throughout their working life. What are the main reasons for it? Is it a positive or negative development for them personally and for the society as a whole?

The Internet provides us with information about life and cultures of different countries, and some people say it is not necessary to visit these countries to learn about them. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and relevant examples.

Some think that developing a successful career is more important than spending time with family and friends, while others disagree. Discuss both views and give our own opinion.

Nowadays public transport prices are constantly increasing. Why do you think it is happening? How can this problem be solved?

Nowadays schools should not use textbooks because children get bored with books. Using games, computers and TV is a better way to give them new information and knowledge. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Some people believe that universities should only accept students with high marks. Others think that students of all ages and ability levels should be able to attend universities. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Nowadays larger distances are travelled by people to work and study on a daily basis. Some consider it to be a negative development, while others disagree. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some people claim that traditional games had more benefits for children than modern ones. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Lectures given by teachers in universities used to be the only way of teaching students, however, nowadays technology has evolved and made it possible to study online. This causes many people to believe that the lecture system will not be needed in the future. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Nowadays media should include more good news in their publications. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Fossil fuels are the main source of energy around the world. However, people are being encouraged to use alternative energy sources such as wind energy, solar energy and so on. Do you think this is a positive or negative development? Why?

Nowadays many people want to buy famous brands of clothes, cars and other items. What are the reasons for this? Do you think it is a positive or a negative development?

Some people say the government should spend money on providing faster public transport while others believe the government should give priority to other factors such as cost and the effect on environment. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

It is important for all towns and cities to have large outdoors spaces such as squares and parks. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your answer and include relevant examples from your knowledge or experience.

School and university students learn lessons far better from their teachers than from other sources, such as the Internet and television. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Nowadays we can see definite signs of surplus production in almost every industry sector, and this is leading to environmental damage. What are some possible solutions to this situation?

Some people believe that adults get motivated to exercise and play sports because of the major sports events on TV such as the Olympic Games and Football World Cup. Others say that there are many ways apart from TV to encourage them to exercise. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Nowadays many students live with their families while others go to another city to study at a university. Discuss advantages and disadvantages of both scenarios. Include relevant examples in your answer.

Some people believe the media should be allowed to publish private information about people, while others are against it. Discuss both views and give your own opinion and relevant examples.

Many studies have shown that most criminals have a low level of education. Some people say that to reduce the crime rate, criminals must be educated within prisons. It will improve their prospects of

employment when they are released. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion and relevant examples.

Students from disadvantaged families and rural areas are finding it difficult to get a university education. Some people believe that universities should help them. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give reasons for your answer and include examples from your experience.

In some countries the quality of life in larger cities is declining. Why do you think this is happening? What measures can be taken to stop it?

Certain personal qualities cannot be achieved through university studies. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and relevant examples.

It is often said that to become a successful businessman a tertiary education is not at all necessary. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and relevant examples.

Nowadays consumer goods have become the most important part of people's lives. Do the advantages of this outweigh the disadvantages?

Many sport players advertise sport-related products. What are advantages and disadvantages of it?

Governments and big companies should work together to reverse environmental damage, rather than making individuals responsible for that. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and relevant examples.

Government should spend money to encourage the development of sport and art for school students, rather than supporting professional sports and art performances for general public. Do you agree or disagree? Give your own opinion.

Nowadays museums and historical sites are mainly visited by foreign tourists instead of locals. Why is this happening? What can be done to get locals to visit museums and historical sites more?

Advertising is having more and more influence on us. Is it a positive or a negative trend? Give your own opinion and examples.

Many educators believe that international exchange trips are beneficial for students. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and include any relevant examples from your own experience.

Most scientific inventions and discoveries are worthless and only waste time and money resources. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your own opinion.

Today credit cards are easy to get in many countries, but some people who use them struggle to repay their debt. Are there more advantages than disadvantages to using credit cards? What is the solution to this problem?

Nowadays people mostly use cars rather than bicycles as a transportation preference. What effects are caused by this trend? What can be done to encourage the public to use bicycles more?

Nowadays shops have extended opening hours almost every day of the week in many countries. Is it a positive or negative development for shoppers and local community?

General Exam Task 2 Recent Questions

Many people find it difficult to speak in front of and to present to an audience. It is believed that this skill should be taught in school. Why is this important? To what extent do you agree or disagree with it?

Nowadays people have adopted an unhealthy lifestyle. Why do think this is? How could this problem be solved?

In many countries in the world people buy clothes and choose hair styles according to the latest fashion. Why is this happening? Is this a positive or a negative development?

The culture and traditions are changing from generation to generation. Why is it happening? What can be done to change it?

Some people say that protecting the environment is the government's responsibility. Others believe that every individual should be responsible for it. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some people say that a country should produce food locally, while others believe that it is good to import food. To what extent do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion and relevant examples.

Nowadays courses and general study online are getting very popular. However, some people still prefer attending classes in person. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Nowadays shopping has become a new favourite pastime for young people. What are the reasons for this? Should they be encouraged to develop other hobbies? How?

Some people believe that modern technology has enhanced sociable behaviour, but others think it has reduced social interactions. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some people believe that to become successful in sports one should have a natural talent. Others think that perseverance and practice are a crucial part to success. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Science gives people life expectancy of close to one hundred years or even more. Some people view it in a positive light, but others believe it creates some problems. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

It is becoming increasingly expensive for museums to be open to the public. What would be the best solution to keep them open, in your opinion?

Modern cultures around the world have become similar as compared to the past. What are the main reasons for it? Is it a positive or negative development?

More people today prefer to live alone in comparison to the past. Do you think it is a positive or negative development? Give your opinion and relevant examples to support your view.

Some people believe that price is the only consideration when buying something. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and include relevant examples.

Some think that teenagers should follow older people's rules. Others think that it is natural for them to challenge what older people say. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Some people believe that elderly employees are more useful to a company, while others believe that young employees are better. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Television Sport shows such as the Olympics are a good source of motivation for our youths who do not like to exercise much. Do you agree or disagree? Include relevant examples in your answer and provide your own opinion.

Nowadays most people are not fit and active enough, compared to the past. What are the main causes of this situation? Suggest some possible solutions.

Some parents say that giving expensive gifts to a child can create bad habits in him/her. Do you agree or disagree? Give your opinion and include any relevant examples from your experience.

Some people believe that education success mostly depends on teachers. Others, however, say that it depends more on the attitude of students and their willingness to study. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some people say that competitive sports have advantages for people from different groups and countries, while others believe that competitive sports only create problems between people. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

Many people believe that teachers can influence the intellectual and social development of children, more than parents do. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and include relevant examples.

Some people believe that uniforms at work places aren't necessary. Do you agree or disagree with it? Give your own opinion and include examples from your experience.

Some people are happy to spend their whole life living in the same area. Others prefer to live in many different places in their lifetime. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some parents and teachers agree that the behaviour of children should be strictly controlled. Others, however, believe that children should be allowed to do anything and experiment freely. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Many people think that money is the best gift to give a teenager, but others disagree. Discuss both views and give your own opinion including relevant examples.

The trend of increasing tourism causes environmental problems in many parts of the world. What are the main causes of pollution it creates? What can be done to reduce it?

Nowadays more and more tourists are visiting places with difficult weather conditions, such as the Sahara desert and the Antarctic region and so on. What are the advantages and disadvantages for tourists who visit such places?

Some people think that old people need to live in special communities, but others believe they should live with their family and adult children. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

In the past people wore their traditional clothes and followed their culture. These days most people wear similar clothes and therefore look very similar to one another. Do you think this is a positive or a negative development?

In many countries around the world young people decide to leave their parents' home once they finish school. They start living on their own or sharing a home with friends. Is this a positive or a negative development? Give reasons for your answer and include relevant examples.

Nowadays children watch too much TV. Why is this happening, and what can be done to prevent it?

Nowadays more and more people prefer to wear fashionable clothes. Is this a good or a bad trend?

Some people prefer to relax by doing physical activities, while others choose mental activities such as crossword puzzles or chess. Discuss the both views and include your own opinion.

Some people believe that there should be a gap year after finishing high school (secondary school) and before starting university. To what extent you agree or disagree?

Many people believe that modern technology has made people more sociable, while others think that it has isolated them. Discuss both ideas and give your own opinion.

Some people think that public libraries are necessary, while others believe that nowadays public libraries are no longer important. What is your opinion?

Some parents say that children should play individually more than in a group. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this and include your own opinion.

Some people say that children should stay in school until the age of 18. Others suggest that educating children until the age of 14 is enough. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Many parents complain about violence promoted to their children through video games, TV programs and other media. Why is it happening? What can be the solution for it?

Some people believe it is better to raise children in the city, while others consider countryside to be a more suitable choice. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Nowadays online shopping is rapidly replacing physical shopping in stores. What are the positives and negatives of this development, in your opinion? Give some relevant examples.

Scientists believe that the world is in danger due to environmental changes. Some people say that personal lifestyle changes should be made to reduce the damage to environment, while others think that the government should do something to help. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Some people hold the view that a good teacher is more important for education success while others think the student's attitude is more important to succeed in education. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Many people think that money is important to achieve happiness. What is the importance of money to happiness? Give reasons for your answer and include examples from your experience.

Some people believe that it is better to get advice from old people compared to young people. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and include relevant examples.

Many organisations and companies ask their staff to wear a uniform. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this? What kind of jobs should have a work uniform?

Some people believe that a good training course can prepare anyone to become a good teacher. Do you agree or disagree?

Some people think that it is fine for professional sportsmen and sportswomen to misbehave on or off the field, as long as they are playing well. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Some people prefer to spend time with their own age group while others like to spend their time with different age groups. Discuss both approaches and give your own opinion.

Some people suggest that bringing up children by the whole family including uncles, aunts and grandparents is better, rather than only by parents. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give your opinion and examples.