

MASTER IELTS ESSAYS

SUPER INTENSIVE COURSE

Introduction to Opinion Tasks

Ebrahim Tahassoni

CELTA, CertTESOL, IELTS Ac. 9



AGREE/DISAGREE ESSAYS

03 With a partner, discuss how the *italicised* words in each B statement might change your approach to the question when compared to the A statement.

- A People today are more concerned with owning material possessions than with developing friendships and family relationships.

B People today are *only* concerned with material possessions, *even if it has negative effects on* friendships and family relationships.
- A Levels of consumer debt are increasing across the world. To address this, a new subject should be introduced in secondary schools: how to manage personal finances.

B Levels of consumer debt are increasing *dramatically* across the world. To address this, a new *compulsory* subject *must* be introduced in *all* secondary schools: how to manage personal finances.

TIP 03

Make sure you consider every word in the rubric; try to analyse closely what the question is asking you to do – it may be different to the idea you initially think is being presented.



This task asks you to say to what extent you agree or disagree with a statement on a certain topic. You can do this in different ways. For example:

- present objectively both sides of the argument to give a balanced view, before explaining in your conclusion which side of the argument you favour
- agree/disagree entirely with the statement given, and produce an essay that clearly argues in favour of one side.

It is recommended that even if you entirely favour one side of the argument, you mention any opposing arguments to show the examiner you have considered your position.

It is said that countries are becoming similar to each other because of the global spread of the same products, which are now available for purchase almost anywhere. I strongly believe that this modern development is largely detrimental to culture and traditions worldwide.

A country's history, language and ethos are all inextricably bound up in its manufactured artefacts. If the relentless advance of international brands into every corner of the world continues, these bland packages might one day completely oust the traditional objects of a nation, which would be a loss of richness and diversity in the world, as well as the sad disappearance of the manifestations of a place's character. What would a Japanese tea ceremony be without its specially crafted teapot, or a Fijian kava ritual without its bowl made from a certain type of tree bark?

Let us not forget either that traditional products, whether these be medicines, cosmetics, toys, clothes, utensils or food, provide employment for local people. The spread of multinational products can often bring in its wake a loss of jobs, as people turn to buying the new brand, perhaps thinking it more glamorous than the one they are used to. This eventually puts old-school craftspeople out of work.

Finally, tourism numbers may also be affected, as travellers become disillusioned with finding every place just the same as the one they visited previously. To see the same products in shops the world over is boring, and does not impel visitors to open their wallets in the same way that trinkets or souvenirs unique to the particular area do.

Some may argue that all people are entitled to have access to the same products, but I say that local objects suit local conditions best, and that faceless uniformity worldwide is an unwelcome and dreary prospect.

Opinion Tasks: Strong View



Introduction (2 sentences): introduce the topic in a single sentence + Your opinion + *nod* to your reasons (*the first reason is enough*)

Body 1: your first reason for your opinion + explanation, example,...

Body 2: your second reason for your opinion + explanation, example,...

Body 3: one of the reasons given by the opponents + refute/solve: **Some people believe that However,...**

(Note: CA can come in the conclusion if it is brief)

Conclusion: restate your opinion + [summarise your reasons if you need more words]

Opinion Tasks: Blueprinting in the Introduction



especially/mainly for economic/cultural/financial/environmental/health-related/social reasons

especially/mainly due to/because of economic/social/... factors/issues

especially/mainly due to its/the effect on tourism/families/jobs/...

Opinion Tasks: Counterargument (CA)



1. Present a brief CA: a reason given by the opposite side, presented briefly. No need to justify and develop it.

2. Handle it:

- a. **Refute it:** say why it is wrong (refutation/rebuttal)
- b. **Resolve it:** say how that concern can be avoided or solved (solution)
- c. **Concede:** accept it but explain why it is not that important, especially in the face of your own reasons (concession)

Opinion Tasks: Strong View (5 paragraphs)



It is better for students at university to live far away from home than to live at home with their parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Introduction:

It is said that university students should live far away from their homes rather than living with their families at home. I strongly believe that this is a good idea mainly because it can improve independence.

Body 1:

Independence

Body 2:

Teamwork

Body 3:

Some may argue that some young people suffer from mental problems such as depression, and if they study in faraway cities, their families will not be able to help them. However, almost all universities now have emotional support centres that check each student psychologically and provide anyone at risk of depression or suicide with supervision, support and treatment.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, I think it is beneficial for young people to study at universities that are faraway from their homes because it makes them more independent and boosts teamwork.

Opinion Tasks: Strong View (4 paragraphs)



It is better for students at university to live far away from home than to live at home with their parents.
To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Introduction:

It is said that university students should live far away from their homes rather than living with their families at home. I strongly believe that this is a good idea mainly because it can improve independence.

Body 1:

Independence

Body 2:

Teamwork

Conclusion:

Some may argue that some young people cannot afford the increased expenses of studying away from their families, but I think part-time jobs and scholarships are available to such students, and it is still more beneficial for all young people to study at universities that are faraway from their homes.

Opinion Tasks: Middle View



It is better for students at university to live far away from home than to live at home with their parents. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Introduction:

It is said that university students should live far away from their homes rather than living with their families at home. I generally believe that this is a good idea mainly because it can improve independence.

Body 1:

Independence

Body 2:

Teamwork

Body 3:

However, there are some young people who suffer from mental problems such as depression. If these people study in faraway cities, their families cannot supervise them and their conditions may become worse, as a result of which they may even kill themselves. Therefore, such people should study in universities that are close to their homes so that their parents can support them.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, I think it is beneficial for most young people to study at universities that are faraway from their homes, but those who suffer from issues like depression should never do this.

Differences in Reasoning

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

Do you agree or disagree?

Source: Cambridge IELTS 14, GT test 1

Some argue that teachers should focus on academics more than motivating students.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Source: IELTS, February 2025