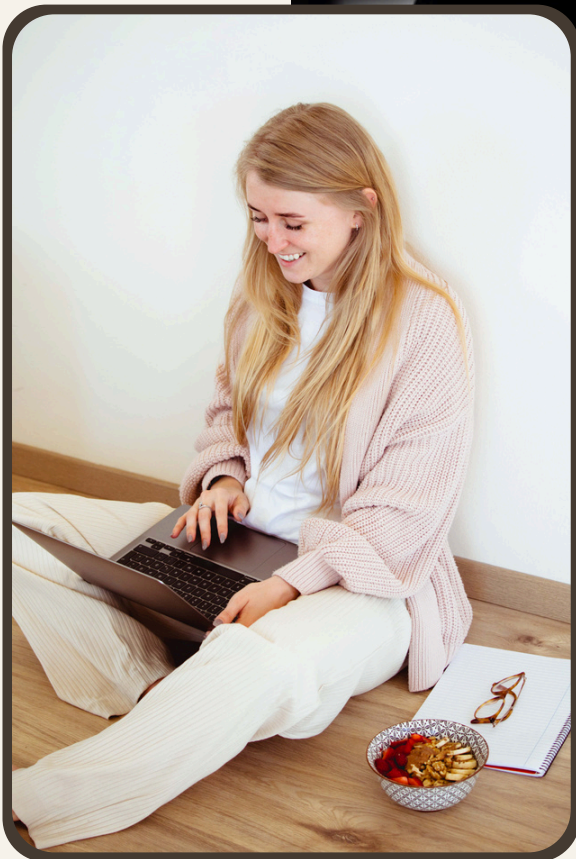


IELTS Band 5

ESSAY STARTER



A step-by-step guide
to level up your essays

GEOFFREY CURRIE

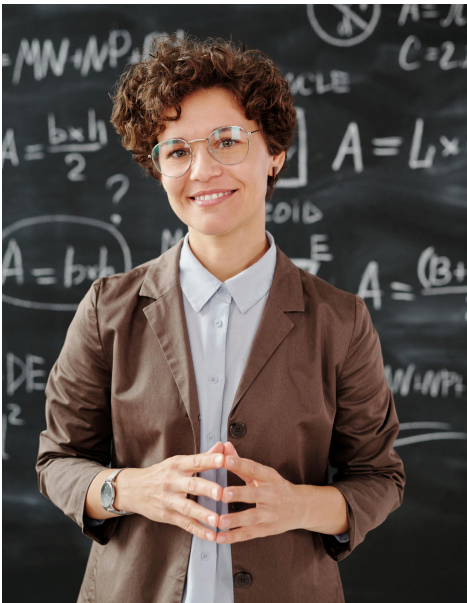
Practice IELTS Task 2 Question

Question Type: Opinion (Agree or Disagree) Topic: Education

Some people believe that only academic subjects, such as Mathematics and History, should be taught in schools. Other people believe that practical subjects, like cooking and budgeting, are more important for preparing students for life.

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

important tip



Choose an opinion that matters to you. You will understand why you feel strongly about it.

Plan your essay first.

What is your opinion?

Why do you think your opinion is right?



Your Essay Plan

1. Introduction
Main idea
Thesis statement: says what your essay will do.
2. Paragraph 1
First reason for your opinion
3. Paragraph 2
Second reason for your opinion
4. Conclusion
Repeat the question and reasons (paragraphs 1-2)

“Always double-check the question!

Some people believe that only academic subjects, such as Mathematics and History, should be taught in schools. Other people believe that practical subjects, like cooking and budgeting, are more important for preparing students for life. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this view?

Simple Band 4–5 Plan (Using the 4–Paragraph Guide)

To keep it simple, let's take a clear stance: Agreeing that practical subjects are important.

P1: Introduction (Main idea + Thesis)

- Main idea: state what the current situation is in schools. Which subjects are important? Who are they important to?
- Thesis: State clearly that you agree that practical skills are important for students' future.

P2: Body 1 (Main Idea 1: Practical Skills)

- Topic Sentence: Start with a clear idea. Example: Learning practical skills helps students manage their lives well.
- Reason: Explain why. Example: Cooking and budgeting are needed every day.
- Example: Give a simple example. Example: A student who learns cooking can make healthy food and save money.

P3: Body 2 (Main Idea 2: Academic Subjects)

- Topic Sentence: Although practical skills are good, academic subjects are still necessary.
- Reason: Explain why. Example: Math and science help students find good jobs in the future.
- Example: Give a simple example. Example: Doctors need to study science, and accountants must be good at math.

P4: Conclusion (Summary + Final Opinion)

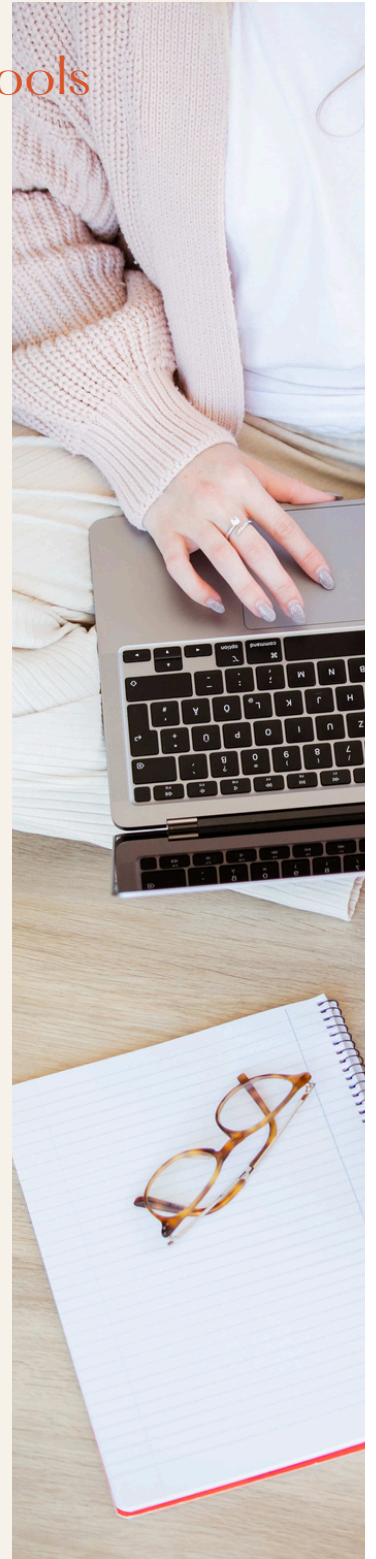
- Summary: Briefly repeat the two points (practical skills help daily life, but academic skills help careers).
- Final Opinion: Restate your belief that both types of subjects are necessary for success.

Model Essay.

Practical vs. Academic Subjects in Schools

In recent times, there has been a growing demand for schools to prepare young people better for the practical challenges of independent adult life. This essay will argue that practical subjects are the most important for preparing students for their adult lives.

The primary reason why schools must include practical subjects is that these skills help students manage their everyday adult lives. When a student finishes school, they immediately need to know how to live independently. If they do not learn life skills, they can face problems like debt or poor health. In addition, knowing how to cook is very important. For example, a student who knows how to prepare simple meals can save a lot of money because they do not buy expensive fast food every day.



Model Essay.

Practical vs. Academic Subjects in Schools

Furthermore, a focus on practical skills directly improves the health and well-being of young people. Subjects like cooking and basic fitness teach students how to take care of themselves. If students learn to prepare simple, healthy meals, they will eat better and avoid the problems of fast food. In addition, learning simple repair skills means they do not always have to pay a professional for minor issues at home. These benefits make the students more confident and better prepared for life's challenges.

In conclusion, while academic subjects are useful for specific careers, practical life skills are much more important for all students. Skills like budgeting and cooking are used every day and are essential for health and independence. It is my final opinion that schools should prioritize these practical subjects to ensure that every student is ready to face the world as a responsible adult.



Now plan and write your own essay.

Don't spend more than 1 hour.

Just plan (10–15 minutes)

Write (45 minutes)

Just do your best.

If you want help, book a 1–1 lesson, or take one of my courses.

Practice Question

Question Type: Opinion (Agree or Disagree) Topic: Education

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Conclusion and Next Steps

Essay writing takes time and effort.

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Thank you!

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