

IELTS WRITING TASK 2 MASTERCLASS

IELTS Writing Task 2 Task Response

The Most Important Scoring Criterion

Accounts for **25% of your total Writing score**. Master how to turn prompt requirements into high-scoring Band 8+ essays.

02. CORE DEFINITION

What Is Task Response?

Task Response measures how completely, accurately, and logically you address the essay prompt.



1. Answer Question?

Did you answer the exact prompt asked?



2. Every Part?

Did you cover all hidden sub-questions?



3. Explain Ideas?

Did you show clear cause and effect?



4. Support Points?

Did you back points with real examples?



5. Stay Focused?

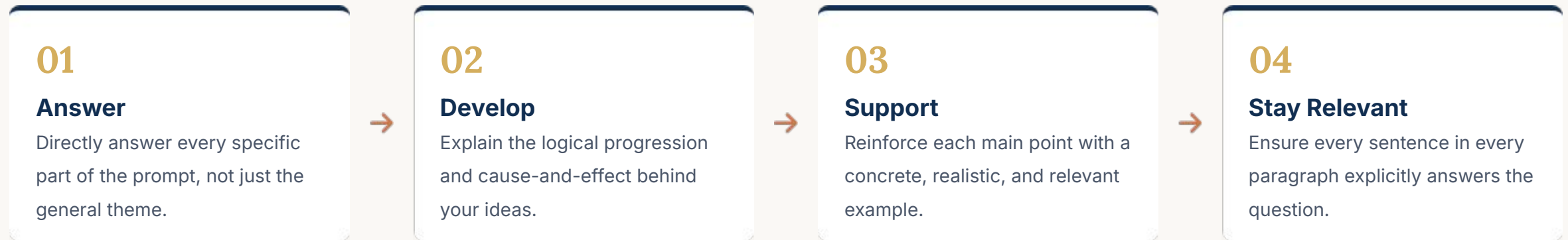
Is every sentence strictly relevant?



CRUCIAL TRUTH: Excellent English grammar and advanced vocabulary **CANNOT** compensate for weak Task Response. TR caps your whole essay score!

The Task Response Chain

Examiners do not mark essays holistically by feel. They follow a strict 4-step evaluation chain:



04. PILLAR 1

Answer ALL Parts of the Prompt

RUNNING PROMPT EXAMPLE

"Some people believe that governments should invest more in public transport rather than building new roads. To what extent do you agree or disagree?"

1. TOPIC VS. TASK

Identify the Task

Topic: Government transport spending.

Task: State your degree of agreement. Do not just describe transport problems!

2. MULTI-PART TRAP

Spot Hidden Tasks

Some prompts contain 2 sub-questions (e.g.

Discuss both views AND give opinion). Missing 1 part caps TR at Band 5!

3. WORD COUNT RULE

Under 250 Words Penalty

Writing under 250 words directly lowers your TR score because ideas cannot be fully developed. Aim for 280–320 words.

05. COMMON PITFALL

The Biggest Mistake: Going Off-Topic

PROMPT QUESTION

Should governments invest more in public transport?

Requires an evaluation of investment priority in transit infrastructure vs. road network expansion.

WEAK STUDENT RESPONSE

"Cars cause a lot of pollution in big cities."

Verdict: True statement... but it does NOT answer the question! It discusses pollution, not government investment priorities.

🚩 The Single-Sentence Relevance Test

Ask yourself before writing every line: *"Does this sentence directly help answer the specific prompt question?"* If a sentence only relates to the general theme (transport, cities, pollution) but not the question asked — **cut it or rewrite it immediately!**

06. PILLAR 2

A Clear & Consistent Position

WEAK OPENING (BAND 5–6)

"There are advantages and disadvantages to investing in public transport and roads."

✘ No clear position stated. The examiner does not know what you think.

STRONG OPENING (BAND 7–9)

"I completely agree that governments should prioritize funding for public transport over road construction."

✓ Clear, unequivocal stance stated right in the introduction.

SUSTAINED CONSISTENCY THROUGHOUT THE ESSAY

INTRODUCTION

State Position (Agree)



BODY 1

Reason 1 (Environmental)



BODY 2

Reason 2 (Economic)



CONCLUSION

Reaffirm Stance

07. PILLAR 3

Developing Ideas — The PEEL Framework

P

Point

Main idea (Topic Sentence)

E

Explain

Why/how does this happen? (Cause & effect)

E

Example

Concrete, realistic instance

L

Link

Connect back to prompt question

WORKED EXAMPLE (RUNNING PROMPT)

[P] Public transport significantly reduces urban air pollution. **[E]** This is because high-capacity trains and buses allow hundreds of commuters to travel together, drastically reducing the total number of private motor vehicles on city streets. **[E]** For instance, cities like London that expanded metro routes saw noticeable decreases in daily vehicle exhaust emissions. **[L]** Therefore, government funding in transit yields far greater environmental benefits than expanding road networks.

Weak vs. Strong Paragraph

WEAK PARAGRAPH (BAND 5–6)

"Public transport reduces pollution. Many people use buses instead of cars. This makes the air cleaner in cities. So governments should build more transit."

WHY IT FAILS:

Underdeveloped. Simply lists repetitive assertions without clear cause-and-effect progression or supporting evidence.

STRONG PARAGRAPH (BAND 7–9)

"Public transport reduces overall urban pollution because high-capacity systems carry hundreds of commuters simultaneously, taking thousands of private cars off roads. As a result, cities experience lower carbon emissions. For example, expanding underground rail networks encourages commuters to leave vehicles at home, directly addressing urban smog."

WHY IT SUCCEEDS:

Climbs the full PEEL staircase. Every claim is logically explained and supported with a specific, realistic example.

What Counts as a Good Example?

Examples do NOT need to be scientific, scholarly, or statistical. Choose realistic evidence from:



Personal / Local

Observed daily life or your own city's transport system.



Real Cities

Known cities or national policies (e.g., London, Tokyo, Singapore).



Schools / Work

Workplace habits, remote working, or university commutes.



Logical Scenarios

Reasonable situations based on economic common sense.

⚠️ AVOID INVENTED STATISTICS!

Never write fake research like: *"A 2019 Oxford study found that 84.3% of commuters..."* Examiners recognize fabricated data immediately. It damages your essay's credibility. Clear logic always beats fake numbers!

10. ESSAY STRATEGIES

TR Requirements by Essay Type

Essay Type	What Task Response Demands
Opinion (Agree/Disagree)	State a clear degree of agreement in the intro; support your chosen side throughout the essay without flip-flopping.
Discussion + Opinion	Discuss both sides with equal weight, then explicitly state your personal opinion in a dedicated section or conclusion.
Advantages & Disadvantages	Cover both pros and cons fully; if asked "Do advantages outweigh disadvantages?", give a clear, definitive verdict.
Problem & Solution	Directly match specific problems with realistic, actionable solutions (e.g. 2 problems paired with 2 solutions).
Double Question	Answer both questions explicitly, devoting a distinct, fully-developed body paragraph to each question.

11. PITFALLS TO AVOID

6 Common TR Score Killers

1 Going Off-Topic

Writing about the general theme (e.g., pollution) instead of the precise question asked.

2 Invented Statistics

Using fake academic studies or fabricated percentages instead of sound logic.

3 Unclear Main Ideas

Paragraphs lacking a singular, clear topic sentence at the start.

4 The Listing Trap

Piling 4 or 5 superficial ideas into one paragraph without developing any of them.

5 Rushed Conclusion

Running out of time and leaving your position incomplete or missing entirely.

6 Shifting Position

Agreeing in the introduction but arguing against it in the body or conclusion.

12. EXAM CHECKLIST

Band Progression & Checklist

BAND SCORE DESCRIPTORS

BAND 5:

Partially answers prompt; main ideas limited or underdeveloped.

BAND 6:

Addresses question but development is uneven or incomplete.

BAND 7:

Addresses all parts with clear, relevant, well-developed ideas.

BAND 8-9:

Fully addresses every part with sustained, insightful development.

5-POINT EXAM CHECKLIST

- ✓ Did I underline keywords and identify all parts of the prompt?
- ✓ Is my position clear in the intro and consistent throughout?
- ✓ Does each body paragraph follow the **PEEL** framework?
- ✓ Are all examples realistic rather than fake statistics?
- ✓ Is my essay over 250 words with a complete conclusion?