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IELTS
HOT TIPS



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ESSAY WRITING

READ THE QUESTION 3X ! THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART.

DON'T OVERTHINK AND CONFUSE YOUR THOUGHTS! KEEP IT SIMPLE AND CLEAR.

IN THE QUESTION - IF THERE IS A CHOICE - DECIDE AND STAY ON POINT. (AGREE/DISAGREE ETC)

THE INTRODUCTION:

ONLY 3 sentences:

1. Rewrite the original statement in your own words. 2. State if you have to make a decision. 3. This essay will....

DO NOT WRITE YOUR IDEAS HERE!

WRITE DOWN SOME REFERENCING WORDS. IF THE TOPIC HAS FOR EXAMPLE "STUDENTS" - WRITE DOWN SAY - LEARNING PUPILS, YOUNG LEARNERS, ETC (USE THIS TO REFER TO 'STUDENTS' IN YOUR WRITING - NOT TO REPEAT THE SAME WORD.

WRITE DOWN 5-10 GREAT VOCABULARY WORDS

WRITE DOWN AN IDIOM OR TWO THAT YOU COULD USE

WRITE DOWN 2 MAIN IDEAS FOR 2 PARAGRAPHS

Make short notes for supporting ideas for each main idea / paragraph.
Do NOT mix 1 paragraph's idea / reason into the other paragraph!

DO NOT WRITE LIKE YOU SPEAK - WRITE AS IF YOU ARE WRITING TO A MAGAZINE!

THE CONCLUSION

THE CONCLUSION SHOULD NOT REPEAT MAIN IDEAS OR THEIR SUPPORTING IDEAS - IT SHOULD JUST BE THE FINAL SUMMARY OF WHY YOU MADE A DECISION OR WHY / HOW INFORMATION COMES TOGETHER. USE REFERENCING.

Check your essay - for tenses, grammar, "S"uperman and spelling!

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LISTENING TIPS

Analyse all the information on the test paper - create a full picture in your mind. Look at detail!

READ THE QUESTIONS FIRST! THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART.

READ THE TOPIC AND THINK OF EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT THE TOPIC (QUICKLY) – KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT!

NOTE WHAT TYPE OF ANSWERS TO LISTEN FOR & HOW MANY WORDS DOES THE QUESTION ASK FOR!!

A number, city, country, time, something that can .. , amount, date, ...

THE QUESTION / ANSWER WILL BE IN THE SAME ORDER ON THE RECORDING

BUT THE ORDER OF THE QUESTIONS ON THE TEST MAY BE SCRAMBLED! CHECK YOUR QUESTIONS AND WHERE THEY ARE!

Listen for "signpost" words - they give a clue - connecting words - although (contrast) because (reason) but (opposite) while (during) like (example) as well as (extra info/example) first, last (sequence)

REFERENCING IS A HUGE CHALLENGE! LISTEN CAREFULLY

IDENTIFY REFERENCING / PARAPHRASING !!! EXAMPLE – A LIFE JACKET = PROTECTIVE GEAR : BEASTS = ANIMALS

NOTE THE NR OF MARKS! [multiple choice]

1 = A question followed by 3 possible answers (1 mark)
2 = A statement with 3 possible endings (1mark)
3 = list of possible options (1 mark)

TAKE A MINUTE AFTER YOU'VE LISTENED AND TRY TO THINK WHAT YOU HEARD, OR WHAT YOU COULD POSSIBLY HAVE HEARD – DO NOT LEAVE ANY QUESTIONS UNANSWERED – IT'S BETTER TO GUESS THAN TO WRITE NOTHING.

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READING TIPS

READ THE QUESTIONS FIRST! THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PART.
NOTE QUESTIONS LIKE – NO MORE THAN 2 WORDS ETC.....

HIGHLIGHT KEYWORDS / INFO. (NOUNS, PREPOSITIONS, VALUES....)

BE AWARE OF REFERENCING / WORDS.

THE QUESTION MAY ASK – WHAT WAS THE WEATHER LIKE – AND THE STORY MIGHT READ – IN HARSH CONDITIONS (THIS IS MEANT.... ABOUT THE WEATHER) OR

DID THEY USE ANIMALS TO TRAVEL – AND THE STORY MIGHT READ – THEY USED THESE BEAST TO EXPLORE THE LAND. NOTE HOW TRAVEL AND EXPLORE IS THE SAME TOO!

VISUALISE YOUR READING IN YOUR MIND – AS IF YOU ARE WATCHING A MOVIE – TO SEE HOW THINGS HAPPEN. (ESPECIALLY FOR PROCESSES)

WITH MATCHING – THERE MAY BE MORE OPTIONS THAN YOU NEED TO USE.

YES / NO / NOT GIVEN – THESE COULD BE QUESTIONS!

IF NOTHING IS MENTIONED ABOUT WORDS (NOUNS/VERBS ETC) IN THE QUESTION – IT IS NOT GIVEN.
BE CAREFUL – MAYBE THEY USE A REFERENCE WORD!

STORY: The ship sailed from Miami to Dubai.

Q: Did the ship depart from Miami? yes!
OR Was the ship's destination Dubai?

Q: Did the ship depart from Atlanta? OR NO!
Did the ship's journey end in Miami.

Q: Did the ship sail slowly to Miami? Not given
OR Did the ship sail 200km to Miami?

TRUE/FALSE/NOT GIVEN THESE COULD BE STATEMENTS!

IF THEY DO MENTION THE INFORMATION IN THE QUESTION BUT THEY HAVE IT WRONG – THEN IT IS FALSE. BE CAREFUL – MAYBE THEY USE A REFERENCE WORD!

STORY: The ship sailed from Miami to Dubai.

The fact that they say it sailed – tells us NEVER is false.

Q: The ship never sailed. OR The ship sailed to Miami. FALSE

Q: The ship only sailed from Miami to Dubai DURING AUGUST. Not given
Nothing about a month/period was mentioned.

CHECK YOUR SPELLING AND MAKE SURE IT'S THE SAME AS IN THE STORY.

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IELTS – ACADEMIC TASK 1 TIPS

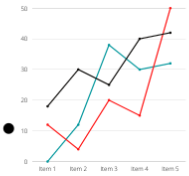
USE THE CORRECT WORDS

..the highest percentage of sales were in March.

..12% per cent of sales were CD's.

... a rise in the number of CD's sold ...

... declined by 2% from January to February.



WHAT IT SHOWS / ONE SENTENCE

Careful NOT to write the whole summary!

Write 1 sentence that contains ALL major parts (Title, categories, series PLUS x and y axes.)

COMPARING INFORMATION

Unlike CD's, Tv's had the highest percentage of sales.

less popular ; more productive ; higher ; lower ; wealthier ; colder ; the most productive ; the hottest ; the worst ; the best

You can e-mail me your **summaries** to check your writing – 2 per person. **Remember to include the original task!**

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SPEAKING

Topics and REFLECTION



Be confident with your knowledge.

Take a second to **think** about what you want to say - correct tense, grammar, a better word... etc.

Think about an **idiom or comparison or example** to use while speaking.

Use **referencing** and don't repeat " family, family, family " Say my loved ones / my tribe ...

If you **don't know much about a topic/question** - speak about what you know and add more - it doesn't have to be 100% the truth - it's about using English after all.

Start your answer or build on the main idea by making it interesting for the examiner to listen to! "I can give you a great example..."

Use connecting words to build **one proper sentence** that contains all the information about one idea/answer.

Download a **voice recorder** on your phone - look at some speaking tasks - speak and listen to yourself! Repeat the same speech and listen for improvement. *Don't be shy* !

Do not repeat any information that you told already.

Do not say "*uhm..*" when you are thinking.

Don't go too far off-**topic** - answer the exact question - give more examples about your initial answer.

Do not **repeat the words** in the question.

The test will be about **you first,** to relax you.. and will then extend to topics about life (education, environment, etc.)
Familiarise yourself with what's happening in the world - so that you can provide up-to-date info.
Read some more information about things you already know ...a country you visited etc...to enhance your general knowledge overall.

You 've got this!

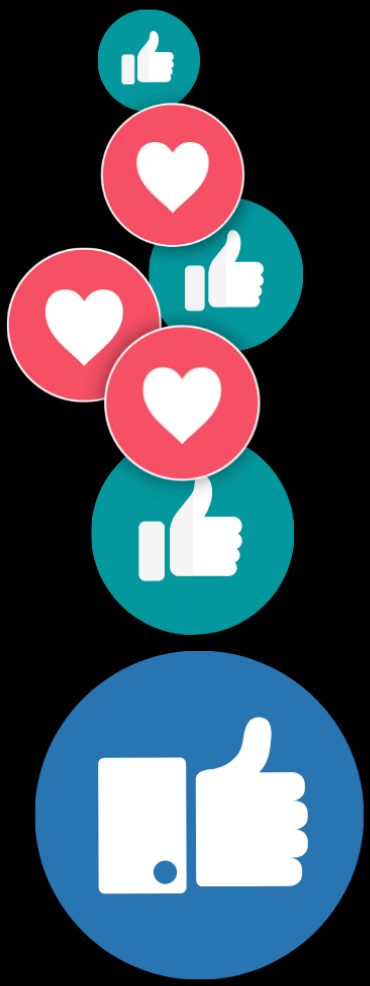


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Thank You!

...for using our material.

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