

OPINION



***Agree Or Disagree
Essay***

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Governments should spend money on railways rather than roads.

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

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Living in a country where you have to speak a foreign language can cause serious social problems, as well as practical problems.

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

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Strategies for "Agree/Disagree" Essays

- . **Choose a clear position:** Don't sit on the fence. It's much easier to write a well-structured and convincing essay if you take a strong "100% agree" or "100% disagree" stance. This makes the argument simpler and more focused.
- . **Generate ideas:** Before you start writing, brainstorm two or three strong reasons to support your position. For each reason, think of a specific example.

- . **Use linking words:** Use transition words and phrases to connect your ideas smoothly. Examples include: *firstly, secondly, furthermore, in addition, however, on the other hand, therefore, in conclusion.*
- . **Vocabulary and Grammar:** Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures. Pay attention to grammar, spelling, and punctuation.
- . **Word Count:** Aim for at least 250 words. Check your word count before submitting.

General Tips for Writing Examples

- **Keep it Simple:** You don't need to invent complex data or statistics. The examiner doesn't care if your example is 100% true. They are evaluating how you use it to support your argument. A general, hypothetical, or even personal example is fine as long as it's relevant.
- **Be Specific:** Instead of saying "people learn a lot," say "a student who joins a debate club learns to formulate arguments and present them persuasively." Specificity makes your point clearer and more credible.

- . **Integrate it Smoothly:** Use transition phrases to introduce your example. Common

phrases include:

- **For example...**
- **For instance...**
- **A good illustration of this is...**
- **To illustrate...**
- **A case in point is...**
- **...as can be seen in...**

Three Types of Examples

1. **General/Hypothetical Examples:** These are the safest and most common type of example. They don't require specific knowledge and can be used for almost any topic.
 - **Prompt:** *Some people believe that it is more effective for people to work in a group. Do you agree or disagree?*
 - **Topic Sentence:** Group work often leads to more creative and comprehensive solutions.
 - **Example:** "For instance, in a business setting, a team of marketing, finance, and operations experts can develop a far more robust product launch strategy than any single individual. The combination of diverse perspectives and skills allows for a more thorough analysis of potential challenges and opportunities."

2. **Personal Examples:** If the topic is about personal experiences or beliefs, a brief personal example can work well. However, avoid getting too detailed or emotional. It should be concise and directly relevant to your argument.
- **Prompt:** *The Internet has had a largely negative effect on people's social lives. Do you agree or disagree?*
 - **Topic Sentence:** I disagree; the Internet has helped people connect with others who share their interests, regardless of geographic location.
 - **Example:** "A clear example of this is my own experience. Through online forums, I have been able to connect with people from around the world who share my passion for photography. This has led to the exchange of ideas and even a few real-world meetups, which would not have been possible without the internet."

3. **"Factual" or Academic Examples:** If you have general knowledge about a topic (e.g., in a prompt about the environment or technology), you can refer to a known trend or an established fact. Again, you don't need to be an expert.
- **Prompt:** *Governments should spend more money on public services rather than on the arts. Do you agree or disagree?*
 - **Topic Sentence:** I disagree; funding the arts can lead to significant economic benefits for a country.
 - **Example:** "A strong example is the city of London, where museums, theatres, and music venues attract millions of tourists annually. This cultural tourism generates immense revenue, creates thousands of jobs, and supports local businesses, all of which contribute to the public good."

COMMON MISTAKES



1. Lack of a Clear Position

The most significant mistake is **failing to take a clear stance**. The prompt asks you to "agree or disagree," so you must choose one side and stick to it.

- **Mistake:** Writing a balanced essay that argues equally for and against the statement, without a strong, final opinion. This makes your essay seem confused and lacks a central argument.
- **Solution:** In your introduction, state your position explicitly ("I completely agree that...") and maintain this viewpoint throughout the body paragraphs and conclusion. Even if you choose a partial agreement, your overall leaning should be obvious.

2. Generalization and Lack of Examples

Many students make broad claims without providing specific support. This leads to a weak, unconvincing argument.

- **Mistake:** Making general statements like "Working in a group is beneficial" without explaining *how* or providing an example.
- **Solution:** For every point you make, provide a **specific and relevant example**. Use phrases like "For instance," "A good illustration of this is," or "A case in point can be seen in...". The examples don't need to be factual; they just need to logically support your argument.

3. Poor Paragraph Structure

A well-structured essay is crucial for a high score in "Coherence and Cohesion."

- **Mistake:** Writing a long, single paragraph or having paragraphs with multiple unrelated ideas. This makes the essay difficult for the examiner to follow.
- **Solution:** Use the "**Topic Sentence, Explanation, Example**" structure for each body paragraph. Each paragraph should focus on a single main idea that supports your thesis.

4. Weak Conclusion

The conclusion is your last chance to summarize your argument and leave a lasting impression.

- **Mistake:** Introducing new ideas or examples in the conclusion. This is a common error that shows a lack of planning. Another mistake is simply repeating the introduction verbatim.
- **Solution:** The conclusion should **summarize** your main points and **restate** your thesis in a new way. It should provide a strong and clear final thought that confirms your position.

5. Repetitive Vocabulary and Grammar Errors

Using the same words and sentence structures repeatedly limits your score in "Lexical Resource" and "Grammatical Range and Accuracy."

- **Mistake:** Using basic vocabulary and simple sentences. For example, repeating "in my opinion" or "I think" throughout the essay.
- **Solution:** Use a variety of **synonyms** and **linking words**. Try to use a mix of simple, compound, and complex sentences. For example, instead of "I agree," you can say "I firmly believe that..." or "From my perspective..."

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

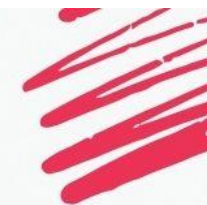
Write about the following topic:

Some people say that music is a good way of bringing people of different cultures and ages together.

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

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.



STRUCTURE OF AN "AGREE/DISAGREE" ESSAY

INTRODUCTION

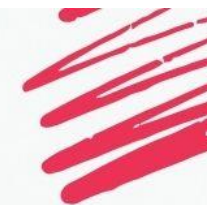
- 1.** Paraphrase the topic statement
- 2.** State your clear position
- 3.** Add Reasons (২ টা)



Some people say that music is a good way of bringing people of different cultures and ages together.

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

Many argue that music is a universal medium that can bring people from different cultures and age groups together. I strongly agree with this view because it **not only** fosters intercultural understanding **but also** strengthens connections between generations.



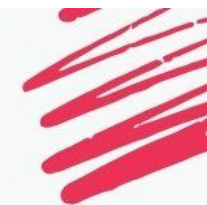
STRUCTURE OF AN "AGREE/DISAGREE" ESSAY

BODY PARAGRAPH 1

1. Topic Sentence
2. Explanation
3. Example



Music is a powerful tool for fostering intercultural understanding because it brings people together beyond the limits of language. ***Music allows individuals from different backgrounds to connect through emotions. Human beings everywhere can feel happiness, sadness, fear, or hope, and music expresses these feelings in a way that everyone can understand.*** For example, I once watched a live performance where African drummers and Western violinists played together. Even though their styles were very different, the combination of rhythm and melody created a powerful emotional impact. It moved the audience and showed how music can unite people from diverse cultures.



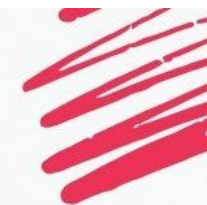
STRUCTURE OF AN "AGREE/DISAGREE" ESSAY

BODY PARAGRAPH 2

1. Topic Sentence
2. Explanation
3. Example



Moreover, music strengthens connections between generations. ***It provides a shared activity that everyone can enjoy, creating common ground. It encourages communication and cooperation between different age groups.*** For example, in a typical family gathering, grandparents and grandchildren might sing songs or play instruments together. Grandparents might share the history or meaning behind a song, while children bring new ideas or rhythms. This creates a joyful exchange that strengthens family bonds and helps younger members appreciate their heritage.



STRUCTURE OF AN "AGREE/DISAGREE" ESSAY

CONCLUSION

1. Restate your thesis
2. Summarize your main points



In conclusion, I believe music is a universal medium that unites people across cultures and generations. This is because it creates emotional connections and shared experiences that bring people closer together.