

## SAMPLE IELTS ESSAY & FEEDBACK REPORT

### IELTS Academic Writing Task 2

#### Question

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

People who live in large cities have a range of problems in their daily life.

What are the main problems people in cities face? How can these problems be tackled?

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

Write at least 250 words.

#### Answer

In big cities, many people grapple with various daily challenges. The main issues they deal with include traffic jams, pollution, and high living costs. However, there are ways to tackle these problems effectively.

At first, traffic congestion is a big problem in cities. Roads are often crowded with vehicles, making it tough to reach places on time. For instance, during rush hours, people often find themselves stuck in long traffic queues. A solution is to improve public transportation, like buses and trains, to reduce the number of cars on the road.

Moreover, pollution is a significant concern. Poor air quality due to emissions from factories and vehicles can lead to health problems. To solve this, industries and vehicles should follow stricter emission regulations. Additionally, planting more trees and creating green spaces can help clean the air.

Lastly, living costs are high in cities. Rent and utilities are expensive, making it hard for people to save money. A way to alleviate this is for governments to provide more subsidies for housing and basic needs. This would make life more affordable for everyone.

To sum up, people in cities face challenges like traffic, pollution, and high costs. However, by improving public transport, enforcing emission rules, and offering subsidies, these issues can be addressed. It's important for cities to take these steps to improve residents' quality of life.

Word count 225

**Commented [NA1]:** use more interesting vocabulary e.g. "metropolitan" to score higher

**Commented [NA2]:** excellent use of less common word choice

**Commented [NA3]:** This cohesive device (also called linking word or discourse marker) means "in the beginning" and is used for contrasts. "Firstly" is more appropriate to introduce your first main point

**Commented [NA4]:** awkward phrasing, needs to be clearer e.g. "creating challenges when trying to arrive at destinations on schedule" or "making it hard to be punctual"

**Commented [NA5]:** the correct idiom/expression is "rush hour"

**Commented [NA6]:** a more accurate expression is "such as buses and trains" or "A solution is ..., for example the use of buses and trains, ..."

**Commented [NA7]:** while not wrong, "Furthermore" is a better sequencing word to connect your idea. It creates a better flow as well

**Commented [NA8]:** while not wrong, "Finally" is a better sequencing word to state your last point

**Commented [NA9]:** use more varied word choice, e.g. "difficult"

**Commented [NA10]:** missing article; should be "for the government"

**Commented [NA11]:** remember, a more accurate expression is "challenges such as..."

**Commented [NA12]:** use more varied language, e.g. "Through enhancing public transportation, ..."

**Feedback Report**

Estimated Band Score	Assessment criteria/Band descriptors	Comments	Recommendations
6	<b>Task achievement/ Task response</b>  TA/TR	You address the main parts of the question, using an appropriate format. Your main ideas expressed are on topic, and relevant, but could be extended, better supported, and more well developed. Also, the essay is below the minimum word count limit (250).	For each problem and solution addressed, explain in more detail, with specific examples, to enhance the overall development of ideas. Also, aim for the required word count of 250, as any number below this can affect your band score rating.
6	<b>Coherence and Cohesion</b>  CC	Your essay has a clear, logical flow of information and ideas, with effective use of paragraphing (introduction, body paragraphs, and conclusion). However, the variety of cohesive devices (also called linking words or discourse markers) is limited with some inaccuracy where used, e.g. "At first" instead of "Firstly"	Pay closer attention to your use of cohesive devices. Ensure you use them correctly and include more to vary your sentence structures. This enhances the flow of ideas and creates smoother transitions when sequencing your ideas within sentences, and between paragraphs.
6	<b>Lexical Resource</b>  LR	Your vocabulary is clear with minor errors in word formation e.g., "rush hours." You use vocabulary related to urban problems/solutions such as: "traffic congestion", "emissions" and "subsidies," however your range is still limited.	Use a wider range of vocabulary (more interesting/less common) and more advanced words and phrases to enrich the content. Use synonyms and avoid repetition.
6	<b>Grammatical Range and Accuracy</b>  GRA	Your grammar is mostly accurate, with a few minor issues relating to missing articles ("for governments") and some awkward phrasing ("making it tough to reach places on time"). There is a mix of simple and complex sentence structures, but the complex sentences used is limited.	Pay attention to these minor grammatical errors. Also, use more complex sentence structures because even with perfect grammar, you cannot score a band 7 without using a variety of complex structures.
<b>Overall Band Score</b> 6			

<b>Target Band Score</b> 7	<b>Overall Comments</b>
<p>The essay is a good attempt, but still too basic to go beyond a Band 6 or 6.5. To improve your score to a Band 7, focus on extending and developing your ideas more, and supporting them with examples or explanations. Refresh your knowledge of cohesive devices to ensure you use the appropriate ones to create smoother transitions (a better flow) between your ideas. Incorporate a wider range and more sophisticated choice of vocabulary, and include more complex sentence structures, while still maintaining minimal grammatical errors. A good tip is to proof-read your essay and make the necessary changes. Continue practicing to further refine your writing skills.</p>	

The marking scheme is based on the following four criteria. Each of the criteria is worth 25% of your total mark for each task.

**Task Achievement/Task Response:**

- ✓ This assesses how well you have answered the question that was asked

**Coherence and Cohesion:**

- ✓ This assesses how well you have organized your ideas and how well you have linked them together

**Lexical Resource:**

- ✓ This assesses your range of vocabulary and your ability to use it accurately

**Grammatical Range and Accuracy:**

- ✓ This assesses your ability to use grammar correctly and to produce sentences that are grammatically correct

Each criterion is marked on a scale of 1 to 9, with 9 being the highest score. The overall band score is calculated by averaging the scores for each criterion.