

International relations: brainstorming and planning

By the end of the lesson I will be able to:

- understand the Task Response assessment criteria.
- brainstorm ideas and plan an essay.
- use language for expressing opinions.



INTRODUCTION

1. How much do you know about the British Council? Choose the correct options to complete the sentences.

The British Council was founded in 1. **1879/1934/1989** to increase 2. **knowledge and understanding/communication speed/business development** between countries. Nowadays, in addition to its work in education, the British Council 3. **gives help in emergencies/advises international leaders/supports local businesses** around the world. It also runs cultural programmes. For example, it might organise an exhibition about 4. **Russian culture in England/Russian culture in China/Chinese culture in Russia**. British Council offices and schools now exist in 5. **50 countries/75 countries/100 countries** and, through its schools and projects, the British Council works with 6. **5 million people/20 million people/500 million people**.

2. Discuss these questions

1. Do you think the British Council's work is more or less relevant now than it was in the past?
2. What other organisations aim to increase collaboration between countries?
3. In what ways does your country collaborate with other countries?



GET TO KNOW IELTS

3. Complete this Writing Task 2 question by adding the words *collaborate* and *compete*.

If we want to solve global problems, countries must learn to 1. _____ more and 2. _____ less. To what extent do you agree or disagree?

4. To get an IELTS level of 6 for Task Achievement candidates must present a position (give an opinion) that is relevant to the task. Which position is relevant to the task in activity 3?
- A. Solving global problems is very important.
 - B. Collaboration is better than competition for solving global problems.
 - C. Many global problems require urgent collaboration.

5. Candidates must present some main ideas that support their position. Which two main ideas support the position given in activity 4?
- A. Countries that work together can share financial resources.
 - B. Collaboration isn't very easy.
 - C. Competition makes people work harder.
 - D. Progress is quicker when countries exchange knowledge and ideas.
 - E. Many problems affect more than one country.



TASK FOCUS

6. Read the sample answer that responds to the Task 2 question in activity 3. Does the writer ...
- 1. agree with the statement?
 - 2. disagree with the statement?
 - 3. remain neutral?

Sample answer

- A The problems governments face nowadays are often shared by other countries. Many regions of the world suffer from extreme weather, internet crime and large population movements. Is it better to deal with these problems through collaboration or competition? I believe that competition is more effective.
- B Firstly, collaboration can be a very slow process. Although communication technology has improved greatly, countries that choose to collaborate still must work together across great distances using different languages. Relationships between leaders may develop slowly or even deteriorate as they negotiate across linguistic and cultural divisions. Political leaders may therefore lose trust in each other.
- C The second reason for my view is that attempts to collaborate are often unsuccessful. Countries with different aims and values often find it hard to work together, and the need to compromise often means that solutions become less effective. International agreements on climate change, for example, tend to lack ambition. Any failure to agree may even damage relationships between states. But if countries act individually, they can act more quickly and other countries might then gain from their experience.
- D Lastly, I think that people tend to work harder when they compete. In the same way that businesses innovate in response to competition, competing countries may look for innovative solutions as they try to win respect from the international community. In fact, as a result of competition, several quite different solutions may be developed, and the world may benefit from a greater range of options.
- E In conclusion, collaboration represents a less effective process for solving problems than competition. There will always be some need to collaborate, for example, when resolving conflict. But if we want to solve problems, it's essential that we take advantage of friendly competition.

7. Read the sample answer in activity 6 again and answer the questions.
- 1. Identify two sentences in which the writer presents a position.
 - 2. Identify three sentences in which the writer presents main ideas that support the position.



IELTS SKILLS

8. Look at the essay plan for the sample answer in activity 6. The writer changed the order of their ideas when she wrote the essay. Match the main ideas in the plan to the paragraphs in the sample answer.

Essay plan

My position: competition is more effective

Main ideas:

1. competition makes people work harder Paragraph _____
2. collaboration may be difficult Paragraph _____
3. collaboration can be slow Paragraph _____

9. It is useful to consider ideas in different categories when thinking of things to write about in your essay. The letters in the word STEP (below) can help you remember four useful categories. Read the sample answer in activity 6 again. Find and underline an idea linked to each category in STEP.

Society and culture

Technology

Economics

Politics

10. Think of ideas to use when writing an answer to the Task 2 question below. Use the STEP categories from activity 9 to think of different kinds of help that countries can give.

Some countries have become much richer than others. Richer countries should now help poorer countries.

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

11. Write an essay plan outlining how you will respond to the Task 2 question in activity 10. Decide what your opinion is and write down three ideas that support this position.



USEFUL LANGUAGE FOR IELTS

12. Find verbs in the sample answer in activity 6 that suggest positive or negative results. Add them to the table below. The first one has been done for you.

Positive results	Negative results
<u>i m p r o v e d</u>	s _ _ _ _
g _ _ _	d _ _ _ _ _ _ _
b _ _ _ _ _	l _ _ _
r _ _ _ _ _ _	d _ _ _ _

13. Complete the sentences using the correct form of the verbs from activity 12.

1. The two governments tried to _____ the disagreement about their border.
2. Countries must constantly try to _____ their relationships to avoid conflict.
3. When countries trade with each other, they _____ from greater trust.
4. When countries have dangerous weapons, international relationships often _____.
5. Some economies in the Middle East _____ when oil prices fell.
6. Countries _____ nothing from war.
7. Conflict can _____ the trust between countries for many years.
8. Some countries feel they're _____ independence due to international agreements.



SELF-STUDY

Write your answer to the Task 2 question in activity 10. Use the essay plan that you made. Then read your essay carefully. Put a tick (✓) in the boxes if you have done the following things.

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Presented a position that is relevant to the question. | ☐ |
| 2. Included main ideas that are all relevant to the position. | ☐ |
| 3. Used verbs that suggest positive or negative results. | ☐ |

World of work: structuring paragraphs

By the end of the lesson I will be able to:

- write a structured paragraph.
- use language for expressing opposing ideas.
- understand the Coherence and Cohesion assessment criteria.



INTRODUCTION

1. The following things affect people's job satisfaction. Work with a partner and rank them in order of importance (1–6).

A. A good salary	_____	D. Opportunities to manage people	_____
B. Plenty of holidays	_____	E. A friendly boss	_____
C. Fun colleagues	_____	F. Opportunities to get promoted	_____
2. Compare your answer from activity 1 with another pair. Give reasons for the order that you chose.



TASK FOCUS

3. Look at the IELTS task and answer the questions below.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Some people believe that having a job you enjoy is more important than earning a high salary.
To what extent do you agree or disagree?***

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

Write at least 250 words.

1. What two things do you need to compare?
2. Do you agree or disagree with the statement? Give three reasons for your opinion.
3. What examples can you think of from your knowledge or experience that support your reasons?



GET TO KNOW IELTS

4. Read the extracts from the Coherence and Cohesion assessment criteria for IELTS level 5 and 6. Then read the extracts from two candidates' responses to the IELTS task in activity 3. What level do you think the candidates are for Coherence and Cohesion?

IELTS level 6 candidates ...

- arrange information and ideas coherently
- use cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical.

IELTS level 5 candidates ...

- present information with some organisation
- make inadequate, inaccurate or over use of cohesive devices.

Candidate A

Salary is especially important in employee satisfaction. Although factors such as having good colleagues can affect happiness, without a good salary people are unlikely to be able to afford the things they want outside of work. For example, they may not be able to afford the food they enjoy or to drive a good car. These factors might affect happiness more than issues such as relationships with colleagues.

Candidate B

A high salary is less important than doing a job you enjoy. Furthermore, a high salary does not make you satisfied at work. It is more important to do a job you enjoy, such as a creative job. On the other hand a good salary is important for some people. In addition, being happy at work can make you happy in life.



IELTS SKILLS

5. Match the different parts of the paragraph (1–5) with the descriptions below (A–E). The first one has been done for you.

1. The first reason why salary is important is that it can bring workers a certain amount of happiness. B
 2. Even if high salary jobs don't provide a pleasant working environment,
 3. workers are likely to be able to use their salaries to improve their quality of life generally.
 4. For instance, they might get gym membership, buy a house in the countryside, or pay for a hobby.
 5. As a result, well-paid workers are often able to relieve stress more effectively than the less well-paid.
- A. An example to illustrate the main idea
B. The main idea of the paragraph
C. An idea that contrasts with the main idea
D. The main idea in more detail
E. A consequence, linking the example to the main idea

6. Form a paragraph by putting these sentences into the correct order (1–4).

- A. Consequently, there is very little time for them to recover if the working day is stressful and unpleasant. _____
- B. One reason why an enjoyable job is more important than a high salary is that work is more likely to affect our well-being than money. _____
- C. For example, many people work between 40 and 50 hours a week and often catch up with emails on their journey home. _____
- D. While workers can use their salaries to pay for relaxing holidays, they often spend much more of their time at work than they do away from work. _____



USEFUL LANGUAGE FOR IELTS

7. Read this sample answer to the IELTS task in activity 3. What do the underlined words have in common?

There are many factors that affect people's working life, such as having an enjoyable career, being creative or earning a lot of money. Although doing work we like is important, having a high income is arguably more important because it affects us in many other ways.

Firstly, the money from a well-paid job gives us a sense of status that makes us feel valued. It is true that we can feel valued in some roles where there is a friendly, supportive environment. However, in many jobs we cannot rely on respect and support from work colleagues. Jobs in banking, for example, are often quite competitive and involve staring at a computer screen for much of the time. Without the compensation of a high salary, workers in these roles might feel low self-esteem.

In addition, a high salary means that people can plan for the future more easily and have more opportunities in life. On the one hand, we may like our boss and enjoy working with our colleagues. But on the other hand, if we do not earn a high salary, our future might be more difficult. For instance, we might not be able to support our children through university or might not have enough money for our retirement. If a low salary impacts on our children's future or our lifestyle in retirement, this could make us very dissatisfied.

In conclusion, even if people really enjoy their jobs, they are unlikely to be happy and comfortable without a high level of income. A good salary can make so many other areas of life better, and it is therefore more important than doing work you like.

8. Complete the sentences with words from the box.

although	however	on the other hand	even if
----------	---------	-------------------	---------

1. Having a job you enjoy will make you happier _____ you do not earn much money.
2. A good salary is important. _____, there are many other more important factors.
3. _____ it is important to enjoy your work, it is more important to learn new skills.
4. On the one hand, having good working relationships is important. _____ this will not be enough if people do not find the work interesting.



IELTS PRACTICE

9. Read the IELTS task below and think of three arguments for and against the opinion.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe that the difference between the lowest paid jobs and the highest paid jobs should be reduced.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

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

Write at least 250 words.

10. Discuss your ideas in groups. Try to match arguments that support the statement with arguments that oppose it.

11. Read the introduction from a response to the IELTS task in activity 9. Then write the next paragraph of the response. Make sure the paragraph includes the features (1–5) listed below.

There is a great deal of difference between the amount that the wealthiest and the poorest workers earn in many countries nowadays. The question of whether this pay gap should be made smaller is therefore a frequent topic of discussion when people talk about the issue of equality in society.

1. A main idea
2. An opposing view introduced with appropriate words, e.g. *although, however*
3. An explanation of the main idea
4. An example that illustrates the main idea
5. A concluding sentence

12. Exchange the paragraph that you wrote in activity 11 with a partner. Check your partner's work and make sure that it includes all the features listed in activity 11.



SELF-STUDY

Finish writing your response to the task in activity 9. Make sure that you do the following things.

1. Structure ideas in paragraphs so that they are easy to understand.
2. Use language for introducing opposing views.
3. Include relevant examples from your knowledge and experience.
4. Write at least 250 words.

Education: introducing examples

By the end of the lesson I will be able to:

- understand the Grammatical Range and Accuracy assessment criteria.
- write an essay that discusses two views.
- introduce examples.



INTRODUCTION

1. Read the quotes. Which person believed that education ...

1. helps you become successful? _____
2. makes you a better person? _____
3. helps society make progress? _____

A. 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.'
Nelson Mandela

B. 'An investment in knowledge pays the best interest.'
Benjamin Franklin

C. 'Real education enhances the dignity of a human being and increases his or her self-respect.'
A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

2. Which one of the quotes from activity 1 do you agree with most? What other benefits does education provide?



TASK FOCUS

3. Read this Writing Task 2 question. How many views does it ask you to give?

Some people think that the main purpose of school and university education should be to prepare people for work. Others, however, think that the true role of education is to make us better citizens.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

4. Read the first few lines of a response to the Task 2 question from activity 3. Has the writer made their opinion clear?

It's important that young people become knowledgeable citizens who understand different cultures and complex media debates. Some argue that in schools and universities we should therefore encourage students to study subjects like religious education, languages and literature. Others suggest that the proper role of education systems is to prepare young people for the job market, training them in subjects like business studies, statistics or computer science. This essay will discuss both views.

There are many convincing reasons why training young people to become good citizens should be a higher priority for educational institutions. Firstly, ...

5. Read ideas A–D and add them to the correct columns of the table.

- A. If people learn more about issues in society, the quality of public debate on social media will improve.
- B. Gaining a work qualification at university helps individuals become successful in their careers.
- C. Teaching young people about other cultures will increase understanding and trust in society.
- D. Some professions desperately need graduates with work qualifications from university.

1. Reasons why education should prepare people for work	2. Reasons why education should prepare people to be good citizens

6. Working in groups, add three more ideas to one side of the table. You can speak and write in your own language if this helps you to think. Use these questions to help you.

- 1. Could work skills or citizenship be learned more easily in other places than in schools and universities?
- 2. Are there people other than teachers who should teach work skills or citizenship?
- 3. Is it possible to teach all the skills people need to become good workers or citizens?
- 4. How useful will education about work or citizenship be if our jobs or societies change in the future?
- 5. Which type of education do people find most interesting or motivating?

7. Share your ideas with a student who added their ideas to the other column. Copy your classmate's ideas into your table.



IELTS SKILLS

8. These sentences give examples that illustrate ideas A–D from activity 5. Match the sentences to the ideas. The first one has been done for you.
1. For instance, Europeans could learn about celebrations like Eid and so become more understanding of these traditions. C
 2. For example, in the UK, the most popular degree subjects include academic subjects like history and philosophy and there aren't enough graduates in medicine and engineering. _____
 3. For instance, social media sites, like Twitter and Facebook, often include complex discussions on international trade or human rights and we should try to make useful contributions to them. _____
 4. For example, in the United States, people with a professional degree are 30 per cent less likely to be out of work than people who have a general degree. _____
9. Which of the examples in activity 8 show specific knowledge of the world, and which show more general experience? Write S (specific knowledge) or G (general experience) next to the numbers below. Which kind of example do you think is better for the IELTS test?
1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
10. Read out some of your ideas from the table in activity 5. Ask your partner to think of examples that support these ideas, based on their general experience.

Example

Idea: *People often learn the skills they need at work from their colleagues.*

General example: *For instance, apprentices learn how to do their job by working with more experienced colleagues.*



GET TO KNOW IELTS

11. Which sentence in activity 8 is a complex sentence (a sentence with two clauses that are not connected by *and*, *or*, *but* or *so*)?
12. A student has tried to rewrite the other three sentences from activity 8 as complex sentences. Correct two grammar or punctuation mistakes in each sentence.
1. For instance, if Europeans did learn about celebrations like Eid they might become more understanding of these traditions.
 2. For example, in the UK, because of the most popular degree subjects include academic subjects like history and philosophy. There aren't enough graduates in medicine and engineering.
 3. For instance, social media sites, like Twitter and Facebook, often include complex discussions on international trade or human right, which we should try to make useful contributions to them.
13. Read the Grammatical Range and Accuracy assessment criteria for a candidate with an IELTS level of 6. Which of the mistakes in activity 12 'reduce communication', in your opinion?
- IELTS level 6 candidates ...
- use a mix of simple and complex sentence forms
 - make some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication.



IELTS PRACTICE

14. Finish writing the response that you read in activity 4. Use the main ideas that you wrote down in the table in activity 5 and follow the instructions below.

1. Copy the sentence from the second paragraph of the response that starts with *There are many ...*
2. Write three of the main ideas that you wrote down in one column of the table and add a general example after each one.
3. Now start the third paragraph. Write a sentence to introduce the main idea of the paragraph (use the first sentence of the previous paragraph as a model).
4. Write three of the main ideas that you wrote down in the other column of the table and add a general example after each one.
5. Write a conclusion stating your own position.

15. Read your partner's writing carefully and do the following.

1. Check they have written three main ideas in each paragraph.
2. Check they have included a general example after each main idea.
3. Underline any mistakes that you think may reduce communication.



SELF-STUDY

Watch this video for tips on doing well in the Writing test. Make a note of any you find useful.

<https://tinyurl.com/y8hpnntq>