

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Schools concentrate far too much on traditional subjects which do not adequately prepare students for the realistic demands of the modern working world.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Some people argue that nowadays schools pay more attention to the traditional subjects which are not so useful for the future of pupils.

First of all schools need more updated education program in which today`s realities and demands will be taken into consideration. For example in my country schools use materials prepared in 1990s. However science has already made important steps toward the future.

Secondly, traditional education is more focused on the topics that are less important. The priorities should be highlighted but to be honest it is not a task of school but the appropriate governmental agency which deals with education.

Furthermore, it is typical for Azerbaijani education – at school children should pay the same attention either to the social or to applied sciences. Pupils may not choose the disciplines they need more and concentration on which will help them to succeed in exams for university.

In my opinion school must give a possibility of choice to pupils to decide on their own future and find appropriate way.

On the other hand it is not totally correct to argue that schools do not adequately prepare students for the future life.

In spite of abovementioned negative moments I want to stress that each person can find in the school program a lot of possibilities to prepare himself to life because education based on bilateral approach. In the century of internet and information technologies school`s role is also changes. Pupil become a part of learning process.

In conclusion I want to mention that modern school education suffers from traditional approach. That is why schoolchildren and their parent should help to eliminate these weaknesses by their proposals, clearly explained needs and their assistance.

Writing Correction Task 2

1.) Correction Paragraph per paragraph (grammar and syntax)

Some people argue that nowadays schools pay more attention to the traditional subjects which are not so useful for the future of pupils.

→ **Very good introduction. I can see that you have paraphrased the original subject without copying. This is important. Well done. It doesn't matter if you use the word "students" instead of "pupils" though. "Students" is more academic and formal.**

First of all schools need more updated education program in which today`s realities and demands will be taken into consideration. For example in my country schools use materials prepared in1990s. However science has already made important steps toward the future.

→ **Punctuation is vital in IELTS! It may seem minor but you are going to lose marks for these mistakes. (*silly marks as I like to call them*). So, what do I mean by punctuation?**

First of all, (comma) schools need more updated education program in which today`s realities and demands will be taken into consideration. **For example, (comma)** in my country schools use materials prepared in1990s. **However, (comma)** science has already made important steps toward the future.

After these expressions examiners expect to see a comma. Almost always an expression used that way needs a comma afterwards.

(except for “although” that takes a comma after the initial sentence: eg. Although I told her not to come, she appeared out of the blue. OR She appeared out of the blue, although I told her not to come).

Don't forget the articles! I know this is a common mistake of non native speakers even among advanced users. Again, silly marks lost! Overall, remember that when you define something; when you talk about a specific idea you almost always need an article:

- **What do schools need?**

- **A** program. **An** updated program. **A** more updated program. **A** much more updated program.

Don't let formality confuse you and make you forget the articles:

First of all, schools need **a** more updated education program in which today's realities and demands will be taken into consideration. For example, in my country schools use materials prepared in 1990s. However, science has already made important steps toward the future.

- **“education program”** → “*education*” is a noun and you want to define the noun “*program*”. So, you need an adjective: “**educational** program”. **OR** “a more updated program **of education**” if you prefer.

- **“today's realities”** → “*today*” is not a person so, you'd better use it that way: “the realities and demands **of today**”

- **“in 1990s”** → you should either say: **in 1990**.

OR: in the 90s.

- **“towards”** → don't forget the “**s**”

So we have:

First of all, schools need a more updated educational program in which the realities and demands of today will be taken into consideration. For example, in my country schools use materials prepared in the '90s. However, science has already made important steps towards the future.

Secondly, traditional education is more focused on the topics that are less important. The priorities should be highlighted but to be honest it is not a task of school but the appropriate governmental agency which deals with education.

→ Use of a very appropriate linking phrase: *“Secondly”*. Well done!!
Be careful when you use *“but”* and *“and”*. These two join two or more things that should be syntactically the same. Usually, our thoughts move on quickly and we tend to forget that or take it as a given. My advanced students do it all the time. Believe it or not, this is where most mistakes happen that you can't easily trace if you read your paper again.

For example,

The priorities should be highlighted but to be honest it is not a task of school **but** the appropriate governmental agency which deals with education.

- **Whose** task is it?
- The government's task. **OR:**
- It is the task **of** the governmental agency which deals with education.

As you can see, we need to use the possessive in some way. If you leave it that way, without using the possessive *“of”*, it seems as if you start a new sentence after *“but”* that doesn't make sense on its own.

So, we have:

The priorities should be highlighted but to be honest it is not a task of school **but** a task **of** the appropriate governmental agency which deals with education.

Do not worry that you are being repetitive, you are not. This is not a repetition of an idea but caution using syntax which shows that you know what you are doing. So, better be *repetitive* than sorry.

Furthermore, it is typical for Azerbaijani education – at school children should pay the same attention either to the social or to applied sciences. Pupils may not choose the disciplines they need more and concentration on which will help them to succeed in exams for university.

→ Use of a very good and appropriate linking phrase: “*Furthermore*”.

Well done!! Keep doing that! Again, don't forget the articles: “**the Azerbaijani education**”

Prefer using complete sentences rather than symbols: “–”. Use this symbol only for a small word or phrase.

So we have:

Furthermore, it is typical for **the** Azerbaijani education **that children should pay the same attention at school**

So, the children in Azerbaijan should pay attention to both theoretical and scientific subjects, right? Not either one or the other, right?

So, we have:

Furthermore, it is typical for **the** Azerbaijani education **that children should pay the same attention at school** to **both** social **and** applied sciences.

Again, as we said, the word “*and*” connects the same things in grammar and syntax. If you keep only what you connected without the rest of the words you will see that what you actually wrote doesn’t make sense:

“Pupils may not choose [...] and concentration” → Can you see that?

You need a verb because you try to connect a verb.

So, we have:

Pupils may not choose the disciplines they need more **and may concentrate** on which will help them to succeed in exams for university.

“which” : it should define a subject that is missing here.

So, we have:

Pupils may not choose the disciplines they need more **and may concentrate** on **those** **which** will help them to succeed in the exams for university.

In my opinion school must give a possibility of choice to pupils to decide on their own future and find appropriate way.

→ **Punctuation**: “In my opinion, **(comma)**”

It is more formal if you use “schools” in the plural. It is more general and all-inclusive.

Articles: “**the** possibility” (*it is only one: the possibility to choose*)

“find **the** appropriate way”

In my opinion, **(comma)** schools must give **the** possibility of choice to pupils to decide on their own future and find **the** appropriate way.

On the other hand it is not totally correct to argue that schools do not adequately prepare students for the future life.

→ **Punctuation**: “On the other hand, (comma)”

In spite of abovementioned negative moments I want to stress that each person can find in the school program a lot of possibilities to prepare himself to life because education based on bilateral approach. In the century of internet and information technologies school's role is also changes. Pupil become a part of learning process.

→ **Punctuation and Article**: “In spite of **the** abovementioned negative moments” (*you talk about specific moments*), (comma)”

In spite of **the** abovementioned negative moments, (comma) I want to stress that each person can find in the school program a lot of possibilities to prepare himself

- **Preposition**: “to prepare someone for something”
- Please be careful not to forget the **main** verb when a new sentence is started: “education **is** based”
- **Punctuation**: In the century information technologies, (comma)

So,

In spite of **the** abovementioned negative moments, (comma) I want to stress that each person can find in the school program a lot of possibilities to prepare himself **for** life because education **is** based on **a** bilateral approach. In the century of internet and information technologies, (comma) the role **of the** school also **changes**. Pupils **become** a part of **the** learning process.

- **“The role of the school”**: better use it this way. The other way is used for people mostly.

- **Verb mistake: “is changes” → “changes” OR “is changing”**
 - **Use either: “Pupils become a part of the learning process” OR “The pupil becomes a part of the learning process”**
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In conclusion I want to mention that modern school education suffers from traditional approach. That is why schoolchildren and their parent should help to eliminate these weaknesses by their proposals, clearly explained needs and their assistance.

→ **Punctuation: “In conclusion, (comma)”**

Article: Use either “the traditional approach” OR “traditional approaches”

In conclusion, (comma) I want to mention that modern school education suffers from traditional approaches. That is why schoolchildren and their parents should help to eliminate these weaknesses by their proposals, clearly explained needs and their assistance.

2.) Vocabulary choice overall (more formal or appropriate)

- 1.) Use **“students”** instead of **“pupils”**
- 2.) Use **“the present”** instead of **“today”** (*in this particular case*)
- 3.) Use **“each”** instead of **“appropriate”** (*in this particular case*)
- 5.) Use **“offer possibilities”** instead of **“give possibilities”**
- 6.) Use **“fair”** or **“right”** instead of **“correct”** (*“correct” is usually used for mistakes*)
- 7.) Use **“oppositions”** or **“drawbacks”** instead of **“negative moments”**
- 8.) As a general rule, **prefer passive voice**. It is considered more formal.

3.) Correction Paragraph per paragraph (structure, analysis,

coherence: *let's return to your essay and see how it could be further improved apart from grammar and syntax—we already did that.*

*Obviously, I do not want to write your essay with my own writing style. I want **YOU** to improve your own personal style. So, I will give you some guidelines based on your own work for future notice.)*

Some people argue that nowadays schools pay more attention to the traditional subjects which are not so useful for the future of pupils. → **Perfect!**

First of all schools need more updated education program in which today`s realities and demands will be taken into consideration. For example in my country schools use materials prepared in 1990s. However science has already made important steps toward the future. → **Very good start; linking phrase; use of example! BUT! I would like you to elaborate a little bit more how the development of science requires a new educational approach!**

Secondly, traditional education is more focused on the topics that are less important. The priorities should be highlighted but to be honest it is not a task of school but the appropriate governmental agency which deals with education. → **Very good start; linking phrase; BUT! I want you to give me an explanation. Why do you think we should change priorities? Why these topics are less important? Always remember to justify your opinion. Provide complete arguments that no examiner can doubt about.**

Furthermore, it is typical for Azerbaijani education – at school children should pay the same attention either to the social or to applied sciences. Pupils may not choose the disciplines they need more and concentration on which will help them to succeed in exams for university. → **Very good start; linking phrase; use of example! All in all, this is a very good and cohesive paragraph. If you correct grammar and syntax (we already did that in the beginning of my notes), it is perfect. Having this as a basis, you can gradually move on to more complicated phrasing! One step at a time.**

In my opinion school must give a possibility of choice to pupils to decide on their own future and find appropriate way. → **this could be in the conclusion. Too short a sentence to stand on its own.**

On the other hand it is not totally correct to argue that schools do not adequately prepare students for the future life. → **this sentence could be the opening line of the next one. A very short sentence to stand on its own.**

In spite of abovementioned negative moments I want to stress that each person can find in the school program a lot of possibilities to prepare himself to life because education based on bilateral approach. In the century of internet and information technologies school's role is also changes. Pupil become a part of learning process. **Very good start; linking phrase; use of example! All in all, this is a very good and cohesive paragraph. If you correct grammar and syntax (we already did that at the beginning of my notes), it is perfect.**

In conclusion I want to mention that modern school education suffers from traditional approach. That is why schoolchildren and their parent should help to eliminate these weaknesses by their proposals, clearly explained needs and their assistance. → **Very good and clear conclusion. If you put your own opinion here too, it will be even better.**

Overall assessment

There are going to be two examiners and your score on writing will be the result of their evaluation. I should say that this writing satisfies the requirements for band 5.5 - 6. It depends on the examiner each time but usually there is no difference. This is what they take into consideration for this particular essay:

The task is achieved and complex ideas are expressed, although they are sometimes expressed in a disorganized manner. The formalities of essay structure (in this case punctuation) are not consistently followed. The paragraphs are logical most of the time but the argument does not progress from paragraph to paragraph in an organized manner. A wide variety of vocabulary is used, as are a variety of sentence forms although there are frequent grammatical mistakes.

PS. Dear *****, I am analytical because I want the best for all my students. It doesn't mean you are not a good user of English (you most certainly are), but we must follow certain rules for IELTS especially for bandscore 7 that you want to achieve.

If you study closely my notes; understand them; and follow my guidelines, you will see that your next essay will be even better. You will also feel even more confident with Writing because you will know why you do something each and every time.

I would strongly advise you to spare some time and rewrite your essay corrected (with pen and paper as you would in the exam). In this way you will better absorb all the corrections and you will get used to writing them by yourself. Only when we write something down do we actually learn it.

Good luck!

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