

The second Academic Writing Task is designed to **assess** the candidate's ability to discuss a problem, point of view or argument. The issues are of general interest and suitable for candidates entering higher education.

Read the task description carefully. Once you clearly understand the requirements of the task, you must plan your essay. Use the question paper to do this. Introduce the topic in your own words. Do not copy the task from the question paper or it will be ignored and not included in the word count. You may be required to present an argument for or against a proposition, compare and contrast points of view, justify an opinion or evaluate **evidence**. End your essay with a conclusion.

TIPS

- You must **answer the task set**. Be sure to read the entire task description carefully. Quite often the introductory sentence will indicate what aspect of the topic is most relevant.
- **Don't misread it!** If you don't respond to the topic, you will lose marks. If you don't answer the task, or include information that is irrelevant, you will lose marks.
- **Don't change the topic to something you are more familiar with** (or have memorised). You will surely be disappointed!
- You will not be given any **rough paper**, so **use the question sheet for notes and planning**. Anything you write on the question paper will *not* be used for **assessment**.



- You are required to write a **minimum number of words – 150 for task 1 and 250 for task 2**. If you write less than the minimum number, you will be penalised. If you write more, you will not be penalised but writing more may mean you don't have time to complete the other task. Ideally you should try to **write just over the minimum number for each task**.
- If you find you **don't have enough room on the answer paper** to complete your script, ask the invigilator for more paper. There is no requirement to **fit** your entire script on the answer paper supplied, though this is usually sufficient.
- **Don't try to pad out your script by copying the rubric** from the question paper. If you do, it won't be included in any word count made by the examiners.
- **Don't try to memorise a 'model' answer** before the test. It is unlikely that you will have a task on the same topic and scripts that are memorised or **plagiarised** are easily detected by the examiner and will be penalised.
- **Write clearly**. Although you won't be penalised for untidy writing, if the examiners can't read your script, it will be marked down. **Poor spelling, however, will be penalised**.
- When writing your script, remember that it will be marked by examiners who are looking to see if you have **fulfilled the requirements** of the task, that your **writing is coherent**, that you can use the **appropriate vocabulary** and have a **good range of sentence structures**. The examiners will be looking to see how **accurately** you can manage these things.
- Your examiners can only work with what they are given, so do your best to **provide them with a variety of language used accurately and appropriately** to show what you are capable of.
- **If you finish both tasks before your time is up**, don't just sit there feeling satisfied! Use this time to check what you have written. While it is unlikely you will have time to make major changes to the content or layout of your essay, you should certainly **spend the time proofreading**.
- **Check carefully for errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar**. Inaccuracy in these areas will lose you marks, so time spent proofreading is time well spent.

TASK

Now try it yourself!

The effects of automation on society have been discussed over the years. Some people think automation has to be considered positively in terms of efficiency and productivity; others believe that it is responsible for human labour dislocation from the workplace, in other words, unemployment.

- ▶ Give your opinion on both views writing at least 250 words.

to assess: *verificare, stabilire*
 assessment: *valutazione*
 to be up: *finire, esaurirsi*
 evidence: *prova, dato*
 to fit: *far stare*
 to fulfill: *soddisfare*
 to misread: *leggere con superficialità*
 to pad out: *inforcire*
 plagiarised: *plagiato, copiato da altre fonti*
 proofreading: *rilettura (per la correzione di eventuali errori)*
 room: *(qui) spazio*
 rough paper: *carta per la brutta copia*
 rubric: *l'insieme delle istruzioni d'esame*