

IELTS Writing Task Two on television, news and current affairs

Discuss your opinions on the topics below with one or two other students. Don't think about how you would write an answer yet, but do try to stick closely to answering the questions that are there.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people trust public broadcasters most as a source of news, while others are not convinced that they always share the full truth and so prefer other sources.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

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

Write at least 250 words.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people say that more use of social media has resulted in people believing more fake news.

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.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many countries are switching to digital radio, something that provides similar benefits to scrapping old-fashioned analogue terrestrial TV signals, but which means that old radios won't work.

Do the advantages of a country switching to digital radio outweigh the disadvantages?

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

Write at least 250 words.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

People streaming TV series from websites has meant that people around the world can share the same viewing habits and so relate to each other better and have a shared topic of conversation. However, streaming anything you want anytime you like also means that people are less likely to sit down together to watch the same thing at the same time than in the days of a single family TV.

Does streaming help bring people together more, or was that more the case with traditional TV?

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

Write at least 250 words.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many people who read a newspaper and news sources online find themselves most attracted to less serious topics like gossip, sport and lifestyle. What are the causes for this? How could newspapers and other news sources make serious news coverage and analysis more attractive to readers?

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

Write at least 250 words.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Compare the advantages and disadvantages of using two of the following solutions to the problem of the decline in income for traditional newspaper companies. State which you consider to be the most suitable.

- charging people to access their websites
- putting more popular “clickbait” on their websites to get more traffic and therefore more income from advertising
- becoming just an online news source, without a paper publication
- diversifying into related areas of business such as arts festivals and magazines

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

Write at least 250 words.

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In some countries newspapers can only be successfully sued if someone can prove that what they published is false, whereas in other countries the newspaper will be found guilty of libel and punished if the publishers can't conclusively prove that the facts in the articles are true.

What are the advantages and disadvantages of each kind of libel law?

Which do you think is better in most countries?

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

Write at least 250 words.

Ask about any questions above which you couldn't understand or couldn't answer.

Plan some of the writing above.

Do the task on the next page as timed writing practice, in exactly 40 minutes from first looking at the task to finishing editing and putting your pen down. This means that you shouldn't look at the task before you start your stopwatch.

Extra task for (timed) writing practice

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many cities in the world have had newspapers which are given out free at stations, etc.

Discuss the advantages and disadvantages for readers, newspaper publishers and advertisers.

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

Write at least 250 words.