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**Воспитание и образование**

**Жукова Тетяна Василівна**

Таврійський державний агротехнологічний університет  
старший викладач кафедри іноземних мов

## **SOME USEFUL IELTS WRITING STRATEGIES**

**Key words:** IELTS test, academic training, essay, brainstorming, introduction, body paragraph, conclusion.

It's well-known that IELTS is the world's most popular English language test. The latest IELTS statistics show that over 2.2 million IELTS tests are taken every year – a dramatic increase from the 43 thousand IELTS tests taken twenty years ago.

The reasons for taking IELTS are different: for employment, for higher education courses, for other education purposes, for professional registration and others.

With one in four IELTS candidates taking the IELTS General Training test, it shows that IELTS isn't only taken by people who want to enter university; it's taken by people who want to demonstrate their English level in order to get a better job or to immigrate to an English-Speaking country.

The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is a test that measures the language proficiency of people who want to study or work in environments where English is used as a language of communication.

IELTS is available at more than 1,100 locations and it is accepted for migration to Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Thousands

of education and training providers all over the world use IELTS results to select their students.

Test takers can feel confident that the IELTS test provides a valid and accurate assessment of the four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking; the topics covered are general enough for all test takers will be able to answer questions on them. It is focused on assessing practical communication ability and serves both academic and non-academic purposes through a choice of two versions. IELTS is available in two test formats – Academic or General Training.

The IELTS Writing test has proved to be the most difficult part of the Academic test, with the average band scores for both males and females being significantly lower than the average for listening, reading and speaking. That's why some writing strategies should be used to succeed in the test.

First of all, a test taker has to be informed about the exam and be strategic.

Writing Task 1 can be scary. And one must incorporate important numbers into all essay types on IELTS Writing Task 1.

The most common Task 1 questions are *change over time* questions and *static* questions. As for *change over time* questions the beginning numbers, end numbers, highest numbers, and lowest numbers for each line should be included. Those are the most important numbers and they must be in the essay. While writing a *static* task we must circle the numbers for the highest second highest and lowest and include them in the essay.

Working over Writing Task 2 test takers should analyze the task properly and spend some time making notes; highlight or underline key words in the task to make sure that they focus on what they have to do; plan the answers; use paragraphs clearly; put one idea in each paragraph. One must not repeat ideas using different words and copy whole sentences from the question.

The essay has to be structured in a specific way. Introduction should outline the main points of your argument. The body of the essay should consist of

a logical sequence of the ideas and express the main point of the paragraph in the first sentence. The conclusion should provide a summary of the argument.

Candidates have to know that the elements of unity and coherence are necessary features of academic writing. Unity means that only one idea is discussed in the paragraph. The main idea is stated in the topic sentence of the paragraph, and then each supporting sentence develops that idea.

Coherence means that a paragraph is easy to read and understand because all supporting sentences are constructed in logical order and connected with the help of appropriate transition words. The movement from one sentence to the next must be logical and smooth. Each supporting idea should be discussed one after the other. Furthermore, the relationship between the ideas should be expressed by the right transition words or phrases [2].

Test takers need to combine sentences using linking words ‘and, also, too, moreover, furthermore’ for additional information; ‘that is, in other words, in fact’ for clarification; ‘for example, for instance, such as’ for providing examples; ‘because, since, for this reason’ for causes; ‘consequently, as a result, therefore, thus’ for effect; ‘first, first of all, second, before, after, then, next, later, more important, finally’ for meaningful order [3].

If test takers have trouble generating ideas for their essays they need a step-by-step process for brainstorming ideas and need to learn the process before and then use it during the test. After having brainstormed one needs to go back and choose the best ideas.

It’s also very important to manage time on IELTS Writing Tasks. One needs to spend a few minutes planning, making jotting notes or a brief outline before you write and checking the essay at the end paying attention to spelling, grammar and punctuation. The key to getting better at time management on IELTS is practice.

Completing lots of IELTS-style practice tests will help everybody develop his English skills and get a high score.

Literature

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