

IELTS Essay Comparison: Band 5 vs Band 8

A comparative analysis showing how to improve your IELTS writing score

The IELTS Discussion Question

Some people believe that technology has made our lives too complex, while others argue that technological advancements have improved our quality of life. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Band 5 Essay Response

In modern time, technology is everywhere in our life. Some people think technology make life complex but other people think it is good. I will discuss both side in this essay.

First, technology make life complex. People need to learn many new things like smartphone, computer and internet. Old people have problem with this and get confuse. Also technology make people lazy and they don't do physical activity. This cause health problem like obesity. Also people waste too much time on social media and games.

But, technology also have good points. Technology help us do many things quickly. For example, we can send message to other country very fast. Also we can find information on internet without going to library. In medical field, technology save many lifes with new machines.

In my openion, technology is good if we use it correctly. It have some bad points but good points are more. People should know how to use technology properly.

In conclusion, technology have both advantages and disadvantages but I think the advantages is more.

Band 5 Analysis

This essay demonstrates basic understanding of the question but has several weaknesses:

- Limited vocabulary:** Uses simple, repetitive language with phrases like "good points," "bad points."
- Grammar errors:** Inconsistent verb tenses, subject-verb agreement issues, and article misuse.
- Simple structure:** Basic paragraph organization without clear topic sentences or transitions.
- Limited development:** Ideas are mentioned but not fully explained or supported with examples.
- Poor cohesion:** Few linking words, making the essay feel disconnected.

Band 8 Essay Response

The rapid advancement of technology has sparked debate about its impact on our daily lives. While some argue that technology has made life unnecessarily complicated, others believe it has significantly enhanced our quality of life. This essay will examine both perspectives before presenting my own view.

Those who believe technology has made life too complex have valid concerns. Firstly, the constant updates and new devices create pressure to stay current, which can be overwhelming, especially for older generations who did not grow up with such technology. For instance, many elderly people struggle with essential services that have moved online, from banking to healthcare appointments. Additionally, our growing dependence on technology has created new problems, such as the need to manage digital security and the stress of being constantly connected to work through emails and messaging apps.

On the other hand, technological progress has undeniably improved many aspects of our lives. Modern technology has streamlined countless daily tasks, from shopping online to communicating with loved ones across the globe. In healthcare, advanced equipment and techniques have improved diagnosis and treatment, saving countless lives. Furthermore, access to information has been democratized, allowing people to learn new skills and access educational resources regardless of their location or economic status.

In my view, while technology does create some complications, its benefits far outweigh the drawbacks when used thoughtfully. The key lies in adopting technology selectively and establishing healthy boundaries. For example, using digital tools to increase work efficiency while also implementing "digital detox" periods can help maintain balance. Additionally, designing technology with all users in mind, including the less tech-savvy, would address many of the complexity concerns.

In conclusion, although technology can make certain aspects of life more complex, it has generally elevated our standard of living in meaningful ways. Rather than resisting technological change, we should focus on making it more accessible and developing healthy habits around its use. With this balanced approach, we can enjoy the advantages of modern technology while minimizing its potential negative effects.

Band 8 Analysis

This essay demonstrates excellent writing skills with these strengths:

- Clear structure:** Logical organization with a strong introduction, well-developed body paragraphs, and a thoughtful conclusion.
- Appropriate vocabulary:** Uses varied vocabulary that is precise but not overly complex (e.g., "democratized," "streamlined").
- Strong cohesion:** Effective use of linking words and phrases to connect ideas smoothly.
- Developed arguments:** Each point is fully explained and supported with relevant examples.
- Grammatical accuracy:** Demonstrates control of complex sentences with few errors.

Key Differences Between Band 5 and Band 8

Criterion	Band 5	Band 8
Introduction	Basic, short with simple language <i>"In modern time, technology is everywhere in our life."</i>	Clear context, outlines the essay structure <i>"The rapid advancement of technology has sparked debate about its impact on our daily lives."</i>
Paragraph Structure	Basic points listed with minimal development	Topic sentence, explanation, example, and analysis in each paragraph
Vocabulary	Limited, repetitive vocabulary <i>"good points," "bad points," "technology is good"</i>	Varied but accessible vocabulary <i>"streamlined," "democratized," "establishing healthy boundaries"</i>
Grammar	Frequent errors in tense and agreement <i>"technology make life complex," "advantages is more"</i>	Control of complex sentences with few errors <i>"Those who believe technology has made life too complex have valid concerns."</i>
Cohesion	Basic linking words <i>"First," "But," "Also"</i>	Sophisticated cohesive devices <i>"On the other hand," "Furthermore," "Additionally"</i>
Opinion	Simplistic view with minimal justification	Balanced view with nuanced reasoning and solution-oriented approach
Conclusion	Simple restatement <i>"In conclusion, technology have both advantages and disadvantages"</i>	Summarizes key points and offers broader implications <i>"Rather than resisting technological change, we should focus on making it more accessible"</i>

How to Improve from Band 5 to Band 8

1. Structure your essay effectively

Use a clear introduction that outlines your approach, well-developed body paragraphs, and a conclusion that summarizes your key points and expands on implications.

2. Use appropriate but accessible vocabulary

Instead of using extremely complex words, focus on using precise, varied vocabulary correctly:

Band 5: "Technology is good for doing things fast."	Band 8: "Technology has streamlined many daily tasks."
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3. Develop your ideas fully

For each main point, include explanation, relevant examples, and analysis of their significance.

4. Improve grammatical accuracy

Master subject-verb agreement, appropriate tenses, articles, and sentence structures. Use a mix of simple and complex sentences.

5. Use cohesive devices effectively

Connect your ideas smoothly with appropriate linking words and phrases:

- For adding information: furthermore, additionally, moreover
- For contrast: however, on the other hand, nevertheless
- For examples: for instance, such as, to illustrate
- For conclusions: in conclusion, ultimately, to summarize

6. Present a nuanced opinion

Move beyond simple statements to show critical thinking. Consider different perspectives and provide thoughtful analysis.

Final Thoughts

Achieving a Band 8 in IELTS writing doesn't require using extremely complex vocabulary or complicated sentence structures. Instead, it's about:

- Addressing all parts of the question thoroughly
- Organizing your ideas logically with clear paragraphs
- Using appropriate and varied vocabulary accurately
- Demonstrating control of grammar with few errors
- Connecting your ideas smoothly
- Developing your points with explanations and examples

With consistent practice and attention to these areas, moving from Band 5 to Band 8 is an achievable goal for IELTS candidates.