

Opinion-based essays: cause/effect tasks

A common type of IELTS Task Two Writing test is the cause/effect-style essay.

- It is therefore important to decide what causes and effects to write about.
- There may be many, but your job is to decide what the most important ones are.

Task 1	CAUSES	Subject	EFFECTS
	Reasons "Why?"	"Theme" "Topic"	Results "What?"
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genetic inheritance • Lazy lifestyle (no exercise) • Type and quantity of food eaten 	Diabetes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health problems • Harder to get married • Cannot relax in cafes/restaurants
	<p>1.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	Tourists visiting the UAE	<p>4.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
	<p>2.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>		<p>5.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
	<p>3.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>		<p>6.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
	<p>7.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	Emirati women working in Banks and Malls	<p>10.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
	<p>8.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>		<p>11.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
	<p>9.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>		<p>12.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>



In the following exercises - as a group - decide if the items in the box are causes or effects or both a cause and an effect.

Task 2 Subject: **EDUCATION**

Example statement | "Secondary school dropout rates are on the increase"

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot cope with new technology • Creates more family problems • Negative impact on the economy • No support from parents • Family problems | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to earn money • Subjects are too difficult • Uneducated society • Cannot afford school fees • Want/Have to get married |
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CAUSES

EFFECTS

<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
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Task 3 Subject: **ENVIRONMENT**

Example statement | "Global Warming is now a major concern for all governments"

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More industries (factories) • Burning of fossil fuels • Air and water pollution • Growing population (more resources used) • Greater focus on renewable energy sources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deforestation • Climate change • Modern lifestyles (cars, aeroplanes, A/C units) • Rising sea levels • Loss of biodiversity (variety in animal life) |
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CAUSES

EFFECTS

<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>	<p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
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Task 4 **Subject: FAMILY AND SOCIETY**

Example statement | "These days divorce is becoming very common"

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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children may become depressed • One partner abuses the other partner • Partners get bored with each other • It may be difficult to remarry • Different opinions and lifestyles | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken hearts and homes • Not able to have children • Lack of money • Family problems (e.g. with mother-in-law) • Communication problems between partners |
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CAUSES

EFFECTS

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Task 5 **Subject: HEALTH**

Example statement | "Obesity rates are increasing in the developed world"

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lazy lifestyle • Hereditary factors • Lower self-esteem • Poor diet • Poor health (e.g. heart disease, diabetes) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficult to get married • Certain illnesses • Eating fast food regularly • Harder to get a job • Economic costs (hospitals need extra money) |
|--|---|

CAUSES

EFFECTS

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