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Ben: IELTS band 8 essay review. In this tutorial, we specifically look at a band 8 essay and we break it down. Each sentence is analyzed under the four criteria: task response, cohesion and coherence, lexical resource, and grammatical range and accuracy. We break down each sentence and I tell you why it would score well and why it would score poorly.

Now, you're in for a treat today because this is a really good essay. It's very succinct. It's going to score easily a band 8 or band 8.5 and the good thing is that there are lots of-- I think lots of fragments of the sentence you could probably borrow for your own work.

My name is Ben Worthington as you probably know. Thank you for joining us on this podcast, this audio tutorial. I want to mention before we start that we have two new apps available; one in the Google Play store one in the Apple iOS app store and you can download those and you can subscribe to the podcast and you'll get the notifications when we release new information-- new episodes.

You'll also get the transcripts if you search on the push notifications. You get the transcripts so you can read along and usually in the transcripts is going to be somewhat additional information. Right then, let's jump into it.



“It is the job of governments and companies to deal with the huge environmental problems of climate change. Individuals on their own can do little or nothing. What is your opinion about these statements?” Now, as we know and if you've been following the episodes for quite a while, I have a strategy and this is taught on the online course and that is immediately just to dissect the question and establish what we're going to do.

So, let's just read the question again. “It is the job of governments and companies to deal with the huge environmental problems of climate change. Individuals on their own can do little or nothing.” So, let's assign a fragment of the question or let's assign a paragraph to each part of the question.

So, first of all, the job of governments and companies is to deal with climate change. That can be-- that could be body paragraph one and then individuals on their own can do little or nothing; probably body paragraph two. If you can develop this skill, then it becomes much, much easier especially if you're following the formula which comes next in the online course which is basically a framework for you to draw up your ideas in.

Let's have a look at this essay. Let's have a look at the introduction. "There is little doubt that global warming and climate change are the result of human activity. This has happened because of the failure in environmental policy by government and a lack of concern for wasted energy by individuals.”



Wonderful. Now, initially at the beginning, we say, "There is no little doubt that..." This is really good because it's an appropriate way to start the essay regarding the topic of global warming and also it's really good for cohesion and coherence because we're immediately jumping straight into the subject. There's no ambiguity here.

"There's little doubt that global warming and climate change are the results of human activity." So, okay we're not jumping right into the question topic which the question asked, but we are right into the topic. We're not talking about, "In today's competitive world..."

Next sentence, "This has happened because of a failure in government-- because of a failure in environmental policy..." That's beautiful vocabulary for this topic. "...by governments and a lack of concern for wasted energy by individuals." Excellent use of language and both lexically and grammatically.

Okay, so we've got some very good grammatical features there and as I pointed out, one of the grammatical features I think is excellent is "a lack of". Here we're using a negative verb instead of a negative construction which moves-- if we've just got the verb there instead of the whole construction, the whole negative construction, then it just moves along much smoother and you can probably hear that by the way it was just-- it was a breeze to read. I wasn't stopping and starting and-- it didn't consume that much energy for me to read that.



Next body paragraph, “It is almost universally accepted that...” Once again, some very impressive way to introduce the first body paragraph and also it helps with your cohesion and coherence because we're just building on this emphasis “there is little doubt” and now we said it again, "it's almost universally accepted." Can you see this is like a direction a writer is taking?

By the end of this, we're quite convinced, okay, because the writer just keeps on saying “universally accepted,” “there's little doubt” and this is why it's a higher level essay. The writer does not have to say statements like I strongly disagree. When you read it, it's clear that this writer strongly disagrees and you're almost being swept along with his point of view. That's good strong argumentative persuasive writing.

Let's move on. “It is almost universally accepted that climate change is the consequence of a number of environmental failings. Perhaps the most important of these is how fossil fuels such as gas and coal are still the main source of power.” Right, once again cohesion and coherence. Excellent sentence because we said, “Perhaps the most important of these...” Now it's linked.

We've got this demonstrative pronoun “these” and it's clearly linked to the environmental failings that we mentioned before. “These” refers to the environmental failings. That's clear. Environmental failings is in plural, we've just mentioned it and so we can use these which is also in plural.



So, let's see. "Perhaps the most important of this is how fossil fuels such as gas and coal are the main source of power." Good. "This is a problem because their use means that a large amount of CO₂ is released into the atmosphere causing the greenhouse effect." Good. So, we've got very topic-specific vocabulary. We have CO₂, we've got the right phrase as well; released into the atmosphere. Atmosphere as well and greenhouse effect, this is all topic-specific vocabulary. It's all going to help with the lexical resource score.

"Another serious issue is how illegal logging continues in rain forests and the Amazon Basin in particular. "Illegal logging"; more impressive vocabulary there. "It should not be forgotten that there is a connection between global warming and the inefficient use of energy by consumers in the home." Sorry, "It should also not be forgotten that there is a connection between global warming and the inefficient use of energy by consumers in the home."

Right. So, we've got a small issue with cohesion and coherence because we've just added this thought on at the end, "It should also not be forgotten..." which is a good grammatical structure, but now we've kind of switched topics and it says that there is a connection between global warming and the inefficient use of energy by consumers in the home.

So, although it is relevant to this topic, it's not very relevant to the flow of the paragraph. In the paragraph, we've been talking about fossil fuels and illegal logging and now we've switched it to



sort of like a micro level, an individual level about energy consumers at home. So, just be aware of this. Okay?

Overall with task response, it could be a little bit stronger. It has been a little bit vague. We haven't followed what I teach in the course which is, "It's the job of governments and companies to deal with the huge environmental problems of change." We've just said that the governments have failed and that there's-- the companies are to blame as well and that there's still illegal activities happening.

So, we have mentioned the government indirectly by saying it's illegal, it's against the state, but we haven't really directly answered the question. So, these small issues near the end of the paragraph are probably the reason why it's not going to get a band 9 and bear in mind the grammar here is perfect. There's not been a single grammatical mistake so far, but the student because of task response is still not going to get a 9. So, very important lesson there.

Let's move on to body paragraph two. "While governments must take prime responsibility for reducing climate change, individuals too can play a part." Now, very good use of a collocation there. I hope you spotted it. We had it at the end: "can play a part" "Individuals too can play a part."

Here we're getting back on topic. We've got the sentence, "While..." starting with good conjunction there, "While governments must take prime responsibility for reducing climate



change..." Prime responsibility; beautiful collocation as well there. "...for reducing climate change individuals too can play a part."

Right then, now here we are addressing the aim of the question, okay? And this is good that we're getting back on topic and earlier on in the paragraph because we're running out of time and opportunities to get back on topic. So what the writer has done here is brought it back on topic.

Next sentence, "Political leaders across the globe need to cooperate so that research into renewable forms of energy such as wind and solar power is properly funded and the use of coal and gas in power stations is phased out." Good. So, once again we've got very specific topic vocabulary. We're only going to find this type of vocabulary in an essay about climate-- about climate change and we've used it perfectly as well.

"Research into renewable forms of energy such as..." We've got a decent example there; wind and solar power. Then we've got other vocabulary: coal, gas, power stations, is phased out; high-level grammar there and accurately used as well in both instances, not only the grammar but the vocabulary. Phasing out power stations, not reducing the use of power stations but phasing out. Very appropriate.

Next sentence, "They must also, of course, ensure that regulations against logging are properly enforced." Excellent and although there is a little bit of repetition with the word properly so this



is another reason why these small issues probably cost the student a band 9. We have “properly enforced” and then later, “Consumers of energy can help by insulating their homes properly.”

However, we are-- we have shown an impressive use of vocabulary, impressive use of language there by saying “insulating their homes.” It’s very technical, “...and using solar panels where possible so that less energy is required and wasted.” Natural use of grammar there. “Using solar panels where possible so that less energy is required and wasted” Wonderful. The last part of that sentence is also parallel, which is a stylistic element, if you wish, if you want to say that. Stylistic element that we teach in the course as well. “...is required and wasted.”

Next one, “These actions should limit the amounts of CO₂ in the atmosphere and so reduce the greenhouse effect.” Good. What I liked about that sentence is that it's directly related to task response. If we just go back to the question again, “It is the job of governments to deal with the huge environmental problems of climate change. Individuals on their own can do little or nothing. What is your opinion about this statement?” And then we've got, “These actions should limit the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere and so reduce the greenhouse effect.”

So, here we have touched on both parts. We’ve touched on what the government can do, what the individuals can do as well and then we said these actions should limit the amount of CO₂.



So, we have directly answered the question there and that is much better. It's almost rescuing the paragraph.

Conclusion, "In conclusion..." Using that little phrase is an appropriate way to introduce the final paragraph, okay? And-- let's see. "In conclusion, while global warming is a serious threat to humanity..." very natural use of a collocation there "...a serious threat to humanity-- while global warming is a serious threat to humanity, there are a number of steps that can be taken..." Another very accurate use of the correct vocabulary there. "There are a number of steps that can be taken to reduce its effects." You see?

So, probably a band 8, maybe a band 8.5. It's a bit difficult to say without the official criteria in front of me. However, this is a really good essay and I think the key takeaways from this is that although the grammar is perfect, there are still-- it's still not going to get a band 9. The task response probably pulled it down and not answering the question accurately enough or fully enough.

However, all the other parts are excellent. The vocabulary especially, the grammar there's not a single mistake and it's very cohesive and it reads very clearly and the ideas between each sentence are linked together. This is exactly what we should be aiming for.

So, that's everything from me today. I hope you enjoyed this tutorial. If you want to see the full essay then go over to ieltspodcast.com and you'll be able to find-- if you just put in IELTS



podcast band 8-- put band 8 climate change essay and if you've got the app you'll probably see the transcription and we'll include the essay in the transcription as well with all the markings that we have noting good cohesion and coherence, good grammatical range and accuracy.

Okay then, my name is Ben Worthington. Thank you very much for joining us today and if you're having any challenges with your IELTS preparation, get in contact. We can help you. We can help you improve quickly by offering feedback on your work. We can help you progress faster if you join the course where you watch the tutorials, send in an essay, we give you feedback then you watch more tutorials and it just goes on and on like that.

It sounds like it's going to go on forever, but it doesn't. There are about eight essay corrections included in the course and you can get it done in about 10 days if you're in a rush. That's everything from me. Have a fantastic day. Keep pushing with your IELTS preparation. Eventually, you will get there. Take care.

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