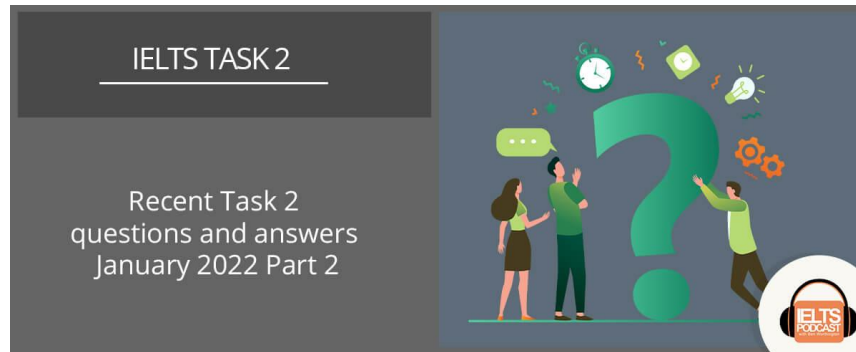


Ben: Recent questions and sample answers for IELTS Writing Task 2. In this tutorial, we are looking at questions sent in by our own students and seen online around on the internet. These are the new batch of questions from the new booklet or the new set of questions for the writing task and we're going to just dive in to like brainstorming, getting ideas, and giving you sample answers and just a quick and brief guidance on how to attack IELTS Writing Task 2.

Now, if you are a student who struggles from generating ideas or if your mind goes blank, this tutorial will help you and if you're still stuck at the end of this tutorial and you're still struggling, then get in contact. You can contact us at ieltpodcast.com. Just go there, sign up and you'll get our email.

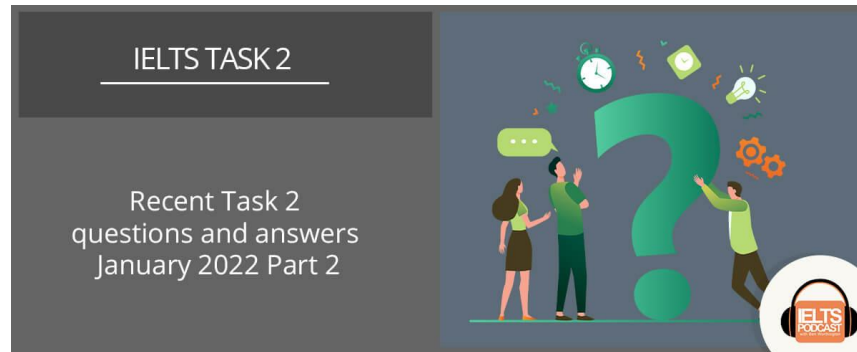
But most importantly, if this is a serious problem and you're determined to get past IELTS, to get through this, then have a look at our online course. We've got an entire module all to this. It's



quite easy. It's quite straightforward and we developed this module and we've been improving it over time because we know this is a massive, massive frustrating pain point for students. So, if you as I said, if you're struggling with ideas then have a look at our online course. We've even got a guarantee with that confidence the Jump to Band 7 or It's Free course.

Or maybe you're a student who just struggles to organize their ideas. Then again, this tutorial will be helpful because I'll tell you how I attack it and you can hear me work through difficult Task 2 questions, recent difficult Task 2 questions and how I approach it. And this is similar to the-- it's a very sort of like summarized version of what we teach in the course.

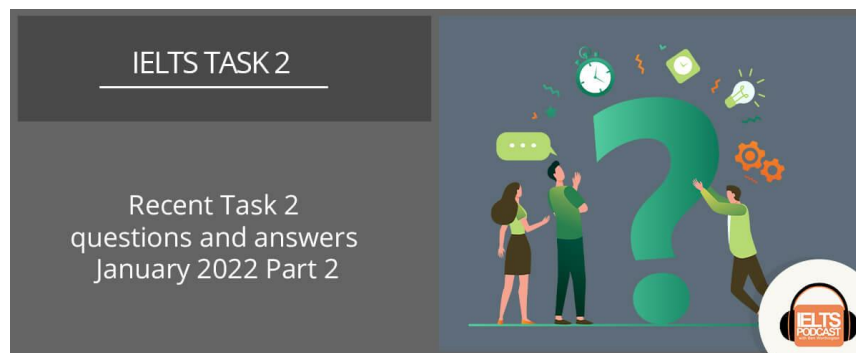
Actually in the course, we go a little bit more methodical and it's much more step-by-step. It's broken down and it's much easier. And also in the course, we're not just giving you the material and saying good luck. We're giving you the material, you're watching the tutorials, you're sending in your essays, we're looking at them, we're giving you feedback and this is how you get



into that incredibly prosperous incredible positive feedback loop. You get the feedback, your essays improve, you get more feedback, your essays improve and this is how we offer the guarantee of jump to band 7 or it's free.

Now then, let's jump into it. You all know who I am. My name is Ben Worthington. I'm from England. I've been teaching English for so long now and I've been specialized in IELTS for the vast majority of those years.

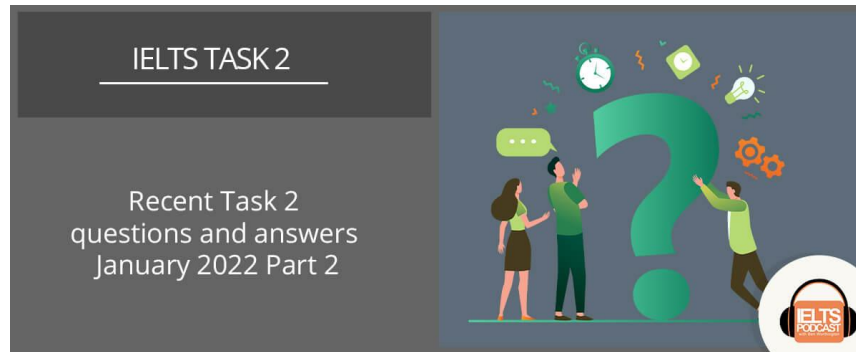
And I chose IELTS because we can get results for students. We can see them pass. It's not like spending a whole academic year; the students improved, you know. No. It's a band 7, 8, or 9 for my students and the results are important.



Let's go. Some people think there are not many things individuals can do to resolve environmental problems while others believe that in order to tackle environmental problems, individuals also need to take action. Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Right. Simplify the question. There's too many words here. It's too confusing, so let's just simplify for our own sanity, for our own sake. Individuals cannot resolve the environmental problems: body paragraph one. Others believe to solve the problem individuals need to take action. Okay. Tricky one.

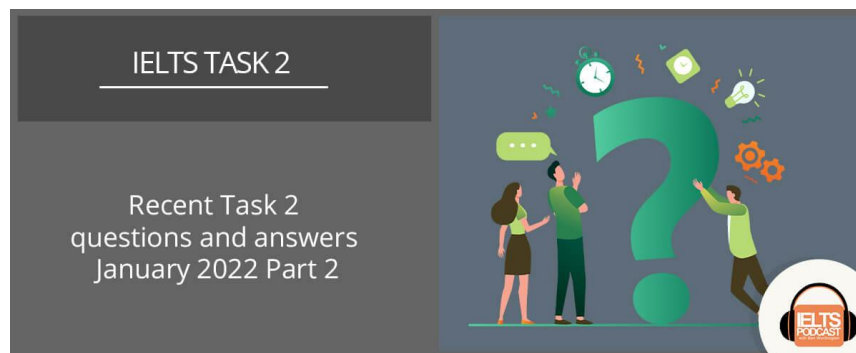
Both views. So, view no. 1: individuals cannot resolve environmental problems. This is entirely true because individuals 1), they're not responsible for big decisions. For example, the CEO of Coca-Cola can decide tomorrow to stop using plastic in its packaging and this would make a dramatic reaction. Individuals, private citizens do not have that power.



2) Individuals-- and I'm just repeating it. I probably wouldn't repeat it in the essay, but I'm just repeating it for my own sanity so I'm keeping on track. Individuals cannot solve environmental problems because they do not have the resources. For example, a government could decide to spend 30 billion tomorrow to clean up the canals and waterways and its coast if it's so wanted. Individuals do not have that power.

3) Individuals cannot solve environmental problems because they are way too complex. Now, way too complex is spoken English. I would never ever in a million years use that in my written essay. I would say vastly too complex which sounds so much more academic and so much more formal. So, the problems are too complex.

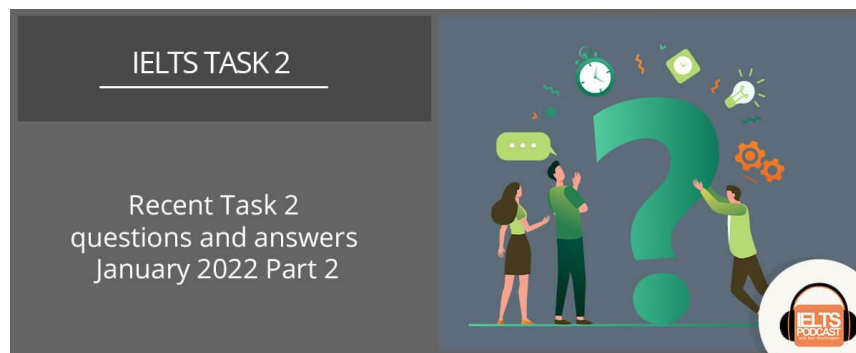
For example, the overuse of fertilizers by farmers to grow products is a chemical problem, is an economical problem and the private individual often has too many issues to deal with just by themselves. They've got to buy food for the family, they've got a job, they've got to look after the



family, they've got to pass an IELTS exam, they've got to get into that university, got to get the job promotion, got to get to the UK, got to get to Australia, and so on and so forth. Okay?

So there. All my arguments for body paragraph one. While others believe that in order to tackle environmental problems, individuals also need to take action. Yeah, individuals need to take action, but collectively. They need to organize in order-- so again, I'm just going to repeat the question prompt-- part of the question prompt keep me on topic.

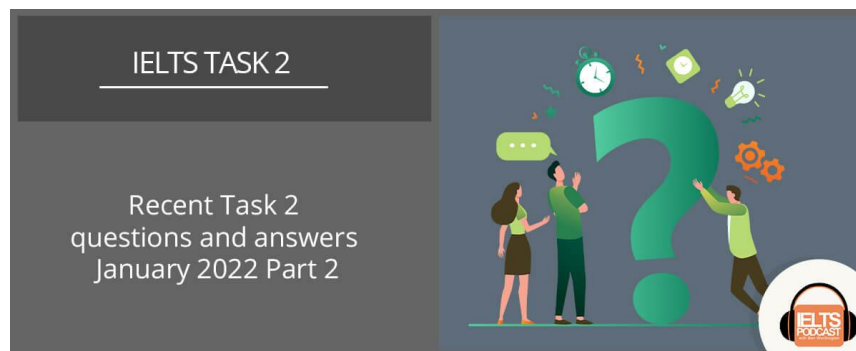
So, to tackle environmental problems, individuals need to take action. Otherwise, they are largely powerless. They could form groups-- pressure groups and organize action to boycott certain brands. There's a big boycott going on-- the longest ever boycott if I remember correctly-- against Nestle products because of plastics pollution, everything.



Also, in order to tackle environmental problems, individuals need to take action. Yes, they do because without individuals taking action and organizing themselves, the governments will never do anything and the governments are responsible to individuals in normal countries. Also, in order to tackle environmental problems, individuals need to take action and pressurize governments and companies and even start to directly influence the government by petitions or by-- let's see, what's the other one-- demonstrations. Okay?

So there. I'm basically saying-- I'm going just following the question. It's saying talk about this and talk about that. I'm making sure I'm getting full points for task response because I keep rephrasing the question in my mind while I'm brainstorming this.

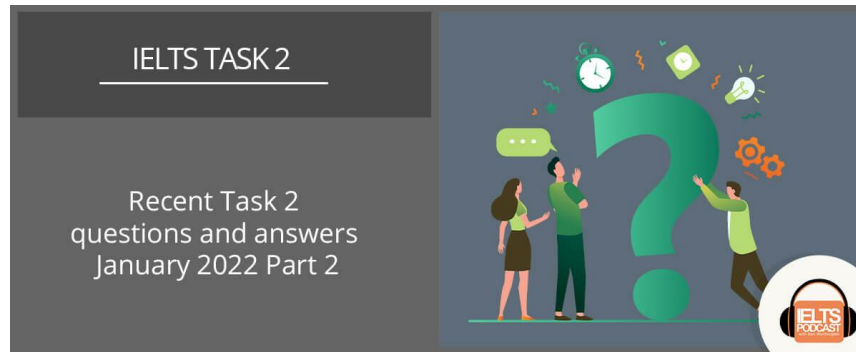
What's the next step? I'll organize all those ideas so that they will flow in a strong coherent cohesive essay and that's a piece of pie. That's easy as pie if you've got like the structure to follow, if you've got a system to follow. And that's what we teach in the online course. I won't go



into it now because in this essay, we're just looking at answering recent questions with sample answers and ideas.

Next one. Some think increasing business and cultural contact between nations is positive. Others think it leads to the disappearance of the national identity. Discuss both views and state your own opinion.

I could imagine so many students just sitting in the exam thinking why? Why IELTS? Why are you giving me these questions? Why do you do this? I've never thought about cultural contact between nations before in my life and now I've got to write 400 words in academic English which nobody uses anymore just so I can get to Australia, just so I can start practicing medicine in the UK, just so I can start studying in Canada, whatever the reasons.

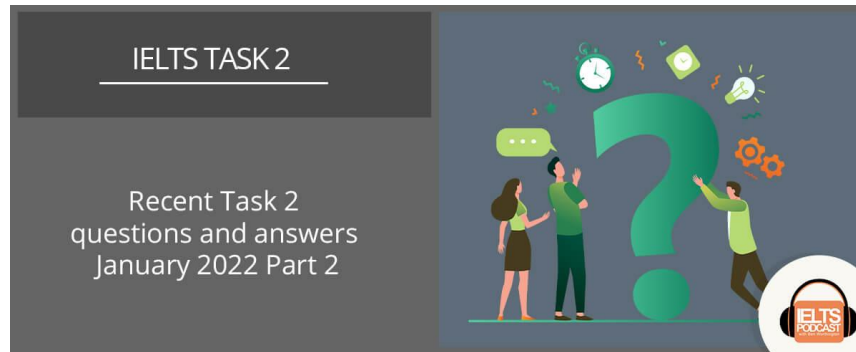


It doesn't matter. Just think of those reasons when you see a question like this in the exam, okay? Think of those reasons because you'll need all the motivation you get. Let's jump into it. Even I thought this is a kick to the teeth we could say. Let's jump into it.

Again, I'm going to rephrase the question-- not rephrase the question. I'm just going to repeat it probably simplify it and I'm just going to start generating ideas. Some think increasing business and cultural contact between nations is positive.

Yes, it's definitely positive because if we increase the contact, we can 1) better understand our neighbors. 2) We could lead to opportunities to do business between the two nations and 3) we could increase cooperation and therefore we possibly increase the chances of peace. Okay?

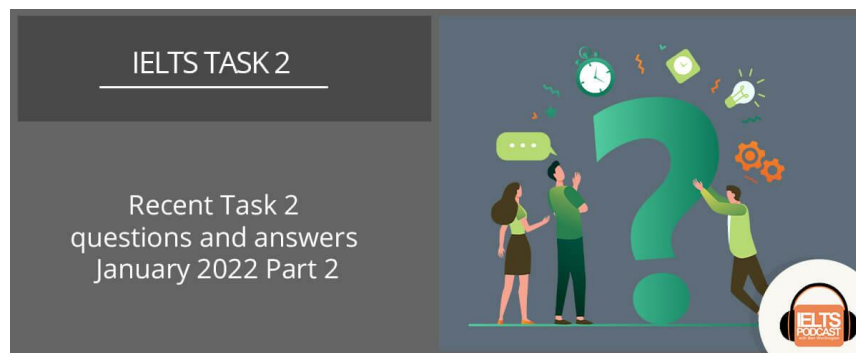
For example, when Vietnam engaged with cultural exchanges with Thailand, local businessmen saw that Thailand has certain customs with flowers to place on Buddha models and in Vietnam



they have these flowers in abundance and they're relatively cheap and therefore they could export these flowers to the Thai nation and the Thais would benefit from lower costs in buying these flowers and the Vietnamese can benefit by selling the flowers getting the money and there's also a better cultural understanding after this exchange has been happening over the last few years. Okay?

There we go. I could probably invent another two examples just to demonstrate the first points I brainstormed, but that's enough for now. We've got the ideas. We've got the general feeling, direction, plan of body paragraph one.

Let's go to body paragraph two. Others think it leads to the disappearance of the national identity. Again, I'm just going to go with this because if I disagree, I could be writing the same essay or

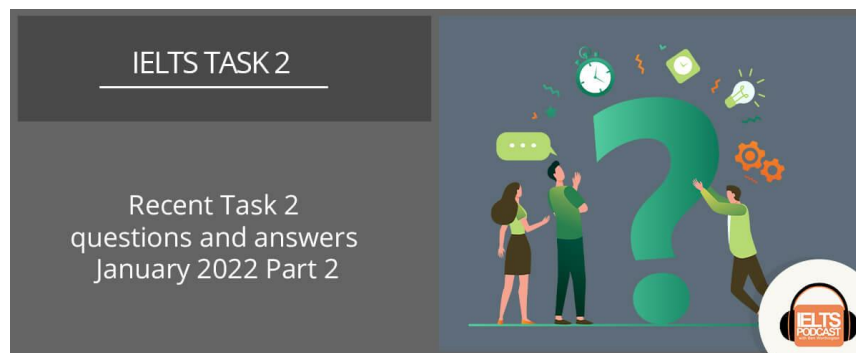


the same paragraph as I just wrote and when that happens it's really frustrating because you're like ah, I'm just saying exactly the same thing and now I can't think of any more examples.

And this is one of the tricks I think that the examiner wants you to get into because we've got to show our clarity and our strength of thought. We've got this direction. We're going to go with it.

So anyway, body paragraph two: others think it leads to the disappearance of the national identity. Absolutely, Mr. Examiner. You are so right. I'm going to go with this. So let's see. It definitely does lead to the disappearance of the national identity.

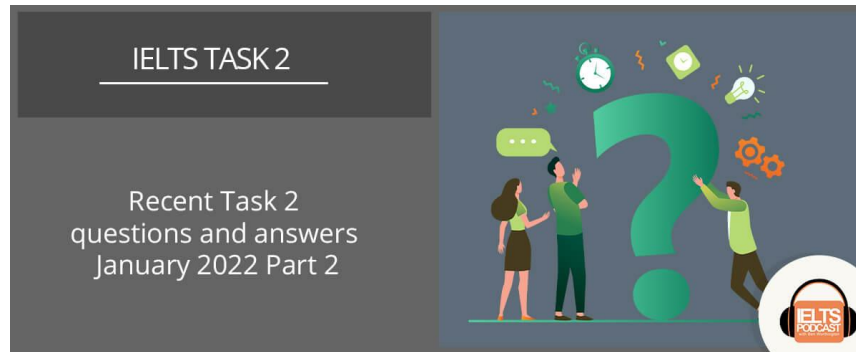
For example, when America increased its business and cultural links with South Korea, immediately all the youths-- no, not immediately because that's just incomprehensible, but within a few years, all the youths were eating KFC, eating McDonald's, drinking Coca-Cola or also playing baseball and all of these are American cultural and business exports.



And a lot of people in South Korea at the time were very anxious and were very worried that their own national identity was vastly disappearing or quickly disappearing. For example, one newspaper-- and then I just have to think of an example. Now, one newspaper wrote a story about how students were no longer playing the national sport of Korea and were instead training for basketball, baseball, and American football and this was extremely worrying especially for the older generation.

So yeah. There we go. Now, I don't know if that's true. I have no idea, but it sounded reasonably realistic and I couldn't think of any national sort of like traditional sports in Korea, but it's okay. I just said national historical sports and then I could mention lots of American sports. I don't even know if baseball is popular in Korea. I had no idea. I can't imagine American football is popular.

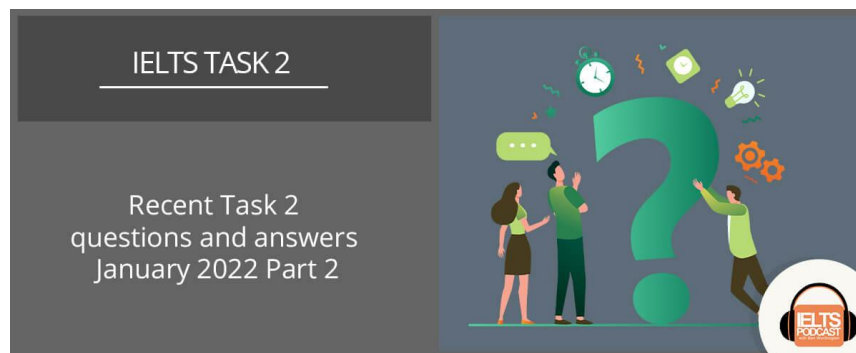
But anyway, I just wanted to put a little list in there and now I've done exactly what the examiner wanted. Discuss both views and state your own opinion. I haven't stated my own opinion yet, so



I'll put that in the conclusion. I'll say something like the typical please-all conclusion was it depends on to what extent the other culture has penetrated. However, I do think it is definitely a good idea and it should be encouraged because greater integration often leads to a peacer more prosperous global economy and society whatever.

And I definitely replaced the adjective good with something higher scoring, but that was just the first kind of like conclusion off the top of my head. Okay? So there. We'd followed it to a t. We discussed both views and then we stated our own opinion at the end.

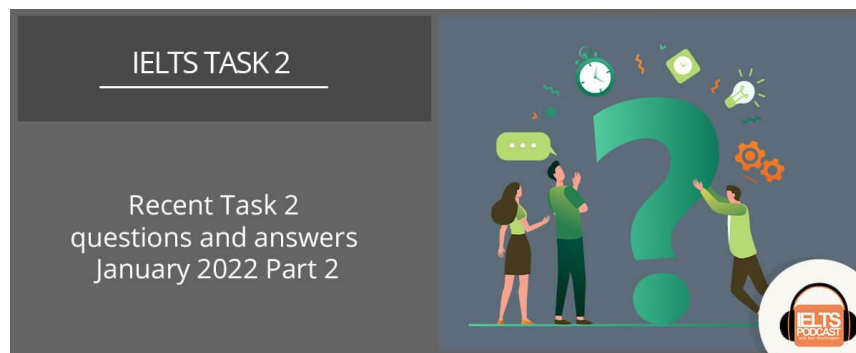
Final question. I'm going to just quickly go through this. In many countries, plastic shopping bags are the main source of rubbish. They cause water and land pollution and so they should be banned. To what extent do you agree with this statement? To the full extent. Okay. They definitely should be banned because...



Actually, I don't have to say why. Yeah, I should. To what extent? Actually, maybe I can just go for both sides because I don't want to run out of arguments which I think could be possible. So, I'm going to go for both sides.

I want to say on the one hand, there are stories of fish suffocating. There are stories of them being broken down into micro plastics and getting into the food chain. And no. 3 the stories of them looking absolutely disgusting when they're flying around natural environments such as woods or grasslands, okay? So, that's enough reasons that I could build out that paragraph with more examples.

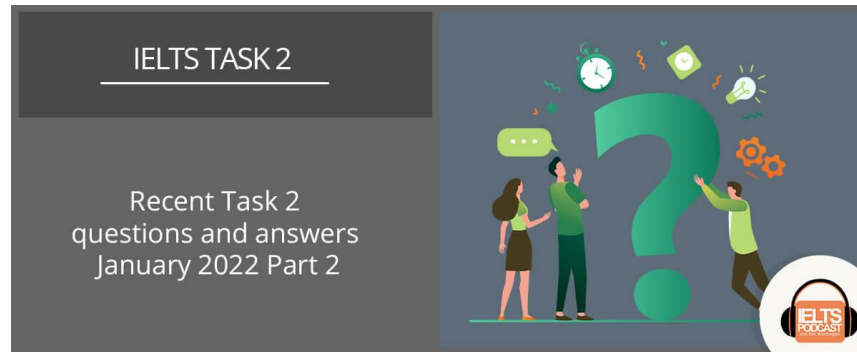
And then on the other hand, I disagree with this. The plastic bags are not the problem. The humans throwing them away incorrectly is the problem. Plastic bags are essential for many people in certain aspects of society, for example, the elderly need these plastic bags because to carry a canvas bag is considerably heavier. 2) If there's a correct recycling program in place by



the government, then these plastic bags are no problem to the environment. And 3) the plastic bags could be made out of a plastic that could actually be beneficial for the society. It could be made to be biodegradable within a month of being discarded. Something like that, okay?

Again, I got my main ideas. It wasn't correctly organized yet. I'm just brainstorming. I would later reorganize them into a solid framework. If I've got a copy-paste solid framework, it's easy peasy, but I've got my ideas there. I've looked at both sides. That's a perfectly acceptable route to take with these types of questions. Conclusion, I'm just going to summarize.

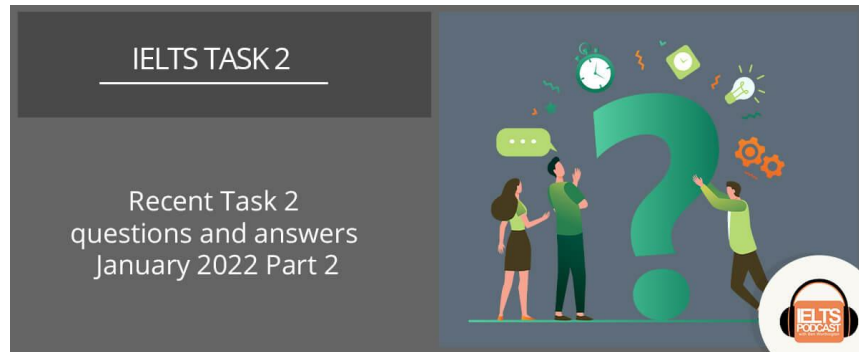
Now, just one final point. Do I agree with what I say personally? It doesn't matter. It doesn't matter. All I need to do is just write in good English and be logical, rational and that's it. It doesn't matter if I'm an eco-warrior who absolutely hates plastic. It doesn't matter if I'm the



worst polluter on the earth, okay? I'm not going to write those views. All I'm going to do is write something that the examiner can understand in a clear way.

Again, the examiner doesn't want to know my views. They don't want to know how intelligent I am with regards to plastic biodegradability. The examiner wants to know how good I am at communication because this is a language exam. Language is communication.

So, I've finished my rant. I've finished my rant and if you do get those questions now in the exam, you've got a few ideas to go off on. If you still struggle with creating and generating ideas, then have a look at our online course. We've got a very detailed tutorial that just helps you generate ideas and gives you different sort of like angles to look at. So, it makes the idea generation process that one step easier, that one bit easier.



And then of course as you heard me say, we've got that framework where you drop the ideas in and it basically writes itself. As easy as pie.

So, that's it for today. Remember go to ieltspodcast.com, sign up, get on our mailing list. We can send you some more IELTS materials. We can send you some discounts. And get in contact if you are struggling and if you've got any friends who are struggling with the IELTS, send them this podcast. Hopefully, we can help them too. Have a fantastic day and good luck with your IELTS exam.

[Music]

Female Speaker: Thanks for listening to ieltspodcast.com