

Tomorrow's Leaders Program

*University Preparation Course
Advanced Academic & Study
Skills*

**3. Writing Skills –
Independent Task**

Mai Rizk

AMIDEAST
امد ياست

iBT Test Structure:

Writing Skills:

Independent tasks

Integrated tasks



iBT Test Structure: Independent Writing



Task 2

Independent Writing:
Writing from Knowledge
and Experience

- Test takers write an essay that states, explains, and supports their opinion on an issue. An effective essay will usually contain a minimum of 300 words; however, test takers may write more if they wish.
- Test takers must support their opinions or choices rather than simply list personal preferences or choices.
- Typical essay questions begin with statements such as:
 - Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Use reasons and specific details to support your answer.
 - Some people believe X. Other people believe Y. Which of these two positions do you prefer/agree with? Give reasons and specific details.
- Response time: 30 minutes

300 words

30 minutes



iBT Test Structure:

Time planning:

- 5 minutes planning (write notes of an outline drawing a flow chart or a list.)
- 20 minutes for writing your essay.
- 5 minutes for proofreading.

Writing Skills: independent task



What are the parts of an essay?

Intro

Body

Conclusion

Writing Skills: independent task



What is the content of the intro?

Intro: Give the umbrella sentence of the Central Idea.

Give a brief description/explanation of the topic.

State your opinion and the organization/order of the ideas you will discuss in the body section. (Thesis statement).

Writing Skills: independent task



Example: Introduction

Should People Stop Stereotyping Each Other?

Everywhere around the world, there are two types of people: the ones who agree with stereotyping as a societal behavior and the ones who disagree. Stereotyping is assuming some thing about someone as a form of generalization without necessarily being sure that this character trait or idea is true. Whether it is true or not, people keep such stagnant impressions about others anyways. Examples of stereotyping that hurt many people are: all elders are forgetful, and all women are weak and not skillful. I disagree with stereotyping because it is bad for people on the social level and on the individual level. Two categories can be discussed here as examples: old people and women.

Writing Skills: independent task



What is the content of the body section?

Topic sentence (the main idea of this paragraph).

Supporting details: examples, stories, numbers, logic of compare/contrast, problem/solution.. etc.

Concluding sentence. (Finish your idea by showing the result of your support.

Writing Skills: independent task

Example: Body



Lowering the confidence of older people has a negative effect not only on the individual level but also on the global one. Today, approximately 11% of the world's population ages above 60. This large percentage might lose self-confidence because of the stereotype that old people are weak and have bad memory, which affects their social and professional efficiency. Their self-confidence will be destroyed and the world will lose their skills and hard work. This will affect the world's productivity level and maybe national incomes of countries. The fact is that people above 60 still have enough power to work hard and generate large sums of money, so stereotyping can be harmful in their case.

On the other hand, weakening the self-esteem of women might result in an even larger loss than that done to old people. Women are about half of the world's population. For that reason, our main aim should be to encourage them to do even more in order to benefit from their skills. For example, in Canada in 2018, women earned 87% more than what men earned in hourly wages. This means that women are able to generate money sometimes even more than men. Stereotyping women as weak and less skillful than men should therefore stop. More jobs should be offered to competing women with high performance in all countries around the world. This way the societies will benefit from them instead of negatively stereotyping them.

Writing Skills: independent task



What is the content of the conclusion?

Restate the content briefly showing the connection between the main ideas and summarizing your opinion about those ideas.

Give a final general statement that is impressive and catchy.

Writing Skills: independent task

Example: Conclusion



In conclusion, Stereotyping can kill people's hope to be better and functional. Like elders and women, there are many other social categories that should be given the right to try and show their best to the world. Age, gender and skin color among other examples of generalizations should never be a way to define people. What defines people are people's actions not assumptions about them and their actions. (421 words)

Writing Skills: independent task

Scoring Rubric



TOEFL iBT® Test
Independent **Writing** Rubrics

SCORE	TASK DESCRIPTION
5	<p>An essay at this level largely accomplishes all of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Effectively addresses the topic and task▪ Is well organized and well developed, using clearly appropriate explanations, exemplifications and/or details▪ Displays unity, progression and coherence▪ Displays consistent facility in the use of language, demonstrating syntactic variety, appropriate word choice and idiomaticity, though it may have minor lexical or grammatical errors

Writing Skills: independent task **Detailed Rubric for proofreading**

- 1.Content:** Excellent - V Good: thorough development of thesis , conveys a sense of completeness --- knowledgeable, recognizes several aspects of the subject and their interrelationships--- substantive, convincing and pertinent; strongly supported with well-chosen reasons and examples —original.
- 2.Organization:** Excellent - V Good: excellent organization of ideas throughout essay and within paragraphs --- focused, without digression (unified paragraphs) --- logical sequencing --- ideas related with very effective transitional elements.
- 3.Vocabulary:** Excellent - V Good: sophisticated range -- demonstrating variety, precision, and facility in word use.
- 4.Grammar:** Excellent - V Good: uses syntactic variations fluently to express meaning/convey message, i.e., employs a variety of simple, compound, and complex sentences without error.
- 5.Mechanics:** Mastery of conventions of writing mechanics - spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and/or indentation.

Assignment #4: independent writing

Why do you think some people are attracted to dangerous sports or other dangerous activities? Use specific reasons and examples to support your answer.

Check your writing against the TOEFL rubric & the proofreading rubric.

Thank you!
Good Luck