

**Practical IELTS
Strategies 4**

IELTS

**2nd
Edition**

Writing

**Academic
Module**

Task Two

Andrew Guilfoyle

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About This Book

So, you have Book Four of the *Practical IELTS Strategies* series. Let us first be sure we know the meaning of those two key words.

Practical	=	connected with <i>real situations</i> ; right or sensible; likely to be successful
Strategy	=	a plan that is intended to achieve a <i>particular purpose</i> ; the process of putting a <i>plan</i> into effect in a skilful way

This book—Book Four—is for Task Two of the Academic Module of the IELTS Writing Test. This is not a grammar book; not a test practice book; not a vocabulary book, although all of those elements are here. Overall, this book is practical and strategic, exactly as those definitions tell us. The *real situation* is the IELTS test, and the *particular purpose* or *plan* is to give you the highest score that you can achieve.

My other ‘Practical IELTS Strategies’ books are:

- Book 1: Reading
- Book 2: Speaking
- Book 3: Writing Task One [Academic Module]
- Book 5: IELTS Test Practice Book

Now, it is very important at this stage for you to trust me, and for this to happen you need to know two facts. The first concerns my *credentials*. In order for you to trust someone who writes an IELTS preparation book, they must be fully qualified to do so. Please look at the back cover of this book, and read my credentials carefully. The second fact concerns *why* I wrote these books. Let me begin this by saying that students of English often come to me and ask, ‘How do I pass the IELTS test?’ This is the wrong question—you do not *pass* or *fail* the test; you just receive band scores. However, I know what the students mean. They mean how do they achieve the band score they need—usually 6.5 or 7.0 overall.

So what do I say to these students? I usually say that there are *no magic answers* to obtaining higher band scores in the IELTS test. It is a test of English language ability, so, of course, you obtain higher scores by having higher ability. The best way to raise your ability is simply to practise your listening, reading, writing, and speaking. However, no matter how good your English may be, it is certainly possible for you to be unprepared, unpractised, and to try to do parts of the IELTS test in the wrong way, and thus to receive a result lower (or far lower) than what your English ability deserves. This is why it is also important to prepare and practise. I say this, too, to my students. However, I know that they want a more definite answer.