IELTS Focus Writing Correction Service

Key:

Red = General corrections / vocabulary or grammar additions
Blue = My comments and advice
Black = Your original writing
~~Crossed out~~ = Not needed or a mistake
Purple = Was hard to understand or poor coherence

Task Question:

The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before. What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?

The widespread usage of the internet has created endless opportunities in the methods that data can be viewed and distributed. While this may seem to be purely beneficial, it also carries serious risks that are rising in incidence. ~~This essay will discuss two of the main contributors of problems~~ *<-(don't use an outline sentence)* ~~caused by internet usage,~~ namely lack of censoring and online theft. ~~and how~~ They can be overcome using stricter censoring protocols and increasing online payment security.

This introduction was far too long at 75 words. Aim for under 55 words, it needs to be more concise. Introductions have 2 purposes. First to paraphrase the task question, secondly, a thesis statement. I noticed the outline sentence which should be avoided. Write a thesis statement instead. See this link about memorised outline sentences-> https://ieltsfocus.com/2018/02/08/the-dangers-of-outline-statements/

Here are my 2 ideas for an introduction to this essay I have underlined the thesis statement.

1. In recent times, the world wide web has revolutionised the way we share and use information. However, it has brought new problems to our lives. <u>One serious issue, especially among teenagers, is cyberbullying. A possible solution would be to criminalise this behaviour with tough measures such as police prosecution.</u>

2. The world wide web has greatly changed the way people exchange information, but it also brings problems <u>such as cyber theft scams. One possible solution could be for individuals and cybersecurity companies to make joint efforts to tackle this problem.</u>

You will notice I am only going with 1 problem one solution, you can still get a band 7+ with this. If you go with 2 of each the essay will be too long at way over 300 words.

There are two main issues when using the internet; *<-(semicolon not needed)* which are the lack of content censoring and the risk of online theft. The internet currently has very little global monitoring in regard to uploaded content, therefore, *<-(cohesive device)* almost anyone, regardless of age, can access a multitude of sensitive or inappropriate media. This poses a threat specifically to vulnerable groups such as children, ~~in which~~ as a result *<-(cohesive device)* they can be exposed to horrifying images and videos of death as well as other inappropriate data such as violence and adult content. The other main issue is online theft, whether through email, insecure transactions or even social media. People are constantly being scammed and buying products that are not accurately represented. Some online scammers can even gain access to bank accounts and confidential information. ~~These are the two main contributors of internet problems.~~ *<-(this sentence not needed)*

Although your grammar and vocabulary are pretty good, the paragraph is not clearly supporting your main idea as there was no specific example, and I notice a lack of cohesive devices. See my model answer for the structure of a main body paragraph. Also see this link-> https:// ieltsfocus.com/2017/09/11/how-to-write-main-body-paragraphs/

Overcoming these problems is not simple and requires intervention from both governmental and private sectors. ~~Censoring content is a controversial topic amongst people but can be done.~~ *<-(this is not needed)* This would mean that *<-(indicates a supporting sentence)* Internet providers should be able to screen all data being viewed in order to properly filter out inappropriate content, while social media companies should enforce tighter regulations such as that recently taken by Tumblr. ~~Secondly~~, Additionally, *<-(better cohesive device)* online theft can be reduced by the government educating the public on common ~~scans~~ *<-(spelling)* scams via public ~~classes~~ information campaigns and advertisements. Furthermore, *<-(cohesive device)* it can also be useful to have banks screen transactions and online payments to ensure their authenticity.

This paragraph is 96 words whereas main body one was 134 words. This is seen as unbalanced paragraphing and affects coherence and cohesion. Aim for around 90 to 100 words each body paragraph. Cohesive devices will also help the flow of the essay, if they are under used or overused it affects your score. See this link on those-> https://ieltsfocus.com/2017/07/20/ cohesive-devices-in-ielts/

In conclusion, the prevalent use of the internet has created a variety of ways in accessing date. *<-(?)* However, it has also increased the risks involved in acquiring that data especially in susceptible groups. *<-(what do you mean?)* It requires cooperation of both the government and public *<-(this is different to the introduction thesis)* in order to solve these issues.

*The conclusion will need re-working, I couldn't understand clearly, ideally the conclusion summarises you main ideas. In your essay you mention these points -> **lack of content censoring, online theft, filter out inappropriate content, educating the public**… take your main ideas and summarise them. Another useful strategy is to take your introduction and paraphrase the thesis statement again. See my example below.*

Introduction
In recent times, the world wide web has revolutionised the way we share and use information. However, it has brought new problems to our lives. One serious issue, especially among teenagers, is cyberbullying. A possible solution would be to criminalise this behaviour with tough measures such as police prosecution.

Conclusion
To sum up, due to the way the internet has changed how people share information and communicate, online harassment has become a serious issue especially among youngsters. To tackle this, criminal prosecutions would need to be implemented to crack down on this behaviour.

What I have done here is take my thesis statement underlined and re-paraphrased it again. I paraphrased the problem and the solution. Don't copy the introduction word for word though.

Take a look at the Private Youtube video feedback here-> https://youtu.be/jccSrud_swU

Overall:

The essay was far too long at 353 words, if you write an essay this long 3 things can happen.

1. You may go off topic and include irrelevant information
2. You will most likely run out of time.
3. You will be more susceptible to making grammar or vocabulary mistakes.

The body paragraphs are also unbalanced. Main body paragraphs should be approximately 90 to 100 words each (more or less) the introduction should be under 55 words. The conclusion just 2 or 3 sentences. Keep it concise and direct to the point, do not try to impress the examiner. Just answer the question as logically and concisely as possible. Aim for around 270 to 290 words in an essay.

You also need specific examples in your body paragraphs to support your main ideas. See this link here-> https://ieltsfocus.com/2019/01/08/examples-in-ielts-essays/

Take a look at this link on how to write conclusions too-> https://ieltsfocus.com/2017/07/12/effective-ielts-conclusions/

For a lesson on thesis statements click here-> https://ieltsfocus.com/2017/06/12/ielts-thesis-statement/

You can actually go with just one problem and one solution, like I have done in the model answers, and still get a band 7 or more as long the main ideas are developed and supported.

Summary of Band scores.

This Band score is not a guarantee that you will get the same score in the IELTS exam because examiners can only score you on what you wrote in each test. You can only get a certified IELTS level by taking the IELTS test at an official IELTS Test Centre.

IELTS Assessment Criteria	Band Score
Task Response	6.5
Coherence and Cohesion	6
Lexical Resource	7
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	7
Overall	**Band 6.5**

Add all band scores together and divide by 4 to get your Band. The score is rounded up or down to the nearest whole or half band.

Recommended Links

The danger of outline sentences
https://ieltsfocus.com/2018/02/08/the-dangers-of-outline-statements/

Introductions for problem solution essays
https://ieltsfocus.com/2017/03/08/ielts-introduction-problem-solution/

How to structure body paragraphs in a problem solution essay
https://ieltsfocus.com/2017/09/11/how-to-write-main-body-paragraphs/

Giving examples in your body paragraphs
https://ieltsfocus.com/2019/01/08/examples-in-ielts-essays/

How to write a conclusion
https://ieltsfocus.com/2017/07/12/effective-ielts-conclusions/

5 Things you need to do before writing
https://ieltsfocus.com/2017/12/22/5-things-ielts-essay/

Model Answer 1

The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before. What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?

In recent times, the world wide web has revolutionised the way we share and use information. However, it has brought new problems to our lives. One serious issue, especially among teenagers, is cyberbullying. A possible solution would be to criminalise this behaviour with tough measures such as police prosecution.

A growing issue associated with the internet is that it has become easier for anonymous users to attack others via social media platforms. One age group in particular that this phenomenon affects are teenagers who often use smartphones and social media to communicate. As a result, worldwide there have been cases of online bullying and threats among this age group with terrible consequences to this activity, such as young people committing suicide. To illustrate this, a study from the Samaritans in the UK in 2014, stated that a large proportion of 13 to 18 year olds said they had been a victim of online bullying and even contemplated suicide.

One possible way to tackle this problem would be to implement tough legal measures to stop this growing threat to people online, particularly youngsters.This would mean schools involving police community support officers when a cyberbullying incident is reported. Consequently, a bullying incident can then be investigated fully and a prosecution can be carried out. For instance, fines or community service for serious offenders, in addition, child support officers can give assistance to the victims to ease psychological damage. In the case of adults carrying out online harassment and threats, possible prison terms or heavy fines could act as a deterrent.

To sum up, due to the way the internet has changed how people share information and communicate, online harassment has become a serious issue especially among youngsters. To tackle this, criminal prosecutions would need to be implemented to crack down on this behaviour.

300 words

Model Answer 2

The internet has transformed the way information is shared and consumed, but it has also created problems that did not exist before. What are the most serious problems associated with the internet and what solutions can you suggest?

The world wide web has greatly changed the way people exchange information, but it also brings problems such as cyber theft scams. One possible solution could be for individuals and cybersecurity companies to make joint efforts to tackle this problem.

A concern for many people worldwide is the security of information on the internet. This means that personal information such as bank card details, which users provide to websites when buying online, could easily be stolen by cyber thieves who use hacking software to attack web service provider's databases. This then leads to some people suffering from financial losses by these scams. To illustrate this, a 2016 report by the US government stated there has been an unprecedented rise in phishing all over the world. Another issue directly linked to this is identity theft, such as hacking into peoples Facebook profiles and stealing their information.

There are various steps both corporations and individuals can take to solve these problems. One way could be for people to raise their awareness of the problem of cyber safety and be very cautious when asked to provide personal information. Likewise, big internet companies ought to do more to protect the cybersecurity of their users, such as using more advanced technology and updating security software much more frequently. For instance, in 2017 it was estimated by Microsoft that every week a new virus is being created that anti-virus software programs cannot detect, which leaves PCs and smartphones vulnerable to attack.

To conclude, although the internet has radically changed communication and information sharing, measures need to be taken by cybersecurity companies and individuals to tackle issues such as hacking and cyber scams.

277 words