CHECKLIST FOR IELTS ACADEMIC WRITING

THINGS MATTER WHEN DOING SELF-CHECK & SELF-CORRECTION YOUR OWN WRITING PAPER

WRITING TASK 1

Task Response

Have I presented 4 paragraphs in the order of: introduction, overview, body 1, body 2?

Have my introduction included: diagram type, subjects, time frames, unit of measurement?

Have the overview highlighted the key features of the visuals (trend, pattern,...)?

Have the detail paragraphs clearly covered and highlighted key features with supported data?

Coherence & Cohesion

Have I divided the information into two clear and logical paragraphs?

Have I made comparisons regarding key features with supported data, and NOT just listed information?

Have all the sentences are effectively linked with others by a range of cohesive devices?

Lexical Resource & Grammatical Range & Accuracy

Have I avoided repetition of words and grammatical structures?

Have I used a sufficient range of lexical resources to convey precise meanings when describing charts, maps, process?

Have I used the correct tenses based on time frame?

Have I used a variety of sentence structures (simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences)

Which aspects do I need to check for mistakes?

Pluralisation

word order

Wrong word

Incorrect omission/ inclusion of articles

word formation
spelling
subject-verb agreement

Additional Checklist for Map

Have I used precise terminology when describing Map?

Have I used a range of synonyms?

Additional Checklist for Process

Have I used passive voices correctly?

Have I used effectively linking devices when transitioning different steps?

Have I used appropriate adverbials of location?

WRITING TASK 2

Task Response

Have I divided my essay into paragraphs in the order of: Introduction, Body 1, Body 2, Conclusion?

Have my introduction paraphrased the task and stated the aim of my essay in a thesis statement?

Have I started each paragraph with a clear topic sentence and developed them with relevant and supporting ideas

Have I managed to respond to all parts of the question fully?

Coherence & Cohesion

Have the paragraphs been clear and well-constructed with clear topic sentences for each?	
Have all the sentences are effectively linked with others by a range of cohesive devices?	
Have I developed my arguments properly with the inclusion of reasons, examples, results?	

Lexical Resource

Have the question been suitably paraphrased?

Have I avoided repetition of vocabulary

Have Lused a sufficient range of academic vocabulary and vocabulary specific to the topic?

Grammar Range and Accuracy

Have I checked the verb tenses and subject-verb agreement?

Has spelling been checked?

Have I used a variety of sentence structures (simple sentences, compound sentences, complex sentences)

Are the sentences between 15 and 25 words long?

References:

Mareck Kiczkowiak, TEFL Reflections: IELTS Writing Task 1 & 2 The IELTS Coach, IELTS Writing Task 2 Checklist

IELTS Writing Band Descriptors, IELTS.org