

64 academic collocations for Writing Task 2

Natural word partnerships for the most common essay topics, each with an example sentence. Collocations make writing sound fluent; single "big words" on their own often don't.

Giving and supporting opinions

put forward an argument	<i>Some people put forward the argument that exams cause stress.</i>
hold the view that	<i>Many experts hold the view that homework should be limited.</i>
a strong case for	<i>There is a strong case for free school meals.</i>
draw a conclusion	<i>It is too early to draw a firm conclusion.</i>
a growing body of evidence	<i>A growing body of evidence links sleep to memory.</i>
widely accepted	<i>It is widely accepted that exercise improves mood.</i>
strongly disagree	<i>I strongly disagree with this proposal.</i>
on balance	<i>On balance, the benefits outweigh the drawbacks.</i>

Problems and effects

pose a threat to	<i>Rising sea levels pose a threat to coastal cities.</i>
a pressing concern	<i>Air quality is a pressing concern in Dhaka.</i>
have a profound effect on	<i>The internet has had a profound effect on education.</i>
play a vital role in	<i>Parents play a vital role in a child's development.</i>
address an issue	<i>Governments must address the issue of youth unemployment.</i>
tackle a problem	<i>Several measures could tackle the problem of traffic.</i>
take measures	<i>Schools should take measures to reduce bullying.</i>
deeply rooted	<i>These habits are deeply rooted in our culture.</i>

Education

acquire knowledge	<i>Students acquire knowledge faster through practice.</i>
tuition fees	<i>High tuition fees discourage some students.</i>
rote learning	<i>Rote learning does not develop critical thinking.</i>
vocational training	<i>Vocational training prepares young people for skilled jobs.</i>
a well-rounded education	<i>Sport is part of a well-rounded education.</i>
academic performance	<i>Lack of sleep can harm academic performance.</i>
gain qualifications	<i>Many adults return to college to gain qualifications.</i>
distance learning	<i>Distance learning suits people who work full time.</i>

Work and the economy

job security	<i>Younger workers often value job security less than flexibility.</i>
a heavy workload	<i>A heavy workload can lead to burnout.</i>
career prospects	<i>Speaking English can improve your career prospects.</i>
economic growth	<i>Tourism can drive economic growth.</i>
the cost of living	<i>The cost of living has risen sharply in cities.</i>
strike a balance	<i>It is hard to strike a balance between work and family.</i>
earn a living	<i>Many artists struggle to earn a living.</i>
labour shortage	<i>Some countries face a labour shortage in healthcare.</i>

Environment

carbon emissions	<i>Cars are a major source of carbon emissions.</i>
renewable energy	<i>Investment in renewable energy is increasing.</i>
natural resources	<i>We are using natural resources faster than they can recover.</i>
environmentally friendly	<i>Cycling is an environmentally friendly way to travel.</i>
climate change	<i>Climate change affects farming in Bangladesh.</i>
raise awareness	<i>Campaigns can raise awareness of plastic waste.</i>
endangered species	<i>Habitat loss threatens many endangered species.</i>
waste disposal	<i>Cities need better systems for waste disposal.</i>

Health

a sedentary lifestyle	<i>A sedentary lifestyle increases the risk of heart disease.</i>
a balanced diet	<i>A balanced diet includes plenty of vegetables.</i>
life expectancy	<i>Life expectancy has risen in most countries.</i>
mental health	<i>Social media may affect young people's mental health.</i>
preventive measures	<i>Vaccination is one of the most effective preventive measures.</i>
access to healthcare	<i>Rural areas often have poor access to healthcare.</i>
a public health campaign	<i>A public health campaign reduced smoking rates.</i>
take regular exercise	<i>Doctors advise people to take regular exercise.</i>

Technology and media

rapid advances in	<i>Rapid advances in technology have changed the workplace.</i>
social media platforms	<i>Social media platforms spread news very quickly.</i>
screen time	<i>Parents worry about children's screen time.</i>
online privacy	<i>Many users know little about online privacy.</i>
artificial intelligence	<i>Artificial intelligence may replace some routine jobs.</i>
a digital divide	<i>There is a digital divide between cities and villages.</i>
keep up with	<i>Older workers may struggle to keep up with new software.</i>
misleading information	<i>Misleading information spreads easily online.</i>

Society and government

government funding	<i>Museums depend on government funding.</i>
public services	<i>Taxes pay for public services such as hospitals.</i>
social inequality	<i>Free education can reduce social inequality.</i>
an ageing population	<i>An ageing population puts pressure on pensions.</i>
urban areas	<i>More people now live in urban areas than rural ones.</i>
impose restrictions	<i>The council imposed restrictions on parking.</i>
community spirit	<i>Local festivals build community spirit.</i>
crime rates	<i>Better street lighting can lower crime rates.</i>