

Global Village exam practice – IELTS Club, 2005

Here is a task that presents both sides of an argument.

Some people argue that there are no fundamental differences between the way men and women approach academic study. Others insist that there are big differences in areas such as organisation, attitude and ambition, and that these differences inevitably have an impact on student life. What are your opinions on this?

1. Do you agree with one of the views presented in the task or do you think there are arguments for both?
2. Which of the words in the task will help you develop your main ideas?
3. Is this a general question about the differences between men and women?
4. How might the wording of the question help you organise your answer?
5. Do you have to organise your answer in this way?

Read this paragraph from a sample essay on the task.

Using the structure diagram below, extract the main ideas and the supporting points from **Paragraph b**.

Paragraph b

It has always seemed to me that men organise their study time in a different way from women. In my experience, men are more likely to study on their own, whereas women prefer to work in groups and agree certain principles about their assignments together. Obviously not everyone behaves in the same way but in my country, these patterns of behaviour are common. Also, in terms of time management, women generally have a more realistic view of how long certain tasks will take. Men, on the other hand, are prone to under-estimating the length of time they need for something and can end up spending a lot longer than anticipated.

Topic of paragraph

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graph TD; A[Topic of paragraph] --> B[Main ideas]; B --> C[Supporting points]; B --> D[Supporting points];
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Main ideas

Supporting points

Supporting points