

Sample 5: IELTS Writing Task 2 (Direct Question Essay)

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In recent years, many schools have started using artificial intelligence tools to support teaching and learning. Why is this happening? Do the benefits of this trend outweigh the drawbacks?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience. Write at least 250 words.

Answer for Score Band 7 Level

The integration of artificial intelligence into educational settings has accelerated in recent years, driven by technological advancements and changing demands in education. While this trend offers notable advantages, it also raises certain concerns that must be considered.

There are several reasons why schools are adopting AI tools. First, AI enables personalised learning by analysing individual student performance and adapting content to suit each learner's pace and ability. This is particularly valuable in large classrooms where teachers cannot always attend to every student individually. Second, AI reduces the administrative burden on educators by automating tasks such as grading and progress tracking, allowing teachers to spend more time on instruction. Additionally, the growing availability and decreasing cost of technology have made AI tools increasingly accessible to schools worldwide.

In terms of benefits and drawbacks, I believe the advantages outweigh the disadvantages. AI tools can identify learning gaps early and provide targeted support, improving student outcomes significantly. For example, platforms like Khan Academy have demonstrated how AI-driven feedback can raise attainment levels across diverse student populations. However, there are legitimate concerns. Over-reliance on technology may reduce students' ability to think critically without digital assistance. Furthermore, not all schools have equal access to AI resources, which risks widening existing educational inequalities.

Overall, while the drawbacks are real and should not be dismissed, the potential of AI to transform learning outcomes positively makes it a beneficial development in education, provided it is implemented thoughtfully and equitably.

Answer for Score Band 8 Level

The rapid adoption of artificial intelligence in schools reflects both the transformative potential of technology and a growing urgency to modernise educational systems. While this shift brings considerable promise, it is not without significant risks that warrant careful examination.

Schools are embracing AI primarily because it addresses longstanding limitations of traditional teaching. AI-powered platforms can deliver genuinely personalised learning experiences, continuously adapting to each student's strengths, weaknesses, and preferred learning style — something a single teacher managing thirty pupils cannot realistically achieve. Moreover, automation of administrative tasks such as assessment and attendance tracking frees educators to focus on higher-order pedagogical goals. The broader context of digital transformation across industries also creates pressure on educational institutions to equip students with AI literacy, making adoption feel not only beneficial but necessary.

On balance, I contend that the benefits outweigh the drawbacks, though only when implementation is thoughtfully managed. The capacity of AI to democratise quality education is perhaps its greatest asset; tools such as Duolingo and Carnegie Learning have demonstrated measurable improvements in language acquisition and mathematics, respectively, across socioeconomically diverse populations. Nevertheless, significant concerns remain. Excessive dependence on algorithmic feedback risks atrophying students' independent reasoning, and data privacy vulnerabilities introduce ethical dimensions that schools are often ill-equipped to navigate. The digital divide further threatens to entrench inequality rather than alleviate it.

In conclusion, AI holds genuine transformative potential for education, but realising this potential requires robust policy frameworks, equitable access, and a clear commitment to preserving human-centred teaching at its core.

Answer for Score Band 9 Level

The proliferation of artificial intelligence tools in schools is one of the most consequential developments in contemporary education. Understanding why this is occurring — and whether it ultimately serves learners well — requires moving beyond surface-level enthusiasm or reflexive scepticism.

Several converging forces explain this trend. Most fundamentally, AI addresses a structural inefficiency that has long constrained education: the impossibility of truly individualising instruction within a standardised classroom model. Adaptive learning systems can continuously recalibrate content difficulty, pacing, and feedback in ways no teacher, however skilled, can sustain across an entire cohort. Simultaneously, mounting pressure on schools to prepare students for AI-saturated workplaces has reframed adoption not merely as an enhancement but as an institutional responsibility. Declining costs and improving accessibility have removed what were once significant financial barriers, accelerating uptake across both well-resourced and developing educational contexts.

On the central question of whether benefits outweigh drawbacks, my view is an emphatic but conditional yes. AI's capacity to surface hidden learning difficulties early, personalise remediation, and extend quality instruction beyond affluent schools represents a genuinely democratising force. Research from Stanford's Learning Analytics group has indicated

measurable gains in student retention and comprehension through AI-assisted curricula. Yet the risks are non-trivial: algorithmic bias can systematically disadvantage already-marginalised students, data harvesting raises profound privacy concerns for minors, and the erosion of teacher-student relational dynamics carries costs that quantitative metrics rarely capture. Ultimately, AI in education is not inherently beneficial or harmful — its value depends entirely on the wisdom and equity with which it is deployed.