

# IELTS Writing Task 2 - Band 7 Sample Essay

Some people think that the best way to reduce crime is to give longer prison sentences. Others, however, believe there are better ways to reduce crime. Discuss both views and give your opinion.

## Model Band 7 Answer:

Crime is one of the most serious issues facing society today. While some people believe that extending prison sentences is the most effective way to deter criminals, others think that different social measures can help reduce crime more effectively. This essay will discuss both perspectives before giving my opinion.

On one hand, longer prison sentences can act as a strong deterrent. When people know that committing a crime may result in spending many years in prison, they may think twice before engaging in illegal activities. Furthermore, keeping dangerous criminals locked up for longer helps protect society from further harm. For example, repeat offenders and violent criminals pose less risk when confined for extended periods.

On the other hand, many experts argue that crime prevention should focus on addressing its root causes. Improving education, creating job opportunities, and reducing poverty can help people avoid turning to crime in the first place. Rehabilitation programs and community support also play a crucial role in helping former prisoners reintegrate into society. For instance, countries like Norway focus on rehabilitation rather than punishment and have significantly lower crime rates as a result.

In conclusion, although long prison terms can help prevent crime to some extent, I believe that tackling social issues such as poverty and lack of education is a more sustainable and humane way to reduce criminal behavior in the long run.

## Why Band 7?

- Task Response: Fully addresses all parts of the question with clear position throughout.
- Coherence and Cohesion: Well-organized with logical flow and effective use of linking phrases.
- Lexical Resource: Good range of vocabulary, mostly natural and precise.
- Grammar Range and Accuracy: Frequent use of complex structures with only occasional minor errors.