Writing Task 2

TASK 2 · QUESTION

The latest PISA results show that Malaysian 15-year-olds improved in reading and science but fell in mathematics. Some people believe international tests like PISA are a useful guide for improving schools, while others feel that too much attention is paid to rankings. Write an essay discussing how far international assessments such as PISA should shape education policy in Malaysia. Write at least 250 words. (Suggested time: 50 minutes)

OUTLINE

Thesis: PISA should inform education policy, but it should not control it.

- **Body 1 (value):** PISA tests the application of knowledge → the maths fall (–11 to 397) is an early warning about understanding, not memory.
- **Body 2 (limits):** one test cannot measure values, creativity or wellbeing → chasing rankings makes schools more exam-oriented; the minister's "one number" point.
- **Body 3 (best use):** treat PISA as a diagnostic tool → problems are specific (maths down, computational problem-solving above expectations) → targeted fixes.

Conclusion: a useful mirror; aim for better learning, not just better rankings.

SAMPLE ESSAY (written by our team for practice)

Every three years, the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) shows countries how their 15-year-olds compare with those elsewhere. The latest round, released on 8 September 2026, brought Malaysia mixed news: scores in reading and science rose slightly, but mathematics fell by 11 points to 397. Such results inevitably spark debate. In my view, PISA should inform our education policy, but it should not be allowed to control it.

On the one hand, PISA is valuable because it tests whether students can apply what they have learnt to real-life problems, rather than simply recall facts. A fall in mathematics is therefore an early warning that many students may be memorising methods without truly understanding them. Ignoring such evidence would be unwise, especially as weak mathematical foundations limit young people's choices in fields such as engineering and technology.

On the other hand, a single test cannot capture everything that schools achieve. Values, creativity, teamwork and wellbeing do not appear in any ranking. If policymakers chase a higher position at all costs, schools may become even more exam-oriented, which would defeat the purpose of the assessment. As the Education Minister herself noted, there is little value in reducing an entire generation of children to one number.

The wisest approach, then, is to use PISA as a diagnostic tool. The data suggest that Malaysia's problems are specific rather than general: mathematics slipped, yet the country did better than expected in the new computational problem-solving assessment. Policies can therefore target clear weaknesses, for example by giving teachers more time to build basic concepts and by guiding students to use devices and AI purposefully rather than as shortcuts.

In conclusion, PISA is a useful mirror that shows where our schools are strong and where they need help. Used carefully, it can guide sensible reforms; used obsessively, it could narrow education into a race for points. The goal should always be better learning, not merely better rankings.

± 320 words

Speaking

Part 1 · Individual presentation

PART 1 · SITUATION

The latest PISA results suggest that Malaysian students need to improve in mathematics. You have to give a presentation to your group members. You have 2 minutes to prepare and 2 minutes to talk.
Candidate A: Talk about why many students find mathematics difficult.

Four ideas you could develop:

- **Weak basics** – every new topic builds on the last, so gaps from primary school keep growing.
- **Memorising, not understanding** – students learn steps for exam questions but cannot handle unfamiliar problems.
- **Fear of mistakes** – the belief "I'm just not a maths person" stops students from trying.
- **Too little focused practice** – short practice time and phone distractions during homework.

Practise the other prompts too. B: Talk about how parents can support their children's learning. C: Talk about how teachers can make lessons more engaging. D: Talk about how technology affects students' learning.

Part 2 · Group discussion

PART 2 · QUESTION

Malaysian students' mathematics scores in PISA 2025 fell compared with 2022. You have 3 minutes to prepare. Discuss the ideas below, support or oppose each other's views, and try to decide on the best suggestion.
What is the best way to improve students' mathematics skills?

Idea (mind map)	Point for	Point to weigh
More practice time	Basic concepts need repetition to become fluent.	If it only means more homework, stress may rise and interest may fall.
Real-life problems	Shows why maths matters and builds the skills PISA tests.	Needs creative materials and extra lesson time.
Teacher training	One well-trained teacher helps hundreds of students over the years.	Costs money, and results are not immediate.
Parental involvement	Support and encouragement at home keep children on track.	Not all parents have the time or confidence in maths.
Learning apps	Personalised practice with instant feedback.	Risk of distraction, and not every student has access.

Writing Task 2

TASK 2 · QUESTION (spend about 50 minutes)

After the Asian Games, your college magazine is running a special feature on sport. The editor has invited students to respond to this statement:

"*Esports deserves the same recognition and funding as traditional sports.*"

Write an essay expressing your opinion on the statement. Write at least 250 words.

OUTLINE

- **Thesis:** Partly agree. Esports has earned equal *recognition*, but its *funding* should depend on results and good management, not be simply matched.
- **Body 1:** Esports needs real sporting qualities: training, reflexes, strategy and pressure. It is now a medal event with 11 events in 2026.
- **Body 2:** It opens doors for young people. Height and strength matter less, and the industry creates careers in coaching, events, broadcasting and game design.
- **Body 3 (concession):** Traditional sports get the wider public moving and need costly facilities. Public money should keep backing grassroots sport, while esports draws more private sponsors.
- **Conclusion:** Give esports equal respect now. Raise its funding as it proves it can protect young players, stop cheating and deliver results.

MODEL ESSAY · sample written by our team for practice

When a Malaysian sim racer stood on the top step of the podium at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games in September 2026, a question that once sounded absurd suddenly felt urgent: should esports be taken as seriously as football or badminton? In my view, esports clearly deserves equal recognition, but its funding should be tied to results and responsible management rather than simply matched with that of traditional sports.

To begin with, competitive gaming demands genuine sporting qualities. Elite players train for hours every day to sharpen their reflexes, study their opponents and make split-second decisions under intense pressure. The fact that esports is now a medal sport at the Asian Games, with eleven events this year, shows that major sporting bodies already accept it as a legitimate contest.

Furthermore, esports offers young Malaysians opportunities that traditional sports cannot always provide. Success does not depend heavily on height or physical strength, so talented players from many different backgrounds can compete on equal terms. Beyond playing, the industry creates careers in coaching, event management, broadcasting and game design, all of which suit a growing digital economy.

Nevertheless, it would be unwise to divide public money equally without considering the wider benefits of each sport. Traditional sports encourage physical activity across the whole population and require expensive facilities such as stadiums, tracks and swimming pools. Public funds should therefore continue to support grassroots programmes in schools and communities, while esports, which already attracts commercial interest, could rely more on private sponsors.

In conclusion, the gold medal in Japan proves that esports has earned its place, and its players deserve the same respect as any other athletes. However, recognition and funding are two separate matters.

Support should grow as esports shows that it can protect young players' welfare, prevent cheating and deliver results, so that every ringgit spent brings real value to the nation.

310 words

Speaking

Part 1: Individual presentation (2 minutes to prepare, 2 minutes to talk)

PART 1 · QUESTION

Situation: Malaysian athletes are competing at the 2026 Asian Games in Japan. Sport plays an important role in the life of a nation.
Candidate A: You have to give a presentation to your class. Talk about how sporting success can inspire young people.

- **Role models:** champions show that discipline and years of quiet practice pay off. Teenagers can relate when the winner is a young gamer or karateka.
- **More young people take part:** after a big win, many children want to try the sport, so clubs and school teams attract new members.
- **Unity:** Malaysians of every background cheer for the same athlete, which builds a shared sense of pride.
- **Life lessons:** athletes show how to handle pressure, bounce back from defeat and set clear goals. These skills also help in exams and careers.

Practise the other candidates' prompts too. **B:** Talk about the importance of sport in schools. **C:** Talk about why esports is popular among teenagers. **D:** Talk about how the government can help athletes succeed.

Part 2: Group discussion (3 minutes to prepare, 8–12 minutes to discuss)

PART 2 · QUESTION

Situation: Malaysia hopes to win more medals at future Asian Games. In your group, discuss how the country can best develop future champions. At the end of the discussion, try to decide on the best way.
Mind map, "How can Malaysia best develop future champions?": sports schools · better coaches · sponsorship · sports science · more competitions

Option	Point in favour	Point someone may raise against it
Sports schools	Spot talent early and combine daily training with schooling.	Places are limited. Young children may burn out if they are pushed too hard, too soon.
Better coaches	Expert coaching turns raw talent into results and raises the standard of the whole squad.	Highly qualified coaches, especially foreign ones, are expensive to hire and keep.
Sponsorship	Private money takes pressure off public funds and lets athletes train full-time.	Sponsors prefer popular sports, so smaller sports may be left behind.
Sports science	Performance data and analysis of recovery help athletes improve in small but vital ways.	It mainly helps elite athletes and needs specialists that many states lack.
More competitions	Regular tough matches build experience and a strong temperament.	Travel is costly, and packed calendars can lead to fatigue and injury.

Writing Task 2

TASK 2 · QUESTION (spend about 50 minutes)

During Career Week at your college, a speaker from an employers' association made the following comment:

"*A university degree no longer guarantees a good job.*"

Write an essay expressing your opinion on the statement. Write at least 250 words.

OUTLINE

- **Thesis:** Agree. A degree is still valuable, but on its own it no longer guarantees a well-paid, secure job. Skills, experience and adaptability now make the difference.
- **Body 1:** Evidence of underemployment: 32.2% of working graduates (2024), and 66.0% of those aged 24 and below, have jobs below their qualifications.
- **Body 2:** Employers want practical skills and experience that some courses do not provide. Technology and AI are changing entry-level work.
- **Body 3 (concession):** A degree still opens doors. Skilled workers earn far more on average (RM5,799 compared with RM2,714 for semi-skilled workers in 2025).
- **Conclusion:** Treat the degree as a starting point, not a guarantee. Add internships, digital skills and lifelong learning.

MODEL ESSAY · sample written by our team for practice

For many Malaysian families, a university degree has long been seen as a passport to a comfortable life. Today, however, that belief is being tested. While I still believe a degree is valuable, I agree that it no longer guarantees a good job on its own.

The clearest evidence is graduate underemployment. According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), 32.2 per cent of working graduates in 2024 were in jobs below their qualifications, and the figure was 66.0 per cent for graduates aged 24 and below. In other words, many young people with degrees are working as clerks, sales assistants or delivery riders while they wait for positions that match their studies.

One reason is that employers increasingly look beyond paper qualifications. They want graduates who can communicate confidently, work in teams, solve real problems and use digital tools from day one. Students who spend three or four years focusing only on examinations may find that they lack the practical experience recruiters demand. Internships, part-time work and active roles in clubs can make the difference between two candidates holding the same degree. At the same time, technology is changing many entry-level tasks, so graduates must keep learning long after their convocation day.

That said, it would be wrong to dismiss the value of higher education. DOSM's 2025 wage survey shows that skilled employees earned a mean of RM5,799 a month, compared with RM2,714 for semi-skilled workers. A degree is still one of the most common routes into these skilled jobs, and it trains people to think critically and learn independently.

In conclusion, a degree is best seen as a starting point rather than a guarantee. Young Malaysians who add internships, industry certificates and a habit of lifelong learning to their qualifications will be far better placed to secure the quality jobs they deserve.

304 words

Speaking

Part 1: Individual presentation (2 minutes to prepare, 2 minutes to talk)

PART 1 · QUESTION

Situation: Many young Malaysians hope to find well-paid, meaningful work when they finish their studies. Not every job, however, offers a good future.
Candidate A: You have to give a presentation to your class. Talk about the qualities of a good job.

- **Fair pay:** a salary that keeps up with the cost of living and rises as your skills grow.
- **Room to grow:** training, mentoring and a clear path for career progression.
- **Security and benefits:** a stable contract, EPF contributions and protection if something goes wrong.
- **Healthy workplace:** respectful managers, reasonable hours and time for family and rest.

Practise the other candidates' prompts too. **B:** Talk about how students can prepare for the job market. **C:** Talk about the effects of AI on young workers. **D:** Talk about why some graduates choose to work abroad.

Part 2: Group discussion (3 minutes to prepare, 8–12 minutes to discuss)

PART 2 · QUESTION

Situation: Youth unemployment in Malaysia is much higher than the national rate. In your group, discuss how young Malaysians can best be helped to find quality jobs. At the end of the discussion, try to decide on the best way.
Mind map, "How can young Malaysians best be helped to find quality jobs?": paid internships · TVET courses · career guidance · entrepreneurship · digital skills

Option	Point in favour	Point someone may raise against it
Paid internships	Students gain real experience, and employers can test and train future staff.	Small firms may not afford to pay interns, and some placements are just photocopying.
TVET courses	They train people for skilled technical jobs that industry needs.	Some parents still see TVET as a second choice, so enrolment may stay low.
Career guidance	Good advice early helps students choose courses that match both their talents and demand.	Counsellors often have too many students to give personal advice.
Entrepreneurship	Young people create jobs instead of only looking for them.	Many new businesses fail, and starting one needs capital and experience.
Digital skills	Almost every sector now needs people who can use data, software and AI tools.	Skills go out of date quickly, so training must be updated all the time.

Writing Task 2

TASK 2 · QUESTION (spend about 50 minutes)

Your college's environmental club is organising a forum on energy. The following statement has been chosen as the forum's theme:

"*Money spent on fuel subsidies would be better spent on public transport and clean energy.*"

Write an essay expressing your opinion on the statement. Write at least 250 words.

OUTLINE

- **Thesis:** Agree in principle. Spending should shift step by step, while targeted help stays in place for the people who need it most.
- **Body 1:** Subsidies are costly and depend on the oil price (close to RM40 billion expected in 2026). This money is spent every year and leaves nothing lasting behind.
- **Body 2:** Public transport and clean energy are long-term investments. They give cheaper travel, cleaner air and less dependence on imported fuel, in line with the NETR 2050 goals.
- **Body 3 (concession):** A sudden cut would hurt rural and lower-income families who have no alternatives, so targeted help like BUDI95 is still needed during the transition.
- **Conclusion:** Keep the help targeted and move savings gradually into buses, rail and renewables.

MODEL ESSAY · sample written by our team for practice

Every week, Malaysians check the new fuel prices with some anxiety. For most citizens, RON95 still costs RM1.99 a litre thanks to government subsidies, but that protection comes at a heavy price. I agree that much of the money spent on fuel subsidies would be better invested in public transport and clean energy, provided that the change is gradual and fair.

First of all, fuel subsidies have become an enormous and unpredictable expense. In July 2026, the government said it expected to spend close to RM40 billion on them this year, more than double the original allocation, because of turmoil in global oil markets. Money spent this way disappears at the pump. It builds nothing that will serve the country in the future. The bill also rises whenever global prices rise, leaving the national budget at the mercy of events far beyond our borders.

In contrast, spending on public transport and renewable energy is an investment. More bus routes, reliable trains and safe cycling lanes would give people cheaper ways to travel and reduce traffic congestion. Meanwhile, solar and other renewable sources would cut Malaysia's dependence on imported fuel and help the country reach its target of a 70 per cent renewable energy share by 2050. Every ringgit spent this way keeps paying off for decades.

However, subsidies cannot simply be switched off. In many rural areas, buses are rare and a motorcycle or car is the only way to get to work or school. A sudden price shock would hit lower-income families hardest. For this reason, targeted schemes such as BUDI95 remain necessary while better alternatives are being built.

In conclusion, fuel subsidies ease today's burden, but they do little for tomorrow. Malaysia should keep its help targeted at those in genuine need and steadily move the savings into public transport and clean energy, so that future generations inherit a cheaper, cleaner and more secure energy system.

318 words

Speaking

Part 1: Individual presentation (2 minutes to prepare, 2 minutes to talk)

PART 1 · QUESTION

Situation: Fuel prices around the world have risen sharply in 2026, and the government has urged the public to use fuel wisely.
Candidate A: You have to give a presentation to your class. Talk about ways families can reduce their fuel use.

- **Plan journeys:** combine errands into one trip and avoid peak-hour jams where engines idle for a long time.
- **Share rides:** carpool to school or work with neighbours and split the cost.
- **Switch modes:** use buses, trains, walking or cycling for short, regular trips.
- **Look after the vehicle:** correct tyre pressure and regular servicing help a car use less fuel.

Practise the other candidates' prompts too. **B:** Talk about why public transport is not popular in some towns. **C:** Talk about the benefits of solar energy for homes. **D:** Talk about the role of students in protecting the environment.

Part 2: Group discussion (3 minutes to prepare, 8–12 minutes to discuss)

PART 2 · QUESTION

Situation: Malaysia wants to depend less on petrol and diesel. In your group, discuss how the use of private cars can best be reduced. At the end of the discussion, try to decide on the best way.
Mind map, "How can we best reduce the use of private cars?": cheaper public transport · more bus routes · carpooling apps · cycling lanes · working from home

Option	Point in favour	Point someone may raise against it
Cheaper public transport	Lower fares quickly attract people who already live near a station.	It does not help people who have no bus or train near their homes.
More bus routes	They connect housing areas to stations, which solves the "last mile" problem.	Buses stuck in traffic are slow unless they have their own lanes.
Carpooling apps	Cheap to set up, they fill empty seats in cars that are already on the road.	Some people worry about safety and about sharing with strangers.
Cycling lanes	They are clean, cheap and healthy for short trips.	The heat, the rain and unsafe roads put many people off.
Working from home	Every day at home removes a whole journey.	Only certain office jobs can be done from home.

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