IELTS Word List

Vocabulary List

Vocabulary and example	Write it

taxpayer n. /'tækspeɪə/

a person or company that pays tax

Use it with: taxpayers' money

The new stadium was paid for by **taxpayers**.

public spending phrase /'pʌblɪk 'spendɪŋ/

money that the government spends on services such as schools and hospitals

Family: government spending (n.) **Use it with:** cut public spending · increase public spending

Public spending on health has doubled since 2000.
2000

public services phrase /'pʌblɪk 'sɜ:vɪsɪz/

services such as hospitals, schools and police that the government provides

Use it with: improve public services · fund public services

Rural areas often have fewer **public services**.

ban v./n. /bæn/

to officially forbid something

Use it with: ban smoking · impose a ban · a ban on **Tip:** A ban on something; to ban someone from doing something.

Several cities have **banned** cars from their centres.

election n. /ɪ'lekʃn/

a time when people vote to choose a leader or government

Family: elect (v.) **Use it with:** a general election · win an election

The **election** will be held in May.

vote v./n. /vəʊt/

to show your choice officially, for example in an election

Family: voter (n.) **Use it with:** vote for · the right to vote

Young people are less likely to **vote**.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

democracy n. /dɪ'mɒkrəsi/

a system of government in which people choose their leaders by voting

Family: democratic (adj.) **Use it with:** a modern democracy

Democracy depends on free and fair elections.

citizen n. /'sɪtɪzn/

a person who has the legal right to live in a country

Family: citizenship (n.) **Use it with:** ordinary citizens · senior citizens

Every **citizen** has the right to free schooling.

politician n. /ˌpɒlɪ'tɪʃn/

a person whose job is in politics, often as an elected member

Family: politics (n.) · political (adj.) **Use it with:** local politicians · political parties

Politicians often make promises before elections.

council n. /'kaʊnsl/

a group of elected people who run a town or city

Family: councillor (n.) **Use it with:** the local council · council tax

The city **council** voted to build a new library.

social security phrase /'səʊʃl sɪ'kjʊərɪti/

money the government pays to people who are ill, old or without work

Family: benefits (n.) **Use it with:** social security payments

Social security protects people who lose their jobs.

free of charge phrase /fri: ɒv tʃɑ:dʒ/

costing nothing

Use it with: be free of charge · provided free of charge **Tip:** Do not say "free of cost".

Museums in London are **free of charge**.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

privatise v. /ˈpraɪvətaɪz/

to sell a state-owned business or service to ordinary companies

Family: privatisation (n.) **Use it with:** privatise public services **Tip:** Opposite: nationalise.

The government **privatised** the railways in the 1990s.

1990s

public sector phrase /ˈpʌblɪk ˈsektə/

the part of the economy that the government owns and controls

Family: private sector (n.) **Use it with:** public-sector workers **Tip:** Opposite: the private sector.

Teachers and nurses work in the **public sector**.

bureaucracy n. /bjʊəˈrɒkrəsi/

complicated official rules and paperwork that slow things down

Family: bureaucratic (adj.) **Use it with:** cut bureaucracy · red tape

Too much **bureaucracy** stops small businesses from growing.

corruption n. /kəˈrʌpʃn/

dishonest behaviour by people in power, such as taking money

Family: corrupt (adj.) **Use it with:** fight corruption

Corruption wastes public money.

transparency n. /trænˈspærənsi/

being open and honest so that people can see what is done

Family: transparent (adj.) **Use it with:** greater transparency

Voters want more **transparency** about how taxes are spent.

accountable adj. /əˈkaʊntəbl/

responsible for your actions and expected to explain them

Family: accountability (n.) **Use it with:** be held accountable · accountable to

Governments must be **accountable** to the people.

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Vocabulary and example	Write it

policymaker n. /ˈpɒlɪsɪmeɪkə/

a person who decides official plans for a government or organisation

Use it with: government policymakers **Tip:** Also written policy-maker.

Policymakers must listen to teachers before changing exams.

law and order phrase /lɔː ænd ˈɔːdə/

a situation in which people obey the law and are safe

Use it with: maintain law and order

The new mayor promised to restore **law and order**.

census n. /ˈsensəs/

an official count of a country's population

Use it with: a national census · census data

The **census** is taken every ten years.

national service phrase /ˈnæʃənl ˈsɜːvɪs/

a period when young people must serve in the army or do community work

Family: military service (n.) **Use it with:** do national service

Some countries still have compulsory **national service**.

welfare state phrase /ˈwelfeə steɪt/

a system in which the government pays for health care, pensions and support for poor people

Use it with: the modern welfare state

The **welfare state** was created after the Second World War.

law-maker n. /lɔː ˈmeɪkə/

a person who makes laws, such as a member of parliament

Use it with: law-makers debate · law-makers pass **Tip:** Also written lawmaker.

Law-makers are debating a new data law.

Vocabulary and example	Write it

government funding phrase /ˈgʌvənmənt ˈfʌndɪŋ/

money given by the government to pay for something

Use it with: receive government funding

The museum relies on **government funding**.

infrastructure project phrase /ˈɪnfrəstrʌktʃə ˈprɒdʒekt/

a large building plan such as a new road, railway or power station

Use it with: a major infrastructure project

The high-speed railway is the country's biggest **infrastructure project**.

tackle v. /ˈtækl/

to deal with a difficult problem

Use it with: tackle a problem · tackle climate change **Tip:** Very common in Task 2: "tackle the problem of…".

The government must **tackle** youth unemployment.

parliament n. /ˈpɑːləmənt/

the group of elected people who make the laws of a country

Family: parliamentary (adj.) **Use it with:** a member of parliament

Parliament passed the new law last week.

public interest phrase /ˈpʌblɪk ˈɪntrest/

what is good for people in general

Use it with: in the public interest

Is it in the **public interest** to publish these photos?

pressure group phrase /ˈpreʃə gruːp/

an organised group that tries to change government decisions

Family: lobby (n./v.) **Use it with:** an environmental pressure group

A **pressure group** is campaigning for safer cycle lanes.

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