LEARNING METHODS

2 year roadmap from IELTS Writing band 4 to 9

Nguyen Thao Le

Here's a detailed 2-year roadmap for an IELTS student starting at band 4.5 to reach band 9 in writing. The plan is divided into phases, each focusing on different aspects of writing, critical thinking, and lexical resource skills. Each week will have specific tasks and objectives.

Year 1: Foundation and Intermediate Skills

Months 1-3: Building Basics

Weeks 1-4: Understanding IELTS Writing Tasks

- Learn the structure of IELTS Writing Task 1 and Task 2.
- Analyze sample essays of different bands.
- Book: "The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS" (IELTS Preparation)

Weeks 5-8: Grammar and Sentence Structure

- Focus on basic grammar: tenses, subject-verb agreement, articles.
- Practice writing simple and compound sentences.
- Book: "English Grammar in Use" by Raymond Murphy

Weeks 9-12: Vocabulary Building

- Start a vocabulary journal.
- Learn 5-10 new words daily, focusing on academic and high-frequency words.
- Book: "Word Power Made Easy" by Norman Lewis

Months 4-6: Enhancing Paragraph Writing

Weeks 13-16: Paragraph Structure

- Learn to write clear topic sentences.
- Practice supporting ideas with examples and explanations.
- Book: "Great Writing 2: Great Paragraphs" by Keith S. Folse

Weeks 17-20: Coherence and Cohesion

- Use cohesive devices (e.g., moreover, therefore, however).
- Practice linking ideas within and between paragraphs.
- Book: "Advanced Writing with English in Use" by Hugh Cory

Weeks 21-24: Critical Thinking Basics

- Understand the importance of arguments and counterarguments.
- Analyze simple texts for their argumentative structure.
- Book: "Critical Thinking Skills" by Stella Cottrell

Months 7-9: Developing Essay Writing Skills

Weeks 25-28: Introduction to Essay Writing

- Learn different types of essays (e.g., opinion, discussion, problem-solution).
- Write one essay per week and get feedback.
- Book: "IELTS Writing Task 2" by Simon Braverman

Weeks 29-32: Thesis Statements and Introductions

- Practice writing strong thesis statements.
- Learn different strategies for writing introductions.
- Book: "They Say, I Say: The Moves That Matter in Academic Writing" by Gerald Graff and Cathy Birkenstein

Weeks 33-36: Developing Body Paragraphs

- Focus on developing body paragraphs with clear arguments.
- Practice using evidence and examples effectively.
- Book: "Writing Academic English" by Alice Oshima and Ann Hogue

Months 10-12: Refining Writing Skills

Weeks 37-40: Argument Development

- Strengthen the development of arguments and counterarguments.
- Practice writing balanced essays.
- Book: "The Elements of Academic Style" by Eric Hayot

Weeks 41-44: Advanced Grammar and Complex Sentences

- Learn to use advanced grammar structures: relative clauses, conditionals, passive voice.
- Incorporate complex sentences into writing.
- Book: "Advanced Grammar in Use" by Martin Hewings

Weeks 45-48: Timed Writing Practice

- Practice writing essays under timed conditions.
- Analyze and review your own writing critically.
- Book: "IELTS Writing Band 9 Essays" by Cambridge IELTS Consultants

Year 2: Advanced Skills and Intensive Practice

Months 1-3: Enhancing Argumentation and Style

Weeks 49-52: Stylistic Improvements

- Focus on writing style: tone, formality, conciseness.
- Practice rewriting and editing essays for style.
- Book: "Style: Lessons in Clarity and Grace" by Joseph M. Williams

Weeks 53-56: Argumentation Techniques

- Learn advanced argumentation techniques: analogies, rhetorical questions.
- Practice incorporating these techniques into essays.
- Book: "A Rulebook for Arguments" by Anthony Weston

Weeks 57-60: Advanced Vocabulary

- Expand vocabulary with advanced and subject-specific words.
- Practice using new vocabulary in essays.
- Book: "The Vocabulary Builder Workbook" by Chris Lele

Months 4-6: Focused Practice on Task 1 and Task 2

Weeks 61-66: Mastering Task 1 (Academic)

- Practice different types of graphs, charts, and diagrams.
- Focus on summarizing and comparing data.
- Book: "IELTS Academic Writing: How To Write 8+ Answers for the IELTS Exam!" by Daniella Moyla

Weeks 67-72: Task 2 Intensive Practice

- Write and review two essays per week.
- Focus on refining arguments, coherence, and cohesion.
- Book: "Improve Your IELTS Writing Skills" by Sam McCarter and Norman Whitby

Months 7-9: Feedback and Improvement

Weeks 73-76: Peer Review and Feedback

- Exchange essays with peers for feedback.
- Focus on incorporating constructive feedback.
- Book: "IELTS Writing: Task 2 Essays: 100 Essays with Model Answers" by Mark Griffiths

Weeks 77-80: Tutor Feedback

- Work with a tutor to get personalized feedback.
- Revise essays based on tutor's advice.
- Book: "IELTS Practice Tests Plus 2" by Morgan Terry and Judith Wilson

Weeks 81-84: Self-Assessment and Reflection

- Analyze your progress.
- Identify and work on weak areas.
- Book: "IELTS Advantage: Writing Skills" by Richard Brown and Lewis Richards

Months 10-12: Final Preparation

Weeks 85-88: Intensive Practice and Mock Tests

- Take full-length IELTS writing mock tests.
- Focus on time management and accuracy.
- Book: "The Complete Guide to IELTS" by Bruce Rogers

Weeks 89-92: Review and Refine

- Review all essays written.
- Focus on perfecting structure, style, and arguments.
- Book: "IELTS Superpack" by Lin Lougheed

Weeks 93-96: Final Mock Tests and Strategy Review

- Take final mock tests.
- Review strategies for test day.
- Book: "IELTS Trainer" by Cambridge English Language Assessment

Additional Tips:

- Consistent Practice: Write regularly and seek feedback.
- Reading: Read academic articles, essays, and high-level opinion pieces to enhance understanding of different writing styles.
- Online Resources: Use online platforms like IELTS Liz, Simon, and the British Council for additional practice and tips.

Wish you have sufficient extrinsic and intrinsic motivation to follow this path till the end.