

Strategies to write on international exams for tourism students

M.T.E.F.L. Andrea Sofía Ribadeneira
Vacacela

July 08th, 2025



**Top Exam Tips for
International
Students**



Understand the Exam Format and Task Types

Familiarize with question types: essays, short answers, summaries, and emails.

- Know if the exam includes:
 - Opinion essays
 - Descriptive or narrative texts
 - Graph/chart interpretation
 - Email or letter writing related to tourism scenarios



- Fuente:
<https://rashidfaridi.com/2017/03/03/basic-approaches-to-the-study-of-tourism-geography/>

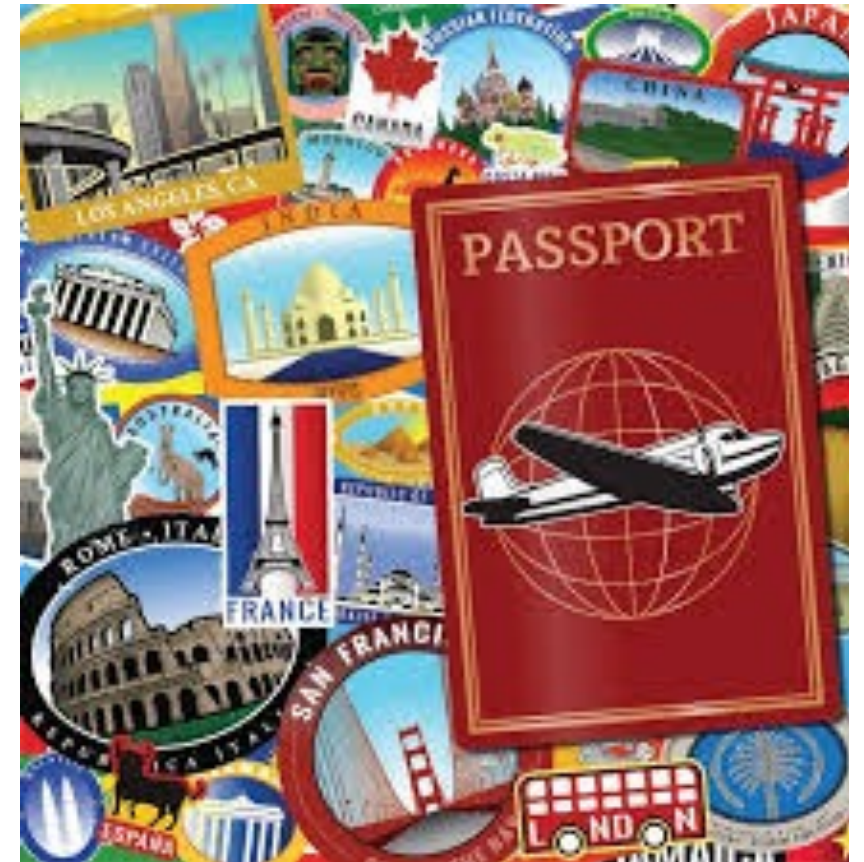


Use Topic-Specific Vocabulary

Learn **technical vocabulary for tourism**, such as:

- *Eco-tourism, sustainable travel, cultural heritage, inbound/outbound tourism, tour operator, travel agency, itinerary, customer service, hospitality management.*

Include these naturally in writing to show domain knowledge.



Use Writing Templates

Have **structured templates** to rely on:

Example: *Opinion Essay Template*

1. **Introduction:** Paraphrase the question + thesis statement
2. **Body 1:** First main point + example (e.g., tourism in Ecuador)
3. **Body 2:** Second main point + data or experience
4. **Conclusion:** Restate thesis + final opinion

Name: _____ Date: _____

My Hamburger Writing Template

Topic Sentence: _____

Detail 1: _____

Detail 2: _____

Detail 3: _____

Conclusion: _____

Plan Before Writing

Spend 3–5 minutes outlining ideas.

- Focus on **clarity**, **organization**, and **coherence**.
- Use bullet points to organize tourism-related examples (like describing an eco-tourism initiative in the Galápagos).



Use Connectors and Linking Words

- **To show contrast:** however, on the other hand, although
- **To add information:** in addition, moreover, also
- **To give examples:** for instance, such as, in particular
- **To conclude:** in summary, to conclude, overall

 Connectors List				
Cause & Effect	Comparison	Contrast	Persuasion	Opinion
Because Since For So Consequently Therefore Thus Hence Owing to As a result of Causes As a consequence of Leads to Contributes to Brings about Results in Because of this For this reason Stems from Comes from Results from Is the result of Is the consequence of Is due to Is caused by	Equally As with Likewise In the same way Similarly Like Of contrast Despite this In comparison In contrast Even though	However Nevertheless Alternatively Despite this On the contrary Yet Whereas Apart from Even so Although In spite of While	Of course Clearly Evidently Surely Indeed Undoubtedly Decidedly Certainly For this reason Besides Again	I think I believe I feel In my opinion In my view As far as I know It seems likely It seems to me In my experience I believe that As for me, I think If I am not mistaken What I mean is I'd say that Personally, I think
	Conclusion	Illustration	Addition	Emphasis
	To conclude In conclusion Finally On the whole Summarising Overall To sum up Evidently	For example Such as For instance Such as In other words An instance As revealed by To show that In the case of As an example For one thing	And Also In addition Further Furthermore Besides In addition to Moreover Additionally Not only ... but also Then Again Finally	Significantly Notably In particular In fact To be sure Truly Actually In reality As it happens
 www.englishstudyhere.com				

Fuente: <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/211174969416132/>

Practice with Authentic Tourism Topics



Think to write about:

- Promoting a tourist destination
- Writing emails to travel clients
- Describing a travel itinerary or booking process
- Giving opinions on sustainable tourism

Fuente:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0160738321002279>

Abstract: Authenticity is one of the oldest and most debated concepts in tourism studies.

Proofread Smartly

Leave 3 minutes to check for:

- Verb tense agreement
- Subject-verb agreement
- Word choice (avoid informal words)
- Punctuation and spelling

Editing Tips & Techniques



**Keep your voice
active**



**Re-reading is a
good thing to do**



**Make changes line
by line**



Read aloud



**Avoid repetitive
language**



**Substitute
positive for
negative**



**Filler words
should be
eliminated**

Practice Sheet 1: Email to a Client

You work for *Discover Ecuador Tours*. A client from Canada is traveling to Quito and wants to visit natural attractions, taste traditional food, and stay at an eco-friendly hotel.

Write an email of 100–120 words recommending:

- A tourist attraction
- Traditional food to try
- Eco-friendly hotel accommodation
- Transportation suggestion

Practice Sheet 2: Opinion Essay

Many people believe that tourism helps improve the economy of a country, while others think it can damage local culture and the environment.

Write an essay in 150–200 words giving your opinion.

Include:

- Introduction with thesis statement
- Two body paragraphs with examples
- A conclusion

Practice Sheet 3: Descriptive Report

Your travel agency is preparing a report for international tourists on a popular **tourist route in Ecuador** (e.g., the Avenue of the Volcanoes or the Amazon Rainforest Route).

- **Write a report of 150–180 words** describing:
- The location of the route
- Key activities and attractions
- Transportation options
- Tips for responsible tourism

Practice Sheet 4: Advantages and Disadvantages Essay

International tourism has grown rapidly in the past decades. What are the advantages and disadvantages of this development for developing countries like Ecuador?

Write an essay of 250–300 words.

Include:

- Introduction
- 1 paragraph for advantages
- 1 paragraph for disadvantages
- Conclusion

Practice Sheet 5: Problem-Solution Essay

Many popular tourist destinations are becoming overcrowded, which causes problems for local communities and the environment. What are the main problems caused by over-tourism, and what solutions can be implemented?

Write an essay of 250–300 words.

Include:

- Introduction
- 1 paragraph about problems
- 1 paragraph about solutions
- Conclusion