

Integrated Task

Give yourself 3 minutes to read the passage. Then listen to the lecture on the CD. The lecture will take about 2 minutes. Don't forget to take notes as you listen and read. You should begin thinking about your planning as you do this. Then write an essay in response to the question within 20 minutes. Use the space on the following pages.

Divide your writing time like this:

Step 1	PLAN	3 minutes
Step 2	WRITE	14 minutes
Step 3	REVISE	3 minutes



Read the passage for three minutes.

The presence of technology in schools has greatly increased over the past two decades. More and more classrooms are equipped with computers and wireless technology, with the aim of boosting academic achievement. How far has technology gone toward reaching this goal?

The perceived benefits of classroom technology are several. According to many educators, one of the greatest advantages is that it provides a variety of learning tools, making it easy to address different learning styles. It allows students to experience a topic in verbal, written, spatial, quantitative, and graphical ways. Students can take in and use information in the ways that make most sense to them. Technology also helps teachers expand the boundaries of the classroom. Through use of the Internet, students can connect with people and ideas anywhere in the world.

In order to receive these benefits, however, technology must actually be used. Surveys have found that only a low percentage of teachers use technology on a regular basis, and that as many as half of all teachers never use it at all. Many teachers who do use technology do not use it to its fullest advantage. Rather, the tendency is to use computers to do the same things that can be done with pencil and paper.

Studies have shown that, properly used, technology does boost academic achievement. It has also been shown that teacher training can make the difference. In one study, teachers who received training in classroom use of technology used it regularly and used it in ways that developed higher-order thinking skills in their students. This study also showed that students in these classrooms scored higher on math tests than their peers in other classrooms. School systems, therefore, need to focus on training teachers in addition to equipping classrooms with computers.



Warning

Study the models carefully. Analyze them completely. **Do NOT memorize them.** Your writing will not be scored if it matches an essay in this book. Your writing on the TOEFL iBT must be your **OWN** original work.



Note

Models for these practice tasks can be found in the Appendix. Remember, there is no one correct response. If you follow the steps outlined in the previous chapters, you will be able to write an appropriate response that is your own, original work.