**IELTS Common mistakes**

1. Not meeting the word count – can lose up to 2 band scores (TA)
2. Using repetitive language and ideas (TA/ CC/ LR)
3. Writing long and confusing sentences, which are difficult for the reader to follow. (GA)
4. Not developing or supporting arguments and ideas. (TA)
5. Simply describing or reporting data in the table/ graph and not main trends. – plain description = 5 (TA)
6. Copying chunks of language from the question – big mistake (TA)
7. Not leaving enough time to check for ‘silly’ mistakes e.g. Verb agreements, purals, tense formation. (GR)
8. Using signposting/ advanced language excessively or inappropriately – besides, moreover correct use required. (TA/ LR)
9. Changing the argument halfway through the essay or not establishing a position clearly. (TA)
10. Using incorrect word types (e.g. noun instead of an adverb), which leads to confusing and incoherent language. (LR/ GR)

Other notes:

Timings

Risk takers do better than playing it safe.

Steer away from colloquialisms, but idioms are ok

Avoid confusion. Confused examiner = dropped marks

Handwriting is important. If the examiner can’t read it = dropped marks