

Sample Candidate Writing Scripts and Examiner Comments

Both the Academic and General Training Writing Modules consist of two tasks, Task 1 and Task 2. Each task is assessed independently. The assessment of Task 2 carries more weight in marking than Task 1.

Detailed performance descriptors have been developed which describe written performance at the nine IELTS bands. These descriptors apply to both the Academic and General Training Modules.

Task 1 scripts are assessed on the following criteria:

- Task Achievement
- Coherence and Cohesion
- Lexical Resource
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Task 2 scripts are assessed on the following criteria:

- Task Response
- Coherence and Cohesion
- Lexical Resource
- Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Candidates should note that scripts may be penalised if they are a) under the minimum word length, b) partly or wholly plagiarised, c) not written as full, connected text (e.g. using bullet points in any part of the response, or note form, is not appropriate, etc.).

Task 1

Task Achievement

This criterion assesses how appropriately, accurately and relevantly the response fulfils the requirements set out in the task, using the minimum of 150 words.

General Training Writing Task 1 is a writing task with a largely predictable output in that each task sets out the context and purpose of the letter and the functions the candidate should cover in order to achieve this purpose.

Coherence and Cohesion

This criterion is concerned with the overall clarity and fluency of the message: how the response organises and links information, ideas and language. Coherence refers to the linking of ideas through logical sequencing. Cohesion

refers to the varied and appropriate use of cohesive devices (for example, logical connectors, pronouns and conjunctions) to assist in making the conceptual and referential relationships between and within sentences clear.

Lexical Resource

This criterion refers to the range of vocabulary the candidate has used and the accuracy and appropriacy of that use in terms of the specific task.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy

This criterion refers to the range and accurate use of the candidate's grammatical resource as manifested in the candidate's writing at sentence level.

Task 2

Task Response

In both Academic and General Training Modules, Task 2 requires the candidates to formulate and develop a position in relation to a given prompt in the form of a question or statement. Ideas should be supported by evidence, and examples may be drawn from the candidates' own experience. Responses must be at least 250 words in length.

Writing scripts are marked by trained and certificated IELTS examiners. Scores may be reported as whole bands or half-bands.

On the next 17 pages you will find candidates' answers to four sample Writing tasks. There are answers for each Writing task. Each answer has been awarded a band score and is accompanied by an examiner comment on the candidate's performance for that task.

The examiners' guidelines for marking the Writing scripts are very detailed. There are many different ways a candidate may achieve a particular band score. The candidates' answers that follow should not be regarded as definitive examples of any particular band score.

Please refer to the [public band descriptors for Writing](#).

General Training Writing Sample Task 1A

Sample Script A

5th. March 1996

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to express my dissatisfaction with my room-mate. As you know we share one room, I can not study in the room ^{at all} any more if I still stay there.

She always has friend visiting and has parties in the room. They make lots of noise and switch on the radio very loudly, for me this environment is very difficult to study and I need a quiet room. Even borrows my things without asking, it is very impolite.

I request you can give me a new room next term because I have been asked her has parties in other place many times they still have parties in the room. I really can not stay in the same room with her.

I would be grateful if you could change me a single room.

Your faithfully,
Catherine

Examiner comment

Band 5

There is some repetition of the task rubric, and the content of the letter is rather thin, in terms of its coverage of the third bullet point especially. The organisation of ideas is not wholly logical. Despite these problems, the introduction to the letter is appropriate and the purpose of the writer is clear. The points are not always linked together well and punctuation is sometimes faulty. The sentences are kept quite simple and mistakes occur as soon as more complex structures are attempted.

General Training Writing Sample Task 1A

Sample Script B

Accommodation Officer
13, Kings Road
Edinburgh

Dear Sir, Dear Madam,

I am writing you to express my dissatisfaction with my room mate and request for another accommodation next term.

My main problem is that I cannot study in my room because my room-mate always has friends visiting. He also has parties, which usually ends early in the morning, several times a week. Furthermore he often borrows my things without asking me. I cannot accept this situation any longer. Especially because I have very important exams next term and I really must study hard. This is why I would be very grateful if I could have another room next term. It would be most convenient for me if I didn't have to share my room with somebody else.

I am looking forward to hear from you soon.

yours faithfully,
Janis Johnson

Examiner comment

Band 7

Although ideas are often provided in the task rubric, candidates are at liberty to include some of their own ideas in their answers. In this case, the candidate has attempted to incorporate some original material. The answer reads quite fluently, is well organised and there is good use of conjunctions to link points. There are some grammatical errors but these do not affect the reader greatly and there is evidence of some more complex sentence structures.

General Training Writing Sample Task 1B

Sample Script A

DEAR SIR OR MADAM

The local public library wants to make improvements to their services and facilities. In order to get ideas the public. The local public library need to bring old and new book from all countries. That is the because All people want to know for the world stories

The local public library want to big space for cabinet to put good type line for the books. There is a result because when people come to the library to get a book easily. Your library don't have book properly because their are one book is another place and another is another line so not get a easeur.

The every book put line with each country to gather an year. Put different different year put separate. Then your library put cline and good type and good man. Even you can put man to give people serv's at home to delivered for book some old people are problem to come your library to write books that is my opinion for your local public library want

Your Sincerely

Examiner comment

Band 3

With some effort, the reader can discern ideas related to two of the bullet points but the first bullet is not covered. There is a definite attempt to address the task but the purpose of the letter is not clear, the key features are not all covered, and there is repetition of the minimal ideas produced. The test taker has not organised these ideas in any logical way and, although linkers are present, they are not always used correctly and fail to help the reader follow the message. The lexical resource is also inadequate for the task. There is severe distortion of meaning in some parts of the answer due to errors in word choice, form and spelling; some words cannot be deciphered. There is an effort to produce sentences but this is often unsuccessful. Overall, errors predominate and there are no correct sentences, other than those that rely on the input material. This is a good example of a Band 3 performance.

General Training Writing Sample Task 1B

Sample Script B

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm going to suggest some of my ideas about our local library. First of all I would like to have a bigger parking space so that it will be more easier for those who use the library. This parking space can be done underneath the library which it will be provided with a lift. I think that this is the main problem for those who come to the library because everyone talks about it and argue for the timewasting to park the car around so by means of this idea the main problem can be solved. Another thing that I want to see ^{to be} ganged is to give the place a new look because it has been like this for at least 25 years. I would suggest to make a new referbishment ~~and~~ to like painting, carpentry work and more natural light especially inside by means of ~~to~~ big windows and sky lights. I even suggest that there can ~~also~~ be a small lift because older people can take advantage of this too.

In conclusion the customer care section must be prepared also to help people finding books more quicker and give them some advice as well so that this local public library will be more efficient to all kind of people

Examiner comment

Band 5.5

The test taker has made a good attempt at addressing the task but unfortunately the first bullet point is completely omitted and this reduces the rating for Task Achievement. Other key features are highlighted and well covered. The response has quite a natural, clear progression, although some paragraphing would assist this. There is a good range of cohesive devices that have been used appropriately and some good examples of referencing. Despite the range and effective use of lexis, there are noticeable spelling errors, but they only rarely impede communication. Sentence types are mixed and there are many attempts at subordination, but control is uneven and there are punctuation errors. Although the response shows some features of higher-level performance, the omission of key parts of the task limits the overall band to 5.5.

General Training Writing Sample Task 1B

Sample Script C

Dear Sir or Madam,

This is in reference to your enquiry regarding the suggestions to library I would like give opinion in this regard. I visited the library so many times and found facilities and problem side by side.

A library must consist of substantial amount of books, CDs and cassettes. These material should be placed and organised in a scientific manner so that most of the people can be benefited in the same time. In your library

I liked the numbers of books you have. It almost covers the major part of the requirement of people but the availability of the books at the right place and time is the biggest concern. In library seating arrangements are very good too. The opening and closing timing really suits the people.

But, the situation is not at its best. You do not have the facility of electronic material which you normally find now a days. As I said the placement of books must be given attention. I have also faced problems when wanted to take away the books. You should relax the problem in this procedure.

Library should be calm and safe. All the books should be arranged as per catalog. This sequential arrangement will not only ease the pressure on staff but also reduce the complaints. More electronic equipments should include in the library facilities and matter available in the shelves.

Thanking you for your efforts to improve the services for the betterment of the people in the locality.

Examiner comment

Band 6.5

The test taker covers all the task requirements and states the purpose of the letter. The tone, though assertive, is consistently polite. The key features are highlighted and extended but this could be more appropriately dealt with in some areas. There is a clear overall progression, but the arrangement of ideas within paragraphs at times detracts from the clarity of the letter. At other times, the sentences are not as fluently linked as they might be. There is a good range of vocabulary that is more than adequate. Although there are errors in collocation and word choice, there are also many examples of accurate choice and appropriate modification. A mix of simple and complex structures is used, but mistakes in punctuation and in areas such as article use, subject-verb agreements, etc. limit the rating for this criterion. This response shows some features of higher-level performance, but weaknesses in organisation and grammatical control limit the rating to Band 6.5.

General Training Writing Sample Task 1B

Sample Script D

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter to express my opinion about library services and send some suggestions to improve your operation. I have been using your library services for 25 years and even my son has started to use it ^{as well}. I really enjoy of your personnel staff and the way they serve the library users. They are always polite, friendly and easy find what you want to. The library is equipped with the comfortable furniture which helps user to feel freely and work efficient. You also have the reading room with the daily newspapers, magazines and other informative resources. I really appreciate all above-mentioned things in your library. But, I have some concerns I would like to share with you. The thing is I can not find anymore the recent edition books or books of authors of the current century. Of course, I understand we can always find them in the bookstores or in Internet. But everybody will agree with me that there is a great pleasure to read a book alive than in computer or others resources. So, it would be nice if you check with your management to update it. And plus, I know, it would be costly but may be saving your time, to buy a computer and load a data base of your collection of books. We live and work in the 21st of century.

That is all I would like to share with you.

Yours faithfully,

Examiner comment

Band 6.5

The purpose of the letter is clearly stated and all three bullet points are highlighted and developed. However, the final bullet and the closing section of the letter could be more fully or more appropriately extended. The presentation of information is clear throughout and cohesive devices, referencing and substitution are flexibly used, with occasional error. The absence of paragraphs prevents the award of a higher band for this criterion. Vocabulary is also used with some flexibility and there is a good range, with evidence that the test taker can use less common expressions and has an awareness of collocation. There is occasional error in word form and choice. Although a variety of structures is apparent, with a mix of simple and complex sentences, the level and regularity of errors in articles, prepositions and some verb phrases limit the rating for this criterion. The density of grammatical error prevents this response from fully satisfying the descriptors of the higher band, so Band 6.5 is awarded.

General Training Writing Sample Task 2A

Sample Script A

who should be responsible for our people.

It's true that the old people's situation gets worse in the many countries. The first question must be what they want and what they need? Especially their necessity, are more benefit more respect more quiet life.

If they have been working for a long time, in the any company or in the public sector, and when they get old that's means when they retire's time, company or government must be responsible of their welfare, it's just my opinion. They should take care of them.

In addition to company or government. If they have a good money they can look after themselves, we can do something to make easier their life.

For example an organization, or a voluntary association, unions.

The families or relatives's ~~best~~ responsibility depends on their wealthy situations.

If they could do, they should do anything.

Governments or their former ~~work~~ place could supply them with life insurance and a good Social Security Policy.

The Social Community Center or old age pensioner like in the Britain, are very useful for them.

For all of them life is hard and gets harder in their old ages.

They expect more attention for and good life.

The old people, if don't want lost them, we should do anything that we are able to do.

I: BOZTIL

P. BOZTIL

Examiner comment

Band 5

There are quite a lot of relevant ideas in the answer but they are not always well supported and sometimes they are unclear. There are some areas in the answer where the organisation becomes weak and the reader finds the message difficult to follow. Nevertheless, the writer's view is apparent and there is a logical flow to the points given. There are a lot of mistakes in the answer and some parts, such as the conclusion, are very hard to follow because of these errors. Although there is some appropriate vocabulary, sentence control is very weak. These problems are made worse by the poor correcting which sometimes makes words unreadable.

General Training Writing Sample Task 2A

Sample Script B

Who should be responsible for our old people?

One of the most challenging problems of today's society is the question who should be responsible for our old people. It's not only a financial problem but also a question of the system we want our society to have. In my essay I would like to focus on four different models.

Firstly, the company can be responsible for their retired employees. For this reason a special fund could be established. The advantage of this model is, if you believe in the capitalist system, that it should be the cheapest solution. A possible problem is that the companies might have competition disadvantages due to higher staff costs.

A second solution is that the government has to take the responsibility for the old people's care. It can finance this with its tax incomes. Actually, this is the most democratic model since everybody gets as much money as he or she needs. Unfortunately, as the present situation in our country shows, this solution seems not to work very well. The government can no longer afford supporting all the old people.

Another way of solving this problem is to give back the responsibility to the individual. That means that everybody has to save money during their working life for the time after their retirement. This seems to be not a very fair model because there will certainly exist people who can't afford to save part of their salary. In this case the government would have to care for them.

A last solution is to go back to the old model of the "big family" who cares for all their members. I don't think this is possible in our days society because the family structures have so much changed.

To sum up I have to admit that I can't find a really good solution for this problem. All models have advantages and disadvantages. Certainly we have to think

about this topic much more in the future

Examiner comment

Band 8

This is a very well-organised script which contains a lot of well-supported arguments and analyses the topic from different angles. The ideas follow each other well and there is a very honest conclusion. The answer is easy to read. There are some areas where the expression is clumsy but this makes little difference to the overall flow of the answer. There are minor errors in spelling and structure.

General Training Writing Sample Task 2B

Sample Script A

I think shopping is becoming more and more popular as a leisure activity. For example TeeTree Plaza Shopping Center as a biggest shopping center in Adelaide. I'm working at a takeaway shop in the T.T.P Shopping Center. There are huge number of customer working around in the center every day. Many people buy lots of foods, drinks, clothes and they are hand carry or they put in the trolley. On the other hand some people are only window shopping.

I sometime worry about people who bought many things into trolleys because I think may be they use money alot, and also some ladies who wear a looks expensive jewellery. I have one friend who bankrupt his self, because he had a expensive car, a expensive cloth, etc.

I think bad effect is many loan company established these years. People are easy to borrow money from loan company and easy to go to bankrupt. People must consider about when they go to the shopping. Therefore before buy something people must consider about shopping such as for yourself.

Examiner comment

Band 4

The first part of the task is not really addressed. The opening paragraph could be said to serve as a long introduction, although it illustrates the situation, rather than explains it. In the second paragraph, some ideas are presented and supported with an example, but no conclusions are evident. The response is considerably underlength, which lowers the rating. There is some appropriate use of paragraphing, although the paragraphs are self-contained rather than presenting a line of argument; thus the overall progression is unclear. The relationship between ideas can be followed and there are some cohesive devices. However, these are not always used correctly and some ideas are not fluently linked. There is also some repetition. Spelling errors are intrusive and cause strain. There is some relevant vocabulary, but overall the range is inadequate for the task. Frequent errors in syntax, verb phrases and articles keep the rating down, despite basic structures being present. The failure to address the task and the weaknesses in vocabulary and grammar limit this response to an overall Band 4.

General Training Writing Sample Task 2B

Sample Script B

Shopping as a leisure activity is an issue that arises an endless debates. There are, therefore, many arguments about positive and negative effects. In this essay I am writing to about the reasons of shopping's popularity and the effects on individuals and on society

To begin with, shopping is regarded as a kind of leisure activities such as sports, reading books and watching movies. Sometimes shopping makes a person feel relaxed, it is especially true for people who have a lot of money. Most of all many shopper feel proxy satisfaction when they have the right to choose something.

Of course the effects of its popularity depend on individuals and society. But There are a number of effects on individual and society in general

Over consumption is a major problem. The excessive preference of shopping might result in over consuming. And abnormal consumption lead to a violence of nature

To satisfy consumers' need, a lot of companies have to exploit the nature

The excessive consumption beyond normal shopping is responsible for social tension and class divisions. Because many person who can not afford to buy life commodities might feel anti-society attitude.

From the above we considered two issues. These are very important issues because shopping is an inevitable part of our life. In the future. I can hope that shoppers have to consider the influence on the other persons, the nature and society. And the government educate the general public do sound consumption

Examiner comment

Band 6

The test taker generally addresses the task, but only incompletely answers the first question. A position is presented, but ideas are sometimes insufficiently developed or extended so the argument is rather thin. Nevertheless, there is a clear overall progression in the response because ideas are logically organised. A range of markers is used effectively to link ideas, although there are errors in the use of some basic connectives. The test taker attempts to use a range of vocabulary and introduces some less common expressions, although with mixed success. Some expressions remain unclear, while others are used repetitively. Nevertheless, there is sufficient range and control to be adequate for the task. A mix of simple and complex structures is evident, but errors in grammar and punctuation occur and indicate limitations in control, although such lapses generally do not reduce communication. This response only just manages to reach an overall Band 6.

General Training Writing Sample Task 2B

Sample Script C

Shopping is very popular among the majority of the population, despite their age or social standards. This is due to the fact that most people find shopping as an experience which makes a difference in their day to day life. Some people find themselves in a different world, surrounded by various material things which they may or may not be able to purchase. Even if they are not able to finance these, they find much pleasure in looking and feeling these things and imagining owning them some day. Some people go shopping when they really want to purchase things and they prefer to look around and compare the prices before buying them. I think most people love to go shopping because, then they could meet friends, make contacts with people, and get to know what is in the latest trend. It provides them a pleasant distraction from their routine and sometimes dull life.

The most important effect shopping has on an individual is that it nourishes the self-esteem. An individual may find the social contact most gratifying and this makes people come out of their shells and be more extrovert. Purchasing something, as well as knowing that you are financially able to purchase something give more self confidence to people.

The increase in popularity to go shopping has many effects on the society. People may be encouraged to go into new businesses and it will improve the economy. More job opportunities will be created for people in these businesses. Encouraged by the increase of popularity manufacturers will try to improve their

products, so that the consumers can have a wide range of products at competitive prices. The overall quality of the product as well as the services provided by the sales staff will be improved.

More job opportunities will be created in advertising as the manufacturers try to sell their product. Consumers will have a better knowledge of the product so that they will not be misled by inferior quality products.

I find shopping an interesting and pleasurable experience, as each year passes by, simply because it enriches my heart and mind.

Examiner comment

Band 8

All parts of the task are sufficiently and appropriately addressed. A clear position is presented and supported and ideas are relevant and well developed. Some further extension in supporting points, such as some mention of negative effects, however brief, could be added to raise this to the highest band for Task Response. There is a clear progression throughout the response and a wide range of cohesive devices is used with flexibility, although there is rare error too. However, the personal comment in the final paragraph is a sudden topic shift after the general exploration of the issues. This is a slight lapse in the development and clear progression of the response, and prevents it from reaching the highest band for coherence and cohesion. A wide range of vocabulary is used with flexibility and precision. The occasional minor error, such as the omission of dependent prepositions, is evident but not systematic. Similarly, minor errors or omissions occur in structures, but these do not detract from the wide range flexibly and accurately used generally, and the majority of structures are error-free. This is a clear example of a Band 8 performance.