

Sample Candidate Writing Scripts and Examiner Comments

The General Training Writing Module consists 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 9 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 will 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.

Task 1 is also 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

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 6 pages you will find candidates' answers to two sample Writing tests. There are two 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 1

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

The answer is below the word limit and there is some repetition of the task rubric. (Length is a common problem in General Training scripts.) Answers that are short lose marks because of inadequate content and may also lose marks because there is insufficient material in the answer for the examiner to give credit for accuracy and coherence. 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 1

Sample Script B

Accommodation Officer
13, Kings Road
Edinburgh

Dear Sir, Dear Rackam

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 ^{not having} had to share my room with somebody else.

I am looking forward to hear from you soon.

yours faithfully,
Jay's Johnson

Examiner comment

Band 7

This answer is also short. 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 2

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 during their ~~retiring~~ 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 ~~an~~ 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 the their old ages.
 They expect more attention for and
 good life.
 The old people, if don't want to
 them, we should do anything that we
 are able to do.

I: BOZIL
 P: BOZIL

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 2

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 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 disadvantage 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.