

BEYOND EXCELLENCE SEMINARS

超越教育



IELTS BAND 7+
ACADEMIC
WRITING GUIDE

To be used in conjunction with:

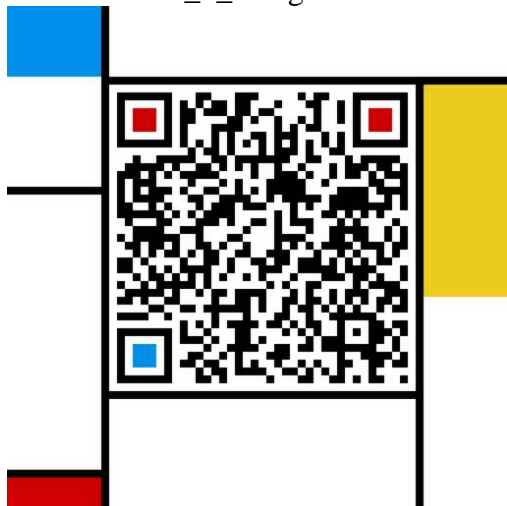
Cambridge IELTS 10

Cambridge IELTS 11

Presented by Abe Wong

Sample answers independently examined by an IELTS specialist

Published by Beyond Excellence Seminars
ABN: 97 185 491 729
PO Box 1337
ASHFIELD NSW 1800
AUSTRALIA
Website: beyondexcellenceseminars.com
Email: info@beyondexcellenceseminars.com
WeChat ID: a_k_wong or scan the code below:



Contents

Introducing the Tutor.....	2
Dedication.....	3
Bands and Marking Criteria.....	4
Four Main Types of Writing Task 2 Essays.....	5
Basic Structure of Task 2 Essay.....	6
Planning and Writing Tips.....	7
How to use this guide.....	8
To what extent do you agree or disagree?/Two Part Question.....	9
Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.....	19
Do you think this is a positive or negative development?.....	27
Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?.....	35
To what extent do you agree or disagree?.....	44
To what extent do you think...?.....	49
Discuss both views and give your own opinion.....	55
Discuss both views and give your own opinion.....	61
Other types of essays: Two Questions.....	67
Other types of essays: Problems and Solutions.....	73
Task 1.....	78
References.....	88

Introducing the Tutor

Mr Abe Wong

BA, GradCertTESOL, CertIVTAE40110



Abe Wong was educated in Western Australia from a young age. After completing his Western Australian Certificate of Education, he went on to study at Murdoch University in Perth and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. Since moving to Sydney after graduation, Abe has gained over ten years' experience in the Australian workforce, working in various customer support and IT roles within the insurance and not-for-profit sectors.

In 2013 he obtained a Graduate Certificate in TESOL from University of Technology, Sydney and a Certificate IV in Training and Assessment. He then went on to become a foreign teacher in the School of Foreign Languages at East China Jiaotong University in Nanchang, China. At the same time he worked for a training centre specialising in Oral English, Business English, English for young learners and IELTS preparation. Since returning to Australia in early 2015, he has been working as a SEE Trainer with MTC Australia, assisting clients to improve their English language proficiency and gain valuable skills that will help increase chances of getting an ideal job. He has personally taken the IELTS test and PTE and achieved a high overall band score for both tests.

Abe uses the latest teaching pedagogy to help students attain a near-native level of English. Not only is he passionate about teaching and sharing his skills, he also has a special interest in the experience of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and a sense of responsibility for the success of all students.

导师介绍

Abe 从小在澳大利亚接受英语教育，并于澳大利亚珀斯莫道克大学本科毕业。在澳大利亚有超过十年的工作经验。2013 年获得悉尼科技大学国际英语教师资格证（TESOL），2014-15 年曾在中国南昌华东交通大学担任外语外教，也同时在某英语培训机构的南昌和广州分校，担任英语口语，商务英语，儿童英语，雅思写作及雅思口语等课程导师，硕果累累。曾亲自参加雅思和 PTE 考试，并轻易获得高分。自 2015 以来，Abe 在澳大利亚政府的教育和就业技能课程(SEE Program)担任培训师，帮助学生通过本课程提高英语水平，获得实用技能，从而增加找到理想工作的机会。

Abe 结合用多种最新的教学法，比如运用口语式教学，以便让学生理解老外是如何说话和思考的，运用翻译方式教导学生如何用英语写作。他不仅对英语教学充满着热情，也对中国学生的英语水平的提高有着浓厚的兴趣。

Dedication

To all my students whom I have ever
taught and will teach in the future

I am indebted to you for giving me the necessary insight into your
writing needs for IELTS.

The publication of this guide would not have been possible without
your contribution.

致 我所教过的朋友以及将来的学生

感谢你们提供在雅思写作上的需要和见解
没有你们的贡献，这本教材就不可能出版

Bands and Marking Criteria

Bands

9 = Expert User

8 = Very Good User

7 = Good User

6 = Competent User

5 = Modest User

Marking Criteria

- Task achievement/response (25%)
- Coherence and cohesion (25%)
- Lexical resource (25%)
- Grammatical range and accuracy (25%)

For details on how IELTS examiners mark your essay, download and study the detailed band descriptors from the following links. When writing your essay, keep in mind these descriptors.

Task 2:

https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/IELTS_task_2_Writing_band_descriptors.pdf

Task 1:

https://takeielts.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/IELTS_task_1_Writing_band_descriptors.pdf

Score Calculation

For each part you will be awarded a band score from 1 to 9. You can score a whole band (e.g. 6.0) or half band (e.g. 6.5). Your overall band score is the average of the four. It is reported to the nearest half or whole band. For a score ending in .25 it is rounded up to the next half band. For a score ending in .75 it is rounded up to the next whole band.

Examples:

Rounded down: $(7.5+7.5+7.5+8.0)/4=7.625$ (Overall band = 7.5)

Rounded up: $(6.5+6.5+5.0+7.0)/4=6.25$ (Overall band = 6.5)

Four Main Types of Writing Task 2 Essays

OPINION e.g.:

- To what extent do you agree or disagree?
- Do you think this is a positive or negative development?
- Do the advantages outweigh its disadvantages?
- Discuss both views and give your opinion.

DISCUSSION e.g.:

- Discuss both views and give your opinion.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages (no opinion)

TWO QUESTIONS/TWO PART QUESTIONS e.g.:

- What problems do people experience in big cities? Should governments encourage people to move to smaller towns?
- In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make? Has this become a positive or negative development?

PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS

- What kinds of problems can this cause? What solutions can you suggest?

Basic Structure of Task 2 Essay

Write at least 250 words (do not write less).

Always write 4 paragraphs.

INTRODUCTION (1 paragraph)

- Paraphrase the question. State your opinion and main points in brief.

BODY (2 paragraphs)

- Write a topic statement.
- Expand on your ideas. Give reasons/examples (very important).
- 3 to 4 sentences for each paragraph.
- Sentence 1 Topic Sentence
- Sentence 2-3 Explanation
- Sentence 3-4 Example

CONCLUSION (1 paragraph)

- Summarize your points in another way.

Planning and Writing Tips

Planning

1. Decide on your position/opinion.
2. Think of ideas/examples.
3. Choose 2 ideas and organise them into paragraphs (one idea per paragraph)
4. Write.

Writing Tips

- Understand what the question is asking and determine what type of question it is. e.g. Discuss both views and give your opinion is not asking you to discuss the advantages or disadvantages. It is simply asking you to discuss why people have these views.
- Use linking words e.g.
 - On the other hand
 - In addition
 - In other words
 - For instance
 - As a result
- Use a mix of simple, compound and complex sentences.
 - A simple sentence contains one clause. e.g. The child associates his action with the discipline.
 - A compound sentence contains two or more independent clauses. e.g. Her parents disciplined her and she learned that she should not hit others.
 - A complex sentence contains at least one independent clause and one dependent clause. e.g. While I agree to a certain extent that punishment is needed to help the child learn good and bad behaviour, I also think that there are better ways to achieve the same purpose.
- Use a synonym, not just repeating the same word.
- Build synonym by writing down new vocabulary in a book, associating it with synonym and committing to memory.
- Use a pronoun to refer back to an idea (this + noun / these + plural noun) e.g. This conduct merely leads to interpersonal problems at school.
- Use a group noun (this/these type(s) of / kind of + noun) e.g. This kind of bitterness could result in poor family relationships.
- Express personal view as opposed to stating a fact e.g. personally, in my view, may, could
- Use specific examples e.g. dates, places, names, statistics etc
- Make sure you write at least 250 words. Do not write less.
- I'd encourage you to read news, current affairs and opinion pieces widely and regularly. You can only improve your writing by reading more and practising more. News websites such as smh.com.au and theguardian.com/au are a good start.
- Check spelling, grammar, punctuation and handwriting.

How to use this guide

This guide is designed to be studied in conjunction with IELTS 10 Academic and IELTS 11 Academic. All questions from this guide are from official sources. Each section in this guide contains:

- Suggested structure/approach to the question
- Band 7/8 samples by Abe Wong (with examiner comments)
- Uncommon vocabulary
- Detailed examiner report
- Band 9 sample by examiner where possible

It is suggested that students read through each section before attempting the question themselves. There are plenty of white spaces for students to make notes and write down new vocabulary.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?/Two Part Question

It is important for children to learn the difference between right and wrong at an early age.

Punishment is necessary to help them learn this distinction.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

What sort of punishment should parents and teachers be allowed to use to teach good behaviour to children?

Cambridge IELTS 10, Test 1, Writing Task 2 (Cambridge English 2015, p.31)

Note that this is a two-part question. Directly answer the questions in each body paragraph.

One-sided opinion approach (agree):

- Paraphrase and state one-sided opinion.
- Reasons for agreement.
- Type of punishment.
- Conclusion.

One-sided opinion approach (disagree). *Refer to Cambridge IELTS 10 examiner model

(Cambridge English 2015, p.162):

- Paraphrase and state one-sided opinion.
- Reasons for disagreement.
- How parents and teachers should not punish children.
- How parents and teachers should punish children.

Band 7 by Abe Wong**Examiner comments in italics**

One of the most important stages in the development of a child's character is the time they learn to distinguish between what is right and wrong. Many people believe that it is necessary to punish children at a young age in order to accomplish this. I totally agree that parents need to discipline children from a young age because doing so is the only way that children will learn what unacceptable behaviour is. This essay will outline the type of punishment that can be given to young children to teach them good conduct.

This essay will suggest that _____ is the main reason for punishment being necessary and then submit that the best method of discipline is _____.

Try to incorporate your answers to both questions.

Most of us were disciplined for doing something wrong when we were children. *This is not a clear sentence that relates to the thesis.* When we were punished we associated the punishment with our behaviour and in doing so, we learned what bad behaviour is. For instance, when my young niece hit someone, her parents disciplined her (*how? Why does it work?*) and she has since learned that she should not hit others. Only when she was chastised did she know that hitting other people was wrong.

Using a personal anecdote is never recommended. Perhaps it only works for your niece. You need to explain what happens if we are not punished as children.

It is clear that punishment brings about knowledge of what is right and wrong, but it is important that parents and teachers use an appropriate method of punishment to ensure the child is not hurt. Instead of physical punishment the "time out" is an effective way for a child to learn because the child has time to think about what he or she has done wrong and come to

apologise for her action. For example, when my niece does something wrong, her parents send her into her room for a period of time so that she can calm down and understand why she is being punished.

Why does this work better than spanking?

Do not use examples from personal knowledge unless they can demonstrate that this point is universal and applies to everyone.

In conclusion, while punishment is necessary for young children to understand the difference between right and wrong, there are appropriate methods for disciplining them.

What are the appropriate methods?

Word Count: 284

Vocabulary 词汇

- distinguish (n) 区分
- accomplish (v) 完成; 达到
- associate (v) (使) 联合; 结交
- effective (adj) 有效的
- discipline (v) 处罚
- chastise (v) 惩罚

Examiner Report

Task Response- Band 6

You address all parts of the task and all of your ideas are relevant, however, your supporting paragraphs have mostly undeveloped ideas.

Undeveloped means that you list ideas but you do not explain what they mean or give examples to support them.

Suggestions-

Make sure you include explanations of the consequences of alternatives to your argument.

Use example with facts in them.

In Task 2 you don't get any extra marks for the number of ideas you think of, but you do get extra marks for developing each of your ideas more fully.

A paragraph should have one main idea. It would be better if you took one good relevant idea and really developed it. You do this by first stating your main idea and then explaining why it answers the questions and then supporting that idea with a specific example. If you want to give another main idea after that, then that's OK but make sure all your ideas are fully developed, otherwise it just looks like a list of ideas rather than an academic essay.

Try following this structure in all your supporting paragraphs:

Sentence 1- Topic Sentence

Sentence 2-3- Explanation

Sentence 3 (4)- Example

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 6

You logically organise information and ideas and there is clear progression throughout. I especially like the way you have organised your ideas in the paragraphs with one main idea in one paragraph and the other main idea in the other paragraph.

You use a range of cohesive devices (linking words) appropriately although there is some over-use. All linking words are used accurately and effectively, but there tends to be a reliance on them through overuse. This is not a huge problem, but the higher band scores use cohesive devices much less than you currently do.

Your introduction and conclusion are not effective.

Suggestions- Your use of cohesive devices is very good, but you do have a tendency to overuse them. You don't get more marks for every cohesive device you use and in fact, you will be penalised for overusing them. Only use them when necessary. If you look at my example essays I might only use them once or twice per paragraph.

Keep using the paragraph structure you are using now and you will be fine.

Your coherence would benefit if you made your opinion clear in the introduction and outlined your main ideas. This makes it much easier for the reader to follow your argument and keeps your mind focused on supporting your opinion. Your score would also improve if you made your opinion clear in the conclusion and summarised your main ideas.

Vocabulary- Band 8

You use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings.

You skilfully use uncommon lexical items but there are occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation

You only produce rare errors in word formation.

Suggestions- Well done. This was one of the strongest parts of your essay. If you keep doing this in the exam you will do really well. Remember that it is about using vocabulary naturally so only try to use a word when it is natural to do so, in other words don't try to force big words into your writing.

Grammar- Band 8

You use a wide range of grammatical structures and nearly all of your sentences are complex.

The majority of sentences are completely error-free

You make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies and these never impede communication.

Suggestions- Your grammar is good and most of your sentences have no errors at all. Keep doing this and you will do fine.

Try to leave yourself at least 2-3 minutes at the end of the test to read your essay again and check for small mistakes. Everyone makes small mistakes and 2 minutes at the end can really raise your band score in this area.

Overall- Band 7

Overall, this was a very good essay, but you could improve it in the following ways:

- Paraphrase the question in the first sentence.
- Give a clear opinion in the introduction.
- Outline your main ideas in the introduction.
- Develop your main ideas with clear explanations.

- Include one specific example in each main body paragraph.
- Summarise your main ideas in the conclusion and reiterate your opinion.
- Only use cohesive devices when absolutely necessary.

This model has been prepared by a candidate as an example of a very good answer:

There is no doubt as part of educating young children it is essential to teach them how to distinguish between right and wrong behaviours. As a result, punishment in discipline children has been a frequent topic of debate. Many have argued punishment is in fact necessary in correcting children's behaviours. Personally, I believe some level of punishment is indeed important for a child's growth and there are many forms of punishment that I think is suitable to be employed by parents and teachers.

The role of punishment is inseparable when it comes to the area of discipline. It is an efficient and effective way to teach a person what to do and what not to do. There is plenty of evidence to support this from educators and families around the world. At school, we were taught to complete our homework. Otherwise, some form of punishment will occur. At home, we were taught not to lie or we may be penalised. Therefore, I believe certain form of punishment is necessary for the purpose of correcting behaviours.

It is the type of punishment, however, that is the key to the success of any corrections.

Physical form of punishment is often the most commonly used amongst discipline children, especially in Asia. This may include a hit on the palm, do squats or even run two laps of the field. I think this type of punishment is fair and not extremely harmful to children.

Nevertheless, like all things, there is a limitation to the extent of physical punishment given. Teachers and parents should judge wisely as to the amount of physical punishment needed to not hurt the children.

In conclusion, punishment is necessary for a child to be corrected of his/her behaviours. I believe physical punishment is a good method to be used by parents and teachers. However, they need to be wary of the amount of punishment given.

Word Count: 315

Band 9 by Examiner

Some would argue that it is essential that children are taught morals from an early age and punishment is the best way to do it. This essay totally agrees with that statement because they will be punished at school and by the authorities when they get older if they break the rules, however, parents should not beat their child and instead should deprive them of something they love.

It is essential that young children get used to punishment because they will be treated in the same way later in life by their teachers and by the police. A lack of discipline at home often leads to delinquency later in life because the person has not been taught that there will be consequences to breaking the rules. Therefore, parents have a responsibility to punish their children so that they will become responsible students and citizens in the future. In my primary school, parents who were very relaxed about discipline often produced the most unruly children and some of them even went on to serve prison terms because they were never taught the difference between good and bad behaviour.

However, punishment should never be violent in any way because it teaches the child that the answer to a problem is to beat someone and this could result in a young person that is prone to violence. A study by Queen's University concluded that over three quarters of all violent offenders in British prisons experience some kind of physical punishment as children. A better punishment is to take away something the child treasures, such as their favourite toy or TV show or stopping them seeing their best friend. This allows the child time to think about what they did and learn from the experience without resorting to physical abuse.

In conclusion, discipline should be instilled from a young age because it will teach the child about what is acceptable and unacceptable later in life, however, this should always be non-

violent and the best way to punish a child is to deny them something they have a deep attachment to.

Word Count: 346

Vocabulary 词汇

- deprive (v) 夺去
- delinquency (n) 不法行为
- consequences (n) 后果
- prone (v) 倾向于
- violence (n) 暴力
- treasure (v) 珍惜
- resort to (v) 采取某手段或方法应急或作为对策
- instil (v) 灌输; 逐步灌输

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion

Some people think that all university students should study whatever they like. Others believe that they should only be allowed to study subjects that will be useful in the future, such as those related to science and technology.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Cambridge IELTS 10, Test 2, Writing Task 2 (Cambridge English 2015, p.55)

INTRODUCTION

- Paraphrase the question.
- State your opinion.
- Outline your essay.

BODY

- [SIDE A] On one side of the argument there are people who argue that (give reasons why people have this view).....
- [SIDE B] On the other hand (give reasons).....

CONCLUSION

- Usually you can say that both sides have merits. State which side is stronger and the reason.

Band 8 by Abe Wong

There is some debate as to whether university students should be forced to study skill-specific courses such as engineering and information technology to meet future demands. While I think degrees related to technology have their merits, in my view students should be able to choose courses which they are interested in. This essay will discuss both of these views and give reasons for my opinion.

There are a number of reasons why people believe students should only study subjects that are in high demand in the employment market. They may argue that having graduates with specific skill sets would help the country fill its skill shortages. For instance, in Australia there are current shortages in professions such as accounting, nursing and engineering. Having local graduates with these skill sets would not only fill shortages, but also remove the need to import overseas personnel who may face language barriers and have difficulties adjusting to local customs.

From my perspective, however, it is far more beneficial for students to be able to choose courses which they are passionate about, as having strong motivation in the subject area is a key to success. When a course is suited to the passions of its participants, students are able to enjoy it to a greater extent than if they were forced into the course. Besides, no one can predict what skills and knowledge will be useful in the future. In China, English skills were nowhere near as important a few decades ago. Now, people with English ability are highly coveted. It may be that those with language skills will be similarly needed in a decade's time here in Australia.

In conclusion, while directing students into subjects that will be useful in the future may result in better and more stable employment, I believe it is more important for students to

select courses which interest them, as completing subjects that suit their interests would be much more rewarding.

Word Count: 322

Vocabulary 词汇

- merit (n) 价值; 优点
- skill shortages 技能短缺
- language barrier 语言障碍
- beneficial (adj) 有利的; 有益的
- passionate (adj) 热烈的
- to a greater extent 在更大程度上
- predict (v) 预测
- decade (n) 十年
- covet 垂涎

Examiner Report**Task Response- Band 8**

You have sufficiently addressed all parts of the task.

You present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.

You have provided a very balanced answer and have given equal attention to both sides.

You have also made your position very clear throughout the essay.

Suggestion- This is a very strong answer.

You have looked at both sides equally and your ideas are really well developed.

I am particularly impressed with how specific your ideas, especially your examples.

Keep doing this and you will be fine.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 8

You have sequenced information and ideas logically.

Your structure really helps you get top marks in this category.

You manage all aspects of cohesion well and there is no inappropriate or inaccurate use of discourse markers.

You use paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately.

Suggestions- This is one of the strongest parts of your essay.

Keep using this structure and paragraphing and you will be fine in this regard.

Vocabulary- Band 8

You use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings.

You skilfully use uncommon lexical items but there are occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation

You only produce rare errors in word formation.

Suggestions- Well done. This was one of the strongest parts of your essay. If you keep doing this in the exam you will do really well. Remember that it is about using vocabulary naturally so only try to use a word when it is natural to do so, in other words don't try to force big words into your writing.

Grammar- Band 8

You use a wide range of grammatical structures and nearly all of your sentences are complex.

The majority of sentences are completely error-free

You make only very occasional errors or inappropriateness and these never impede communication.

Suggestions- Your grammar is good and most of your sentences have no errors at all. Keep doing this and you will do fine.

Try to leave yourself at least 2-3 minutes at the end of the test to read your essay again and check for small mistakes. Everyone makes small mistakes and 2 minutes at the end can really raise your band score in this area.

Overall- Band 8

Overall, this was an excellent essay and you should be really proud of it.

However, there are no guarantees that you will score this high in the real exam.

Firstly, you will be under much more stress and this can lead to mistakes. You should practice as much as possible to make sure that you feel confident on the day.

Secondly, you will have to write it in under 40 minutes. You should practice under exam conditions to make sure that you will be able to produce something of this standard on the day.

Thirdly, this is just one of five question types. You have done really well in this one, but you should be aware that different approaches are required for each of the different question types.

I include a link to the five different structures below.

Lastly, this could have been a topic you know lots about and therefore your vocabulary and ideas were very good. Make sure you practice using questions on unfamiliar topics. I have included a list of the most common topics below.

Band 9 by Examiner

It is often argued that undergraduates should be forced to only take courses that will be of use in the future such as science-related subjects, while others think that they should be free to choose whatever they are most interested in. This essay agrees with the latter view because forcing someone to do what they are not interested in will often result in failure and students learn more effectively when they have a passion for a subject.

If students are forced to study certain subjects, a large number of them will fail their exams. This is because it is very difficult for a person to dedicate themselves to learning a topic they dislike because they will have no motivation and find it more difficult to grasp the concepts. For example, most parents in Vietnam force their children to study business-related subjects at university because they think that this will enhance their career opportunities, but it has resulted in a failure rate of nearly one third.

It is more preferable to have free choice because this will lead to higher engagement. That is to say that the more passionate a person, the more likely they are to master that subject because they will be highly engaged and dedicated to understanding it fully. For instance, Queen's University recently asked 16 year old students before taking their GCSE exams to list their three favourite subjects and showed that the pupils were far more likely to pass these subjects than others they were less keen on.

In conclusion, science-based subjects should not be made compulsory at third-level education because many students will reject them and find them too difficult and they are much more likely to be successful whilst studying a subject they have a genuine interest in.

Word Count: 295

Vocabulary 词汇

- undergraduate (n) (未获学士学位的) 大学生
- passion (n) 激情; 热情
- motivation (n) 激励
- grasp (v) 理解; 了解
- concept (n) 观念; 概念
- enhance (v) 加强; 提高; 增加
- engagement (n) 雇用
- passionate (adj) 热烈的
- engage (v) 吸引住
- dedicate (v) 致力
- compulsory (adj) 必须的
- genuine (adj) 真诚的

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Countries are becoming more and more similar because people are able to buy the same products anywhere in the world.

Do you think this is a positive or negative development?

Cambridge IELTS 10, Test 3, Writing Task 2 (Cambridge English 2015, p.78)

One sided approach

- Paraphrase the question then state opinion.
- Reason #1
- Reason #2
- Restate opinion

Two sided approach

- Paraphrase the question then state opinion.
- Reason for positive
- Reason for negative
- Restate balanced opinion

Band 7 by Abe Wong**Examiner comments in italics**

It is said that international trade has caused countries to become more alike because the same products are available to be purchased anywhere. This essay will argue that it is a negative development because it causes individual cultures to be lost and tourism, as a whole, to be damaged.

It is important that your opinion and outline are clearly stated.

A country loses its distinctiveness as a result of global trade. Traditional products such as clothes are gradually being pushed out by globalisation of multinational brands. For instance, it is increasingly difficult to find traditional Chinese costumes in department stores in international cities such as Hong Kong and Shanghai as many of them sell mostly western fashion items.

Add a statement that reiterates why this is negative.

When a country loses its culture, tourism can be negatively affected. One of the reasons people travel to a foreign country is to buy products that say something about that country's culture. There is no point in spending thousands of dollars on flight tickets and hotel bookings when most products one sees in the foreign country are the same as what he sees at home. For example, why would one go to China to buy Chinese costumes when the exercise may potentially turn out to be fruitless and he ends up with nothing to take home?

Do not write rhetorical questions in an essay.

Explain your idea with statements! You need an example that relates to your topic sentence.

In conclusion, while the international expansion of businesses have certainly revolutionised the accessibility of products, there are negative effects. Not only has globalisation contributed to the loss of countries' unique characters, it also potentially hurts tourism by eliminating the presence of authentic souvenirs.

Good structure.

Vocabulary 词汇

- distinctiveness (n) 独特性
- globalisation (n) 全球化
- revolutionise (v) 彻底改变
- accessibility (n) 可达性
- eliminate (v) 淘汰; 排除; 消除; 除掉
- authentic (adj) 真正的
- souvenirs (n) 纪念品

Examiner Report

Task Response- Band 6

Your answer addresses all parts of the task and main ideas are relevant although some ideas are inadequately developed.

One of your supporting paragraphs is fully developed with explanations and examples, but the other has mostly undeveloped ideas.

Suggestions- It is better to take one idea and support it with explanations and examples than to simply list lots of undeveloped ideas. Learn how to do this and you will improve your score.

Try following this structure in all your supporting paragraphs:

Sentence 1- Topic Sentence

Sentence 2- Explanation

Sentence 3- Example

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 7

You logically organise information and ideas and there is clear progression throughout. I especially like the way you have organised your ideas in the paragraphs with one main idea in one paragraph and the other main idea in the other paragraph.

Your introduction is not effective.

Suggestions- Your coherence would benefit if you made your opinion clear in the introduction and outlined your main ideas. This makes it much easier for the reader to follow your argument and keeps your mind focused on supporting your opinion.

Vocabulary- Band 7

You use a wide range of vocabulary that allows you to convey meaning effectively.

You use less common words accurately and appropriately which is really impressive.

You do however produce occasional errors in word choice and word formation, which you can see above.

Suggestions- Your vocabulary should be good enough to get a band 7. However, the worst thing you can do is try to force this in the exam. By force I mean try to show the examiner how good your vocabulary is because this will normally lead to mistakes. Just use words that seem natural to you rather than forcing them. You only need maybe 2 or 3 less common words per paragraph to get a high mark for vocabulary.

Synonyms and paraphrasing are important but you shouldn't try and force these if you are not sure about them. Only use synonyms when you are 100% that they directly translate and the word formation makes sense.

It is better to repeat a word and get the grammar, meaning and word formation correct than use a synonym that is wrong and causes you to make mistakes.

Grammar- Band 7

Around 50% of your sentences are completely error-free. Well done. The errors that you do make are only small so they do not impede communication. You use a variety of complex sentences and a variety of complex structures.

Suggestions- Look at the common errors you have made in all of the essays I have marked for you and identify common problems. You can revise the grammar for these common

problems and fix them. You should also give yourself at least 3 minutes at the end to make sure you have not made any grammar mistakes.

In order to get above a 7 for grammar more than 50% of your sentences have to be completely error-free so focus on eliminating the small errors and don't take any risks.

Overall- Band 7

Overall, this was a very good essay, but you could improve it in the following ways:

- Paraphrase the question in the first sentence.
- Give a clear opinion in the introduction.
- Outline your main ideas in the introduction.
- Develop your main ideas with clear explanations.
- Include one specific example in each main body paragraph.
- Only use cohesive devices when absolutely necessary.
- Reduce the number of vocabulary mistakes you are making by only using words and phrases you are 100% sure about.
- Reduce the number of grammar mistakes you are making by reading each sentence immediately after you write it to check that it makes sense.
- Proofread your whole essay at the end.

Band 9 by Examiner

Nations are becoming more homogenised because the same products are available all over the globe. This essay believes that this is a bad thing because it takes advantage of workers in developing countries and it also forces small businesses to close.

Huge multinational corporations like Gap, Nike and McDonalds, can only sell the same goods in every market because they make these products in huge factories in poorer countries. Companies can make their stuff for less because the wages are so low and this means that many of the workers are held in a constant state of poverty. For instance, Apple has been heavily criticised in the past for paying its Chinese workers a tiny fraction of what an American gets paid to do the same job and has been accused of exploiting workers' rights.

As a result of paying very low salaries, these multinational corporations can sell products much cheaper than small local businesses. Most small shop owners simply can't compete and customers will always shop where they can get the best bargain and as a result most small shops have closed. For example, when I was growing up we had a shoe shop, a butcher, a green grocer and a bakery, but these have all been replaced by one big supermarket on the edge of town. The same thing has happened to most towns in my country.

In conclusion, globalisation has meant that every town has the same shops selling the same things and this essay thinks this is a huge shame for both the people who make these goods and the small shop owners that are forced to close their doors because of unfair competition.

Word Count: 278

Vocabulary 词汇

- homogenised (adj) 均质的

- stuff (n) 东西
- poverty (n) 贫穷
- criticise (v) 批评
- exploit (v) 利用 (…为自己谋利)
- bargain (n) 特价商品; 便宜货
- globalisation (n) 全球化

Do you think the advantages outweigh the disadvantages?

Many museums charge for admission while others are free.

Do you think the advantages of charging people for admission to museums outweigh the disadvantages?

Cambridge IELTS 10, Test 4, Writing Task 2 (Cambridge English 2015, p.102)

This type of questions can only be answered with either Yes or No. There are several approaches.

The Yes case:

INTRODUCTION

- Paraphrase the question then state your opinion and outline your essay.

BODY

- Disadvantages.
- Advantages (notice the linking sentence in the model).

CONCLUSION

- Restate your opinion

The No case *Refer to Cambridge IELTS 10 candidate model (Cambridge English 2015, p.168):

INTRODUCTION

- Paraphrase the question then state your opinion.

BODY

- Advantages.
- Disadvantages (However....).

CONCLUSION

- Restate your opinion

Stronger side/weaker side approach *Refer to Band 9 Examiner Model below

INTRODUCTION

- Paraphrase the question then state your opinion.

BODY

- Stronger side
- Weaker side

CONCLUSION

- Restate your opinion

Band 7.5 by Abe Wong**Examiner comments in italics**

Some museums do not charge an admission fee while many others do. In my opinion, the benefits of having people pay for admission outweigh the drawbacks.

You could improve your introduction by briefly outlining your main points.

The obvious disadvantage for charging people admission is the potential reduction in the number of visitors. Families from lower socio-economic backgrounds may not be able to afford the expenses of taking the whole family to a museum. For instance, a recent showcase of the Tang dynasty at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney costs \$40 for a family of two adults and up to three children, which many parents from poorer households may not have the funds for. As a result, children from these families may miss out on the educational values of attending such exhibitions.

This is not a discussion essay. In your thesis you state that charging admission is a good thing. This paragraph does not support your thesis as written.

Although charging an admission fee may reduce the number of customers, a museum needs its income to maintain and upkeep its artefacts and exhibits. A museum has to pay its staff and contractors to set up displays and coordinate events. If these operational functions were not properly carried out by professionally paid personnel, it might cause a museum to be in a state of disrepair, which in turn might result in even less visitors than if there were no admission fee. In my view, families and visitors would appreciate paying an entry fee to an appealing museum.

Good paragraph. Great grammar and language use.

In conclusion, despite the fact that an admission fee may potentially reduce the number of low income guests to a museum, the advantages of charging for admission far outweigh the disadvantages.

What were the advantages? Summarize the ideas from each paragraph.

Word Count: 253

Vocabulary 词汇

- potential (adj) 潜在的; 有可能的
- reduction (n) 减少; 降低
- socio-economic background 社会-经济背景
- fund (n) 基金; 储备; 现款
- exhibition (n) 展览
- upkeep (n) 保养; 维修
- artefact (n) 人工制品; 人工产物
- exhibit (n) 展览品
- contractor (n) 承包人; 包工
- personnel (n) 人员; 员工
- disrepair (n) 失修; 破损

Examiner Report**Task Response- Band 6**

Your answer addresses all parts of the task and main ideas are relevant although some ideas are inadequately developed. The first paragraph needs to argue for your thesis not against it.

Suggestions-

You could have argued this way:

Paragraph 1: although low income families may be affected, everyone else would accept a fair price

Paragraph 2: money is necessary for upkeep and improvements.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 7

The presentation of the first paragraph hurts coherence because it does not follow on from your thesis.

Your conclusion could be more effective.

Suggestions-

You have a clear thesis (opinion in the introduction) that helps the reader understand your point of view but the rest of the essay must clearly support this thesis.

Your coherence would benefit if you made your opinion clear in the conclusion and summarised your main ideas. This makes it much easier for the reader to follow your argument and your essay more cohesive.

Vocabulary- Band 8

You use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings.

You skilfully use uncommon lexical items but there are occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation

You only produce rare errors in word formation.

Suggestions- Well done. This was one of the strongest parts of your essay. If you keep doing this in the exam you will do really well. Remember that it is about using vocabulary naturally so only try to use a word when it is natural to do so, in other words don't try to force big words into your writing.

You did a very good job of using synonyms to vary your language and you should continue to do this.

Grammar- Band 8

You use a wide range of grammatical structures and nearly all of your sentences are complex.

The majority of sentences are completely error-free

You make only very occasional errors or inappropriateness and these never impede communication.

Suggestions- Your grammar is good and most of your sentences have no errors at all. Keep doing this and you will do fine.

Try to leave yourself at least 2-3 minutes at the end of the test to read your essay again and check for small mistakes. Everyone makes small mistakes and 2 minutes at the end can really raise your band score in this area.

Overall- Band 7.5

Overall, this was a very good essay, but you could improve it in the following ways:

- Outline your main ideas in the introduction.
- Use an appropriate paragraph structure.
- Summarise your main ideas in the conclusion and reiterate your opinion.
- Proofread your whole essay at the end.
- Analyse the question before starting to write to make sure that you are answering the specific question being asked.
- Plan your answers for 5-10 minutes before writing.

Band 9 by Examiner

Lots of museums charge a fee while others do not. This essay thinks that the benefits of charging do not outweigh the drawbacks because open access to relics and art is more important than generating money that the government should supply in any event.

The main disadvantage is that high fees exclude a large proportion of the population, especially in less developed countries. Many people in poorer countries have just enough money for food and shelter and exhibits and museums are one of the few cultural activities they can enjoy free of charge. For example, Egypt has millions of poor people, but also a rich ancient culture and it is important that all the people get to experience these artefacts.

Another big negative is that students and children, who are learning about the world may not be able to visit. It would be a huge shame if art students could not see their favourite painters or sculptors' work in real life because their student finances could not cover the cost.

Despite this, there are some who say that museums are unsustainable without the money they might get from ticket sales. They say that this allows the building to remain open and it is better that some people get to experience it, rather than none at all. To this I would say that the government should step in and cover the cost because culture is as important as anything else it spends money on. For instance, in the UK there have been huge government spending cuts over the last few years, but the museums have not had their funding reduced because of their importance to the country's cultural heritage.

In conclusion, although some might say that places of culture should be run like a business, the cost to the education and heritage of the country is too great and they should remain free to all.

Word Count: 314

Vocabulary 词汇

- relics (n) 遗产; 遗物
- shelter (n) 避难所; 居所
- ancient (adj) 古代的
- sculptor (n) 雕刻家; 雕塑家
- unsustainable (adj) 不可持续; 不能支持的
- funding (n) 资金
- heritage (n) 文化遗产

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

Governments should spend money on railways rather than roads.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this statement?

Cambridge IELTS 11, Test 1, Writing Task 2 (Cambridge English 2016, p.31)

One-sided opinion approach:

- Paraphrase and state one-sided opinion.
- Reasons #1
- Reasons #2
- Conclusion.

Two-sided opinion approach (agree to a certain extent):

- Introduce the topic by paraphrasing the statement. To a certain extent I agree that... However, I also think that...
- By saying that you agree to a certain extent (not completely), you can now talk about both sides of the argument (2 paragraphs).
- Conclude by summarising your views.

Band 8.5 by Abe Wong**Examiner comments in italics**

It is argued that government spending on railways should exceed expenditure on roads. This essay agrees with this opinion and will argue, firstly, that by spending more money on railways pollution will be reduced, and secondly that there will be a significant reduction in road accidents.

Excellent.

Firstly, a train can carry a large number of people which helps reduce pollution. Fumes from the engines of private vehicles heavily pollute the environment whereas trains do not create nearly as much greenhouse gas. A 2009 study by the US Department of Transportation has shown that commuter and intercity rail produce fewer pollutants when compared to automobiles and aircraft. In a world where global warming is increasingly an issue of concern, building railways which are accessible and convenient to the majority of the public would encourage people to use this form of mass transport thereby lowering the total amount of carbon emissions.

Well done. You have a clear main idea and you have explained it well in relation to the question. You have also supported your main idea with a specific example.

More importantly, an increase in train use potentially reduces the number of road accidents and saves lives. One study has shown that urban rail transport is seven times safer than road per kilometre. History has shown that deaths can result from serious road accidents. For instance, in one fatal accident in Sydney recently the driver of a vehicle lost control when he collided with another vehicle and crashed into a young child, who later tragically died in hospital. Had the driver taken a train, this unnecessary loss of life would have been avoided.

This is very good but you need to be careful with your examples. One incident does not really help support your point. You should use an example that really demonstrates why road is not as safe as rail such as statistics about how many death per year for rail and road.

In conclusion, governments should spend more money on constructing railways to reduce pollution and support the need for people to arrive at their destinations safely.

Excellent. You have summarised your main ideas well and your opinion is very clear.

Word Count: 267

Vocabulary 词汇

- expenditure (n) 支出
- reduction (n) 减少
- greenhouse gas (n) 温室气体
- pollutant (n) 污染物
- automobile (n) <美>汽车
- global warming (n) 全球变暖
- carbon emissions (n) 碳排放
- urban (adj) 城市的;都市的;城区;城镇
- fatal (adj) 致命的

Examiner Report**Task Response- Band 8**

You have sufficiently addressed all parts of the task. You present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.

You have provided a very strong argument by picking one side and really focusing on it. You have a very clear position throughout the essay.

Suggestion- This is a very strong answer.

You have really impressed me with your examples and overall structure.

You clearly state your main points, give a relevant specific example and then talk about the consequences of this.

This is a really strong paragraph structure.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 8

You have sequenced information and ideas logically.

Your structure really helps you get top marks in this category.

You manage all aspects of cohesion well and there is no inappropriate or inaccurate use of discourse markers.

You use paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately.

Suggestions- This is one of the strongest parts of your essay.

Keep using this structure and paragraphing and you will be fine in this regard.

Vocabulary and Grammar- Band 9

You used a wide range of structures and lexical items.

You made no mistakes.

Overall- Band 8.5

This is an excellent essay and you should be very proud of it.

The only thing that could be improved is the example in the second main body paragraph.

Single incidents do not prove general points.

To what extent do you think...?

Some people claim that not enough of the waste from homes is recycled. They say that the only way to increase recycling is for governments to make it a legal requirement.

To what extent do you think laws are needed to make people recycle more of their waste?

Cambridge IELTS 11, Test 2, Writing Task 2 (Cambridge English 2016, p.55)

Note: this question is not asking you whether you agree or disagree. It is asking you about the extent which you think laws are needed to make people recycle more.

Two sided approach:

- Paraphrase the question and state opinion.
- Why laws are needed.
- Alternatives (other than legal requirement) to make people recycle.
- Conclusion

One-sided approach *Refer to Cambridge IELTS 11 candidate model (Cambridge English 2016, p.135):

- Paraphrase the question and state opinion.
- Why laws are needed (reason #1)
- Why laws are needed (reason #2).
- Conclusion

Band 8 by Abe Wong**Examiner comments in italics**

Some people are concerned that too much household waste is not being recycled. They believe governments should make laws to increase recycling. While I think to a certain extent governments should enforce recycling laws on households, I also think that education about recycling is more important.

Good introduction.

Just as we have laws about driving, governments should also make laws about recycling. If laws about recycling were passed, it would force people to think carefully before throwing things out with the garbage. In precisely the same way as penalties are imposed on drivers who disobey road rules, fines should be levied onto people who break recycling laws. If householders knew about the heavy fines of not recycling materials, they would make sure that they put recyclables into recycling bins correctly. This enforcement of laws would most definitely increase recycling.

You have developed your main idea well here, but it could be improved by including a specific example.

Granted, having recycling laws in place might result in an increase in recycling, but educating householders about recycling is still more important. For instance, residents need to understand what sort of items can be recycled and what happens to their recyclable wastes once collected. In my view, if residents were educated about the benefits of recycling, they would buy into the new laws if they were passed. If everybody understood the purpose of putting things into recycling bins, it would be a much better way for compliance than enforcing laws that people do not understand. Provided the information is presented in a way

that is easy for the general public to grasp, I think teaching people about the advantages of recycling would result in the same level of success.

Great development, could you think of a specific waste item that the public needs education about? Plastic bags and marine life etc.

In conclusion, while laws may be needed to boost the amount of recycling, I believe that educating residents is much more important and a better way to achieve the same outcome.

Word Count: 297

Vocabulary 词汇

- recycling (v) 回收利用 (n) 再循环
- penalty (n) 罚款
- impose (v) 实施
- levy (v) 征收 (n) 征款
- recyclable (adj) 可回收利用的 (n) 回收
- enforcement (n) 执法
- compliance (n) 服从; 听从
- grasp (v) 了解
- granted (adv) 不可否认

Examiner Report**Task Response- Band 7**

You have sufficiently addressed all parts of the task.

You present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.

The only thing missing are specific examples. If you included these you would get a Band 8.

You have also made your position very clear throughout the essay.

Suggestion- The one thing lacking in your answer is a specific example for each supporting paragraph.

You can make your examples more specific by including dates, places, names, statistics etc.

See my sample essay below for ideas on how to include examples.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 8

You have sequenced information and ideas logically.

Your structure really helps you get top marks in this category.

You manage all aspects of cohesion well and there is no inappropriate or inaccurate use of discourse markers.

You use paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately.

Suggestions- This is one of the strongest parts of your essay.

Keep using this structure and paragraphing and you will be fine in this regard.

Vocabulary- Band 8

You use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings.

You skilfully use uncommon lexical items but there are occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation.

You only produce rare errors in word formation.

Suggestions- Well done. This was one of the strongest parts of your essay. If you keep doing this in the exam you will do really well. Remember that it is about using vocabulary naturally so only try to use a word when it is natural to do so, in other words don't try to force big words into your writing.

You did a very good job of using synonyms to vary your language and you should continue to do this.

Grammar- Band 8

You use a wide range of grammatical structures and nearly all of your sentences are complex.

The majority of sentences are completely error-free

You make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies and these never impede communication.

Suggestions- Your grammar is good and most of your sentences have no errors at all. Keep doing this and you will do fine.

Try to leave yourself at least 2-3 minutes at the end of the test to read your essay again and check for small mistakes. Everyone makes small mistakes and 2 minutes at the end can really raise your band score in this area.

Overall- Band 8

Overall, this was an excellent essay and you should be really proud of it.

However, there are no guarantees that you will score this high in the real exam.

Firstly, you will be under much more stress and this can lead to mistakes. You should practice as much as possible to make sure that you feel confident on the day.

Secondly, you will have to write it in under 40 minutes. You should practice under exam conditions to make sure that you will be able to produce something of this standard on the day.

Thirdly, this is just one of five question types. You have done really well in this one, but you should be aware that different approaches are required for each of the different question types.

I include a link to the five different structures below.

Lastly, this could have been a topic you know lots about and therefore your vocabulary and ideas were very good. Make sure you practice using questions on unfamiliar topics. I have included a list of the most common topics below.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion

Some people say that the only reason for learning a foreign language is in order to travel to or work in a foreign country. Others say that these are not the only reasons why someone should learn a foreign language.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Cambridge IELTS 11, Test 3, Writing Task 2 (Cambridge English 2016, p.78)

INTRODUCTION

- Paraphrase the question.
- State your opinion.
- Outline your essay.

BODY

- [SIDE A] On one side of the argument there are people who argue that (give reasons why people have this view).....
- [SIDE B] On the other hand (give reasons).....

CONCLUSION

- Usually you can say that both sides have merits. State which side is stronger and the reason.

Band 7.5 by Abe Wong**Examiner comments in italics**

It is said by many that people should acquire a second language because there may be a need for individuals to travel to a foreign country for work or leisure. Others believe that people should study a foreign language for reasons other than these. While I think learning a foreign language for the purpose of travelling to a foreign country has some merits, I agree with the view that there are other reasons why people should do so. *This essay will....*

You could improve your introduction by briefly outlining your main points. What are they?

It is certain that before people travel to a foreign country for employment or a holiday, it would be beneficial to have some proficiency in that country's language. Being able to speak its language would make life much easier in the country. For instance, if a foreigner could communicate in the host country's language, he would achieve simple daily tasks such as going to the supermarket, ordering food in a restaurant and giving directions to taxi drivers without much difficulty.

You have developed your main idea well here, but it could be improved by including a specific example.

Granted, one reason for acquiring a second language is for the purpose of staying in a foreign country for work or leisure, but there are other reasons for doing so. Wanting to break down barriers with international students who come to study in one's country is a good reason for studying another language. In my view, being able to communicate with people in their language opens doors to all sorts of possibilities and potential, such as cross cultural friendships and business opportunities. For example, not only was I was able to make many

close friendships with Chinese students because of my ability to speak Mandarin, I also helped set up an English language school with one of my Chinese friends from China.

Good paragraph.

In conclusion, while it is advantageous to learn a foreign language due to work or for leisure purposes, there are also many other reasons for doing so.

You need to summarize the idea “breaking down barriers”.

Word Count: 307

Vocabulary 词汇

- merit (n) 优点
- beneficial (adj) 有利的; 有益的
- proficiency (n) 水平
- Gran
- acquire (v) 获得
- barrier (n) 障碍
- leisure (n) 闲暇; 悠闲

Examiner Report

Task Response- Band 7

You have sufficiently addressed all parts of the task.

You present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.

The only thing missing are specific examples in each paragraph. If you included these you would get a Band 8.

You have also made your position very clear throughout the essay.

Suggestion- The one thing lacking in your answer is a specific example for each supporting paragraph.

You can make your examples more specific by including dates, places, names, statistics etc.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 7

You logically organise information and ideas and there is clear progression throughout. I especially like the way you have organised your ideas in the paragraphs with one main idea in one paragraph and the other main idea in the other paragraph.

You use a range of cohesive devices (linking words) appropriately although there is some over-use. All linking words are used accurately and effectively, but there tends to be a reliance on them through overuse. This is not a huge problem, but the higher band scores use cohesive devices much less than you currently do.

Your introduction is not effective.

Your conclusion lacks a full summary.

Suggestions- Your use of cohesive devices is very good, but you do have a tendency to overuse them. You don't get more marks for every cohesive device you use and in fact, you will be penalised for overusing them. Only use them when necessary. If you look at my example essays I might only use them once or twice per paragraph.

Keep using the paragraph structure you are using now and you will be fine.

Your coherence would benefit if you made your opinion clear in the introduction and outlined your main ideas. This makes it much easier for the reader to follow your argument and keeps your mind focused on supporting your opinion.

Summarize both of your body paragraphs.

Vocabulary- Band 8

You use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings.

You skilfully use uncommon lexical items but there are occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation.

You only produce rare errors in word formation.

Suggestions- Well done. This was one of the strongest parts of your essay. If you keep doing this in the exam you will do really well. Remember that it is about using vocabulary naturally so only try to use a word when it is natural to do so, in other words don't try to force big words into your writing.

Grammar- Band 8

You use a wide range of grammatical structures and nearly all of your sentences are complex.

The majority of sentences are completely error-free

You make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies and these never impede communication.

Suggestions- Your grammar is good and most of your sentences have no errors at all. Keep doing this and you will do fine.

Try to leave yourself at least 2-3 minutes at the end of the test to read your essay again and check for small mistakes. Everyone makes small mistakes and 2 minutes at the end can really raise your band score in this area.

Overall- Band 7.5

Overall, this was a very good essay, but you could improve it in the following ways:

- Paraphrase the question in the first sentence.
- Give a clear opinion in the introduction.
- Outline your main ideas in the introduction.
- Include one specific example in each main body paragraph.
- Summarise your main ideas in the conclusion and reiterate your opinion.
- Reduce the number of words in your essay to between 260-290 words.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion

Many governments think that economic progress is their most important goal. Some people, however, think that other types of progress are equally important for a country.

Discuss both views and give your own opinion.

Cambridge 11, Test 4, Writing Task 2 (Cambridge English 2016, p.101)

Band 8 by Abe Wong

Examiner comments in italics

It is said by many that economic advancement is the most important goal for any government.

While I think economic progress is important, in my view other forms of progress such as human rights are equally significant. This essay will discuss both of these views and give reasons for my opinion.

Excellent introduction. You have paraphrased the question well and given a clear opinion.

Well done.

There are a number of reasons why governments believe economic progress is the most important goal for the country. Governments may think that they have a responsibility for lifting the nation out of poverty so that people can have better standards of living. For instance, China is a perfect example of its government achieving great economic progress. Its government has lifted many people out of poverty as a result of opening up the country to foreign investment since the 1980s.

Excellent. You have shown why some governments make this their priority and given a very good example.

Granted, material wealth results in better standards of living, but it is not necessarily an indicator of quality of life, so other types of development are needed. For example, the LGBT community in China often faces discrimination and prejudice in all areas of life. When a same-sex couple sued the government for refusing to grant them the right to marry, their case was accepted in a district court. The fact that the court heard such a lawsuit for the first time in history indicates that some progress has been made in recognition of same-sex relationships. In my view, society will become more accepting of gay partnerships as a result of the publicity of the case and quality of life for homosexuals will improve.

Excellent. You have shown why other types of progress are important and provided an excellent example.

You have also given a very clear opinion.

In conclusion, while I think achieving economic prosperity is an essential goal for any government, progress in the area of human rights is equally significant. In my opinion, only when better standards of living go hand in hand with improved quality of life will people experience holistic happiness.

Excellent summary and a clear opinion. Well done.

Word Count: 302

Vocabulary 词汇

- standards of living 生活水平; 生活标准
- poverty (n) 贫穷
- quality of life 生活质量; 生命质量; 生存质量
- LGBT community 同性恋社群

- discrimination (n) 歧视; 不公平的待遇
- prejudice (n) 偏见
- sue (v) 起诉; 控告; 控诉; 和…打官司
- lawsuit (n) 诉讼; 诉讼案件
- same-sex relationship 同性关系
- prosperity (n) 繁荣
- holistic (adj) 整体的; 整体性
- granted (adv) 不可否认

Examiner Report**Task Response- Band 8**

You have sufficiently addressed all parts of the task.

You present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.

You have provided a very balanced answer and have given equal attention to both sides.

You have also made your position very clear throughout the essay.

Suggestion- This is a very strong answer.

You have looked at both sides equally and your ideas are really well developed.

I am particularly impressed with how specific your ideas, especially your examples.

Keep doing this and you will be fine.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 8

You have sequenced information and ideas logically.

Your structure really helps you get top marks in this category.

You manage all aspects of cohesion well and there is no inappropriate or inaccurate use of discourse markers.

You use paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately.

Suggestions- This is one of the strongest parts of your essay.

Keep using this structure and paragraphing and you will be fine in this regard.

Vocabulary- Band 8

You use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings.

You skilfully use uncommon lexical items but there are occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation.

You only produce rare errors in word formation.

Suggestions- Well done. This was one of the strongest parts of your essay. If you keep doing this in the exam you will do really well. Remember that it is about using vocabulary naturally so only try to use a word when it is natural to do so, in other words don't try to force big words into your writing.

You did a very good job of using synonyms to vary your language and you should continue to do this.

Grammar- Band 8

You use a wide range of grammatical structures and nearly all of your sentences are complex.

The majority of sentences are completely error-free

You make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies and these never impede communication.

Suggestions- Your grammar is good and most of your sentences have no errors at all. Keep doing this and you will do fine.

Try to leave yourself at least 2-3 minutes at the end of the test to read your essay again and check for small mistakes. Everyone makes small mistakes and 2 minutes at the end can really raise your band score in this area.

Overall- Band 8

Another first class essay.

Make sure that you are doing these essays under exam conditions to make sure that you are getting feedback on your actual ability. If you are doing these essays without looking at them before and under 40 minutes, then this is nothing to worry about. But if not, you need to start practicing under exam conditions.

Other types of essays: Two Questions

Nowadays the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology.

In what ways has technology affected the types of relationships people make?

Has this become a positive or negative development?

INTRODUCTION

- Paraphrase the question.
- State your opinions for both questions.
- Outline your essay.

BODY

- Answer the first question.
- Answer the second question.

CONCLUSION

- Summarise the two answers.

Band 7.5 by Abe Wong**Examiner comments in italics**

In the past couple of decades an increasing number of people use technology to interact with each other. The way people look for love, for instance, has been affected because of technology. In my view, this has become a positive development because it has helped shy people find dates that they wouldn't otherwise find. This essay discusses the way technology has changed people's relationships and the positive development it brings.

Excellent introduction. You have paraphrased the question well and given a clear opinion.

Well done.

In the pre-internet days people usually went to a bar in the hope of finding love or casual sex. People would go up to their potential date and maybe buy them a drink, talk for awhile and perhaps ask for their phone numbers for a later meeting. Nowadays, with numerous mobile dating apps like Blued and Grindr that are available on the market, people can instantly find people nearby, message each other and if they like each other, meet up for a date or for casual sex.

Well done. You have a clear main idea and you have explained it well in relation to the question. You have also supported your main idea with a specific example.

In my view, technology has made it easier for people to be confident. They no longer need to have the guts to go up to a person in a bar which can be nerve-racking for some. They now only need to type a message on the app in the comfort of their own home and can hook-up instantly. The privacy of these apps also mean homosexuals could still hide in the closet without going to a gay bar but still find relationships with other gay people through these apps.

Well done. A very well developed paragraph.

In conclusion, technology has positively affected the types of relationships people make.

There are two questions above and you have only addressed one of them in your conclusion.

Word Count: 258

Vocabulary 词汇

- interact (v) 互动; 接触
- casual sex 滥交: 指一种会发生性交行为的活动, 活动中的人物不存在情侣关系
- mobile dating apps 手机交友软件
- Blued 是一款中国同性恋交友软件
- Grindr 是一款同性恋交友软件
- nerve-racking (adj) 极端令人头疼的, 非常伤脑筋的
- hook-up 约会; 约炮
- have the guts 有勇气
- homosexual 同性恋者
- hide in the closet 未出柜

Examiner Report**Task Response- Band 8**

You have sufficiently addressed all parts of the task.

You present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.

You have provided a very balanced answer and have given equal attention to both questions.

You have also made your position very clear throughout the essay.

Suggestion- This is a very strong answer.

You have looked at both sides equally and your ideas are really well developed.

I am particularly impressed with how specific your ideas, especially your examples.

Keep doing this and you will be fine.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 7

You logically organise information and ideas and there is clear progression throughout. I especially like the way you have organised your ideas in the paragraphs with one main idea in one paragraph and the other main idea in the other paragraph.

Your conclusion was not effective because you only addressed one question out of the two.

Suggestions- Keep using the paragraph structure you are using now and you will be fine.

Your coherence would benefit if you made your opinion clear in the conclusion and summarised your main ideas. This makes it much easier for the reader to follow your argument and your essay more cohesive. You should do this for both questions.

Vocabulary- Band 7

You use a wide range of vocabulary that allows you to convey meaning effectively.

You use less common words accurately and appropriately which is really impressive.

You do however produce occasional errors in word choice and word formation, which you can see above.

Suggestions- Your vocabulary should be good enough to get a band 7. However, the worst thing you can do is try to force this in the exam. By force I mean try to show the examiner how good your vocabulary is because this will normally lead to mistakes. Just use words that seem natural to you rather than forcing them. You only need maybe 2 or 3 less common words per paragraph to get a high mark for vocabulary.

Synonyms and paraphrasing are important but you shouldn't try and force these if you are not sure about them. Only use synonyms when you are 100% that they directly translate and the word formation makes sense.

It is better to repeat a word and get the grammar, meaning and word formation correct than use a synonym that is wrong and causes you to make mistakes.

Grammar- Band 7

Around 50% of your sentences are completely error-free. Well done. The errors that you do make are only small so they do not impede communication. You use a variety of complex sentences and a variety of complex structures.

Suggestions- Look at the common errors you have made in all of the essays I have marked for you and identify common problems. You can revise the grammar for these common

problems and fix them. You should also give yourself at least 3 minutes at the end to make sure you have not made any grammar mistakes.

In order to get above a 7 for grammar more than 50% of your sentences have to be completely error-free so focus on eliminating the small errors and don't take any risks.

Overall- Band 7.5

Overall, this was an excellent essay and you should be really proud of it.

Apart from the small grammar and vocabulary mistakes, you should work on improving your conclusion.

Other types of essays: Problems and Solutions

Nowadays more and more people have to compete with young people for the same jobs.

What problems does this cause?

What are some possible solutions?

INTRODUCTION

- Paraphrase the question.
- State the problem.
- State the solution.
- Outline your essay.

BODY

- Problem
- Solution

CONCLUSION

- Summarise ideas.

Band 8.5 by Abe Wong**Examiner comments in italics**

An increasing number of older people nowadays apply for the same jobs as young people. One of the problems that this causes is age discrimination which results in long term unemployment for older people. In my view, governments should give incentives to employers to employ older people. This essay discusses this problem and gives a possible solution to it.

Excellent.

During times of economic downturn, many employers will lay off mid-level staff and make their positions redundant. For instance, during the Global Financial Crisis an insurance company that I worked for laid off several mid-level staff as a result of a restructure. Some of the staff who had been retrenched found it difficult to find jobs that were comparable to their levels of experience due to a shortage of these positions during the GFC and applied for less senior positions. The problem with older people applying for relatively junior positions is that they would be competing with younger people who may be less experienced and cheaper to employ. In many cases, employers would employ someone who is less costly, resulting in older people finding themselves in long term unemployment.

Excellent.

In my view, governments should give incentives to employers to employ older and more experienced people. In Australia, for example, a government program encourages employers to engage older people by paying them a fee as an incentive. I think giving an inducement will not only attract employers to appoint older people, but it will also be beneficial for

companies in the long term, as older people have the necessary experience to help companies grow.

Excellent.

In conclusion, while competing with young people for the same jobs may disadvantage older people, there are workable solutions to this problem.

You have not actually summarised your main ideas here. You have just stated vaguely that there are problems and solutions.

Word Count: 304

Vocabulary 词汇

- discrimination (n) 歧视; 不公平的待遇
- unemployment (n) 失业
- incentive (n) 动机; 鼓励; 诱因
- economic downturn (n) 经济低迷
- redundant (adj) (因人员过剩) 被解雇的
- lay off (v) 裁员
- restructure (n) 重组
- retrench (v) 节省
- inducement (n) 动机; 鼓励; 诱因
- engage (v) 聘用

Examiner Report**Task Response- Band 8**

You have sufficiently addressed all parts of the task. You present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.

Suggestion- This is a very strong answer.

You have really impressed me with your examples and overall structure.

You clearly state your main points, give a relevant specific example and then talk about the consequences of this.

This is a really strong paragraph structure.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 7

You logically organise information and ideas and there is clear progression throughout. I especially like the way you have organised your ideas in the paragraphs with one main idea in one paragraph and the other main idea in the other paragraph.

Your conclusion was not effective.

Suggestions- Keep using the paragraph structure you are using now and you will be fine.

You must state what the actual problems and solutions are in the conclusion. You can easily do this by paraphrasing what you have already written about.

Vocabulary and Grammar- Band 9

Very good range of grammatical structures.

Good range of vocabulary .

One very small mistake but this would be seen as a mere slip.

Overall- Band 8.5

This was an excellent essay.

The one thing that could be improved is the conclusion.

Task 1

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Identify the key features

Key features are the most noticeable, significant facts contained in the graph.

Select two or three key features, which will form the basis of your answer.

Charts are the most common type of questions, but there are other types:

- Tables
- Process
- Maps
- multiple charts

STRUCTURE

- Paragraph 1- Introduction
- Paragraph 2- Overview
- Paragraph 3- Details 1
- Paragraph 4/5 - Details 2/Details 3

OR

- Paragraph 1- Introduction
- Paragraph 2- Details 1
- Paragraph 3/4 - Details 2/Details 3
- Paragraph 4 or 5- Overview

Writing Tips

- Use a 4-5 paragraph structure.
- Select the key features and then report them in a separate overview paragraph. This is the most important part of your essay. You can't get a high mark until you learn how to write an effective overview.
- NEVER include data in your overview paragraph.
- You must support your overview with accurate and relevant data in the details paragraphs.

Test 1

WRITING

WRITING TASK 1

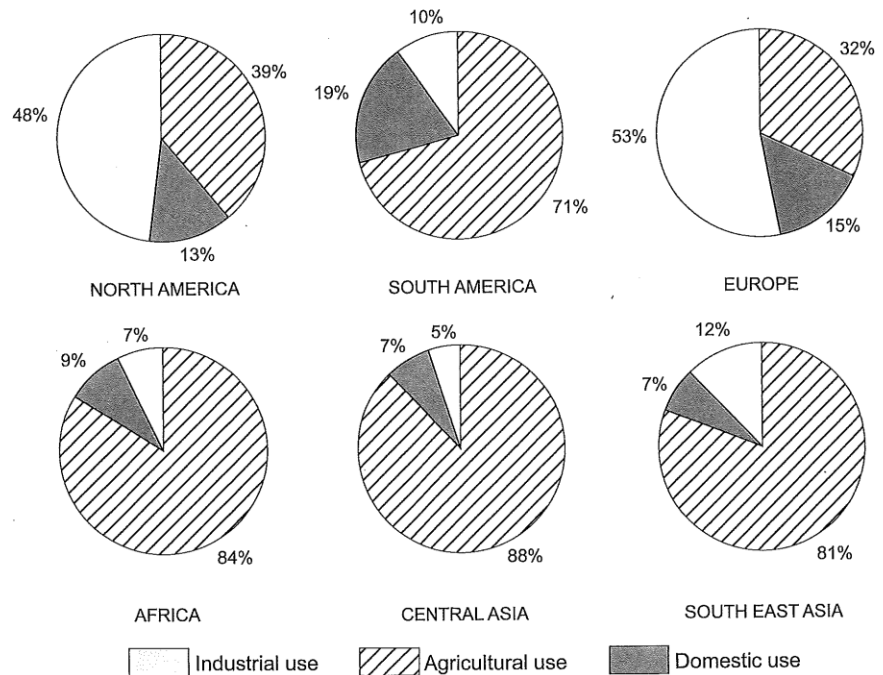
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The charts below show the percentage of water used for different purposes in six areas of the world.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Percentage of water used for different purposes in six areas of the world



30

Band 8.5 by Abe Wong**Examiner comments in italics**

The six pie charts show how water is utilised in North America, South America, Europe, Africa, Central Asia and South East Asia.

Good introduction.

From the charts, it can be inferred that developing countries in South America, Africa, Central and South East Asia use water mostly for agriculture, with Central Asia using 88 percent for this purpose. This is followed by Africa which uses 84%, South East Asia 81% and South America 71%.

Very good. These are key features and you have reported them accurately.

The western world, on the other hand, employs approximately half of their overall water usage for industry, with Europe using 53% and North America 48% for this purpose. In these areas, about one third of water is used for farming, compared with more than two-thirds in the developing world.

Excellent.

With the exception of Africa and Central Asia, all other areas use the least amount of water for the home.

Good, but make sure you report data. Apart from the introduction and overview, each paragraph should contain key data.

You should also try to maintain a four paragraph structure.

To sum up, while developing countries use water mostly for farming, the western world utilises water mostly for industry.

Excellent. You have spotted the key features and reported them clearly in your overview.

Examiner Report**Task Response- Band 8**

You have covered all requirements of the task successfully.

Your answer presents key features clearly and appropriately.

You present a clear overview of the key features.

Suggestions- You have done all of the right things here. Keep doing this and you will be fine.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 8

Your answer sequences ideas logically. Grouping together of information is also logical.

Your answer uses all aspects of cohesion accurately and appropriately.

Your answer uses paragraphing and structure correctly.

Suggestions- This is one of the strongest parts of your essay. Keep doing this and you will be fine.

Vocabulary and Grammar- Band 9

You had one very small error, but this would be seen as a mere slip.

Overall- Band 8.5

You did everything correctly. Well done.

You recognised that the purpose of this essay was to compare the 6 places and you made appropriate comparisons. You must remember that making comparisons is not always relevant.

Test 2

WRITING

WRITING TASK 1

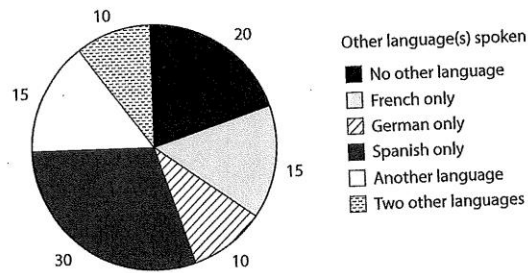
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The charts below show the proportions of British students at one university in England who were able to speak other languages in addition to English, in 2000 and 2010.

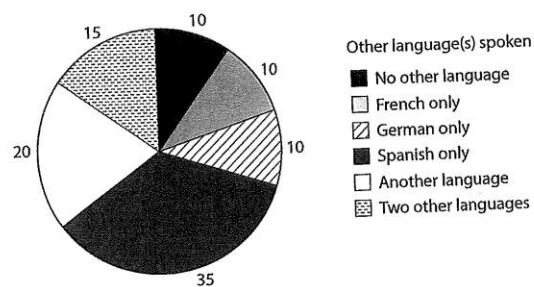
Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

% of British Students able to speak languages other than English, 2000



% of British Students able to speak languages other than English, 2010



Band 7 by Abe Wong**Examiner comments in italics**

The two charts report the percentage of British students who were able to speak French, German or Spanish, another language or two languages other than English at one British university in 2000 and in 2010.

There is no need to include this amount of information in your introduction. Just paraphrase the question.

Comparing the two charts, there were more students speaking other languages in 2010 than in 2000. With the exception of German and French speakers which respectively stayed constant and had less representation in 2010, all other languages had more speakers in 2010 compared to 2000.

This is a details paragraph and you have no data.

Spanish was by far the most spoken language other than English in both 2000 and 2010, comprising of just under a third of all students in 2000 and just over one-third in 2010. As a result of more students speaking languages other than English, speakers who only spoke English in 2010 were half that of the figure in 2000.

Overall, there were ninety percent of students who were able to speak an additional language other than English at the university in 2010 and eighty percent in 2000.

You have included data in your overview. Never do this.

Examiner Report**Task Response- Band 5**

You generally address the task, although the format is inappropriate in places.

Your answer recounts detail with no clear overview and you have included data in it.

There is not much accurate data to support the description.

Your answer presents, but inadequately covers, key features.

Suggestions- You should use an appropriate structure when writing Task 1 reports. See below.

You must select the key features and then report them in a separate overview paragraph. This is the most important part of your essay. You can't get a high mark until you learn how to write an effective overview. See below.

You must support your overview with accurate and relevant data in the details paragraphs.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 5

Your answer presents information with some organisation but there is a lack of overall progression.

Information is not grouped together in a logical way.

Your answer makes inadequate use of paragraphs.

Suggestions-

You should use the following paragraph structure-

Paragraph 1- Introduction

Paragraph 2- Overview

Paragraph 3- Details 1

Paragraph 4- Details 2

Information should be grouped together logically.

Vocabulary and Grammar- Band 9

No mistakes and good range.

Overall- Band 7

You could improve this report by doing the following things:

- Paraphrase question in the first paragraph.
- Pick out the key features of the graph and report these clearly in the overview. The key features will be the 2-4 most important things about the data source.
- Do not include any data in the overview.
- Include accurate data in the details paragraphs.
- Develop details paragraphs with more detail.
- Use a four paragraph structure.
- Group categories together in a more logical way.

References

Cambridge English 2016, IELTS 11 Academic, Cambridge University Press and UCLES.

Cambridge English 2015, IELTS 10 Academic, Cambridge University Press and UCLES.