

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

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 2

Sample Script A

Who should be responsible for our people.

It is true that the old Peoples situation gets worse in the many countries. The first question must be what they want's and what they needs? 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 retire's time company or Government must be responsible of their welfare, it is just my opinion. They should take care of them.

In addition to company or Government. If they have 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 Relative's responsibility depends on their wealthy situations. If they could do they should do anything.

Government's or their former 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 and good life.

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

I.Bozyil

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 th 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.