

Sample answers for Writing tasks

TEST 1, WRITING TASK 1

SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 7.0** score.

Dear Mr and Mrs Collins,

My name is Carola. I have seen your advertisement in a magazine and I'm writing to you because I would like to be considered for the position you are offering. I really would like to work for you because I think it will be a good experience for you and me. I like to travel, know about different cultures and meet new people. I have never been to Australia but I'm pretty sure there a lot of thing to see and try. I have previous experience looking after children. Currently I'm working for an Irish family and I take care of for children whose ages vary from three to eight. I have to say that I've never thought that looking after children would be that rewarding. I enjoy spending time with them and I have learnt a lot. I'm really patient, tidy, reliable, and hard working.

In addition, I have just completed an first aids course.

If I had the chance to live with you would be great. I would spend my free time learning English, visiting turist attractions, trying local food and making new friends.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter. Please feel free to contact me if you need further details and recomendations.

Kind regards,

Carola

Here is the examiner's comment:

This answer presents a clear purpose with a consistent, appropriate tone. Each bullet point is clearly highlighted and covered, although there is room for some extension. Information and ideas are logically organised and cohesive devices are used appropriately. The range of vocabulary is sufficient to show some flexibility and precision, as well as use of collocation [*the position you are offering* | *previous experience* | *rewarding* | *taking the time to read my letter* | *contact me* | *further details*]. There are only occasional spelling errors [*first aids* | *turist* | *recomendations*]. There is a range of complex grammatical structures with frequent error-free sentences.



Sample answers for Writing tasks

TEST 1, WRITING TASK 2

SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 6.5** score.

Nowadays millions of online shops are doing business and develop rapidly. The majority of traditional shops concern if they will bankrupt soon due to the fast growing online shopping. However some people argue that a great deal of shops can still survive.

Firstly, the online shops always offer a very competitive price in order to obtain more and more consumers. They can always provide attractive promotion and sell the products in bottom price because they do not have to pay the extra rental for the physical shops. For example, in my own country, the daily turn over of Tao Bao online shop is about 10 million, which is an astonishing amount.

Secondly, the people are keen on shopping on internet because it can save time. Especially the young generation are likely to browse the website of the shops at home in a comfortable atmosphere. They may flexibly select the goods that they like without the persuading from the shop staff. They can also compare the prices between various shops due to price - checking system.

However, some people said the traditional shops would still have their opportunities to retain their business. They suggest the owners of the chain stores or department stores can build up the online shops as well so as to maintain a stable business. Actually, there are a lot of shops that have built up their online shops, such as the renowned sport shop Nike. All the shops should look for a correct manner to increase their business.

All in all, it is difficult to say that what is the advantage or disadvantage for online shopping. In my opinion, the owners of business should attain to check the trend of the business and quote a best price for keeping the purchasers.

Here is the examiner's comment:

The candidate has covered all parts of the task but his/her position is not sufficiently clear for a higher band to be awarded. The response focuses on the advantages and disadvantages of online shopping, rather than on whether or not the writer agrees that this type of shopping will result in all shops in towns and cities closing. Organisation is logical, with appropriate use of cohesive devices and paragraphs and the range of vocabulary shows some less common items and use of collocation [*fast growing* | *competitive* | *keen on* | *browse the website* | *price-checking system* | *retain their business* | *renowned*]. There is a mix of simple and complex sentence forms and the meaning is clear, in spite of some errors.



TEST 2, WRITING TASK 1

MODEL ANSWER

This model has been prepared by an examiner as an example of a very good answer. However, please note that this is just one example out of many possible approaches.

Dear Sir or Madam

The latest edition of your travel magazine included an article about Cambridge, but this contained incorrect information. The writer described the University of Cambridge as being the oldest in the world whereas in fact the oldest university in the English-speaking world is in Oxford. The University of Cambridge was founded in 1209, but Oxford was known to have existed in 1096.

A magazine such as yours has an international reputation and is extremely influential with travel companies and individuals alike. It is essential that any information published should be accurate and reliable and I was genuinely surprised that the facts had not been checked prior to publication.

I feel that the least the magazine can do is to publish a correction and an apology in next month's magazine. I would also urge you to ensure that all factual information is thoroughly checked before publication.

Yours faithfully,

Alan Watson



TEST 2, WRITING TASK 2

SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 8.0** score.

Some of the people believe that friends with exactly the same opinions on different topics are better than the ones that can argue with them.

On the one hand, having similar interests on hobbies is a reason to start a friendship. In this case people always have something to discuss. If your friend has the same view of particular problem as you do, he can help you to find a solution faster. Such friend will always support you and take your side in any argument. He will be there for you in any situation.

On the other hand, having equal opinions with you friend is sometimes boring. You always agree on every issue with each other and have no discussion or argument. If your friend disagrees with you, you can discuss both views, reach a compromise and come up with a suitable solution. But strong disagreement can often lead to a heated argument or even ruin your friendship.

In my opinion, friends should not agree on everything they are talking about. I think that this kind of friendship is boring and it is not likely to last for long. However, a friend with the same opinion as yours will definitely support your point of view in any discussion. And it is a wonderful thing, too.

In conclusion I would like to say that it is good to have different views on some topics or problems but you should be loyal to the opinion of your friend. Everyone should appreciate their friendship and shouldn't let stupid arguments ruin it.

Here is the examiner's comment:

The candidate has discussed both sides of the topic and provided his/her own opinion in the final two paragraphs. Ideas for each point of view are developed and supported, but there is room for further extension. The writing shows logical organisation and sequencing of ideas, with good use of cohesive devices [*the ones that* | *In this case* | *On the one hand ... On the other hand* | *this kind of friendship* | *the same opinion as yours*]. Paragraphing is used sufficiently and appropriately. The range of vocabulary includes some less common items and collocations [*support you* | *take your side in* | *be there for you* | *reach a compromise* | *come up with*] and there are only rare errors [*you / your friend*]. There is a wide range of complex structures with very few errors (there are two cases of missing articles), but both vocabulary and grammatical range lack the sophistication expected from a Band 9 answer.



TEST 3, WRITING TASK 1

SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 7.0** score.

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to you to provide a feedback on the "Kitchen Wonders" cookery course I have taken recently. As my cooking had become more and more complimented since, I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation for the evolution I have attained from the course.

Albeit a short and basic course, it contained useful tips on using cutlery and cookware which were entirely new to me. Having always cooked by instinct these tips (enabled) brought to light simple mistakes I had been making, which now I avoid. Moreover, I particularly enjoyed the "Kitchen Hacks" module, and its techniques have brought my cooking skills to a new level.

I have been using these lessons on weekends, when I normally cook for my family, and the difference is clear. The effect the course had on my dishes has been remarked on some occasions, and this new found ability has been raising expectations as the word spreads throughout my relatives. Still, I am confident they shall not be disappointed.

I intend on honing this skill further, especially since the course did not address dessert-making. Should such a course be offered, I would be delighted to enroll and keep collecting awestruck expressions from my relatives. I really appreciate the results your course has provided me, and I look forward to even more.

Sincerely,

Paulo

Here is the examiner's comment:

The response covers all the bullet points and develops them at some length. The purpose is clear and the only inconsistency in tone is the use of [*Sincerely*] to close the letter. Information and ideas are logically organised and there is a clear progression throughout. There is a range of cohesive devices, used appropriately [*Albeit* | *it* | *which* | *these tips* | *Moreover*], for example. The range of vocabulary is wide enough to show some less common items and collocations [*cooked by instinct* | *brought to light* | *Kitchen Hacks* | *new found ability* | *honing my skills* | *awestruck*], with only minor errors [*The effect the course had on my dishes has been remarked (upon) on some occasions* | *enroll* / *enrol*]. There is a variety of complex structures, with frequent error-free sentences and good control of punctuation with only a few errors.



TEST 3, WRITING TASK 2

SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 6.5** score.

In the world, there are things we can buy paying money. But, at the same time there are things that we'll never be able to get thought we are milianair.

We can make ourselves spending money to buy visible items, such as expensive cars, bags, houses, clothes and so on. A friend of mine, when she is stressful she like to go shopping to get rid of the stress. Luckily she is rich so she is satisfied and happy after purchasing as many things as possible. Also, money can be very important for some things which are not visible. For example, if any of family members is illed requiring a expensive surgery money becomes the most important factor to decide to proceed with the surgery or just suffer without having the surgery.

We can not only make ourselves happy when we have lots of money, we can also be happy with some things that we never buy with money.

My parents were not rich when I was a child. I desired to get toys and pretty clethings but the couldn't afford to buy them. I was disappointed that I could not have those things while my friends were having.

But my parents brought me up with unlimited love and they became my best friend to listen to me when I was in truble and needed adviie. As a result my childhood was happy and I grew up having positive way of thinking instead of complainng for the things my parents couldn't buy for me.

In conclusion through my experience, we can make our lives convenient when having enough money. But, we do not need to be frustrated or desperate with not having lots of money.

Happiness depends on our mind set and it is always subjective to change if the amount of money is considered a lot or little.

By focusing on what we have on our hands now and drive to achieve what we want to gain, we can always be happy.

Here is the examiner's comment:

The candidate has addressed all parts of the task and presents a well-developed response. Ideas are relevant, extended and supported throughout. The candidate's task response is the best aspect of this piece of writing. Ideas are logically organised, with some use of cohesive devices, and there is a clear overall progression, but paragraphing is inconsistent and not always logical. The range of vocabulary is adventurous [*proceed with the surgery* | *unlimited love* | *positive way of thinking* | *frustrated* | *desperate*], but there also errors in some quite basic items [*thought* / *though* | *milianair* / *millionaire* | *stressful* / *stressed* | *illed* / *ill* | *clethings* / *clothes* | *the* / *they* | *truble* / *trouble* | *adviiie* / *advice* | *complainng* / *complaining*], which limits the rating on Lexical Resource. There is a mix of simple and complex sentence forms, with a fair degree of accuracy, but a wider range and better control over punctuation would perhaps result in a higher score here.



TEST 4, WRITING TASK 1

SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 6.0** score.

Dear Mr. Tremain,

I saw your concert recently at Manchester Hall and I thought your performance was very touching and excellent. I felt deeply connected with the lyrics in your songs. I am a current music student at Oxford university and our school is having a musical performance next week. The play relates well to your latest song and I would be very grateful if you can help with me musical activities by providing a more detail insight to your lyric. Also, could you give us some tips about performing as this is our first performance. By giving an insight to your lyric, our drama and musical team a deeper connection to the song, which is what we really need. I hope I am not asking for too much. My team really looks up to you and it would mean the world if you write back.

Thank You for reading this letter and I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours Sincerly,

Here is the examiner's comment:

The candidate covers all three bullet points, but there is room for development of the ideas presented. There is an overall progression in the response, but it could be improved by using separate paragraphs for each topic. The range of vocabulary is sufficient for the task, with some attempts at less common items [*lyrics* | *insight*] and with only a few mistakes in spelling and word form [*greatful* / *grateful* | *detail* / *detailed*], though more specific vocabulary would improve the writing [*the play* / *performance?*]. Both simple and complex sentence structures are used, with some accuracy, but there appears to be a missing section [*our drama and musical team (would obtain?) a deeper connection to the song*].



TEST 4, WRITING TASK 2

MODEL ANSWER

This model has been prepared by an examiner as an example of a very good answer. However, please note that this is just one example out of many possible approaches.

Nowadays many people work long hours, leaving them little time for leisure activities. There are some advantages in this situation, but personally I feel there are more disadvantages. The advantages include the possibility of earning more money, if the employer pays overtime for extra hours worked. This can be a real bonus if someone is saving with a particular goal in mind: a holiday, for example, or saving to buy a house or flat. Another advantage might be that more time spent at work enables a more thorough knowledge and understanding of the job. Some professions such as law and accountancy require familiarity with a wide range of rules and requirements and these cannot all be learned through study; they have to be learned on the job. For younger people there is also the sheer stimulus of being involved in something they enjoy, so that they do not object to, or count, the hours they spend at work.

Unfortunately, if people do not have enough time to relax, there are quite major risks associated with this. Health often suffers, either physically or mentally, and sometimes both. Taking time out for physical leisure activities has positive effects on health through the release of chemicals that make us feel better both physically and mentally. Other leisure activities may involve spending time with a group of people, activating skills other than those used at work and thus encouraging supportive social networks.

Friendships can also be weakened because of not making enough time to stay in touch, but using only a little of your free time to have a meal or go to the cinema with someone helps to maintain that friendship. Listening to your friend's problems, or talking through your own, reinforces your relationship with them, as well as allowing you to switch off mentally from the things that have been happening at work. This 'distancing' from work helps you to get things back into perspective and can sometimes help you to find solutions to matters that have been bothering you.

Within a family situation a partner may feel neglected if the other one spends long hours away at work, or a child may feel neglected because mummy/daddy is never around for birthdays, school performances or a vital sports match. This lack of involvement is a major contributor to family breakdown, which in turn has wider repercussions in our society.

Work is a major part of our lives and it is to be hoped that many find it enjoyable, challenging and stimulating, but it is important to recognise the need for a work-life balance and to ensure that this is put into practice.

