

TEST A, WRITING TASK 1 (GENERAL TRAINING)

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 Jenny,

I hope this finds you and your family well, and I'm sorry I haven't been in touch recently. I'm writing now to let you know about my new job.

You remember that I was working for that construction company a few miles outside the city? Well, I just got so fed up with it – I was working really long hours and, to be honest, the pay wasn't great. So basically I applied for a job at a new international company that was looking for admin staff for a new branch in the city centre.

I was a bit nervous in the interview, but in the end I got a job as one of the senior administrators. I am so happy! The pay is better, the working conditions are great and I don't have to drive to work anymore.

Anyway, I have to stop now because my sister is staying with me and has brought my baby nephew to meet me. She sends you lots of love and is asking when we can all meet up. Soon, I hope.

With love,

Tina

TEST A, WRITING TASK 2 (GENERAL TRAINING)

SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 7** score. Here is the examiner's comment:

The response looks at the advantages of living in apartments and houses then briefly considers some disadvantages before giving the candidate's own opinion. Fuller development of the disadvantages would raise the candidate's score here. The ideas are clearly organised and paragraphing is logical. There is some under-use of cohesive devices and some incorrect referencing, but links between sentences and paragraphs can be clearly followed. The range of vocabulary used is varied and there is some good use of collocation, but there are occasional examples of inappropriate word choice, and better control of spelling would help to raise the candidate's score. The range of complex structures could be wider, but there is sufficient variation in sentence forms and sufficient control of grammar and punctuation to reach this band. Some errors occur, but most are minor and do not reduce communication.

In big business cities there are two options available for the type of accommodation: houses and apartments. Some people prefer to live in apartments and some like to live in houses.

In big business cities, where almost everyone is going out daily for work or study, apartments provide a much more comfortable and safe way of living. The advantages include the fact that there is one key and lock they have to take care of, and also the sense of being a part of a big family. Usually a guard sits at the main gate, so children can play around in the compound with their next door friends. In addition, not much daily cleaning is required in apartments as no staircase has to be clean, which is a difficult task - all housewives know it very well. But a key advantage is that it is safe to go on vacation for a long trip.

On the other hand, houses have their own attraction for its inhabitants. Garden lovers usually prefer houses as they can have their own garden. It is also easy to keep a pet, especially a dog in a house because dog can play around the garden. If someone is interested in maintaining cars himself, it can only be possible in houses where one can have his own garage.

Where people are sometimes much more concerned about their privacy, living in apartments can be a very difficult for them. It may also be the case that someone is not able to deal with other people, for instance next door neighbours, and then house can be a best choice for such people.

However, sometimes houses can be a bad choice for low income people. Maintaining a big house and running it properly can be a problem for such cases.

At the end I must say both options can be good or bad, depending on the personal considerations. But from my point of view, I must say apartments seem a gift of modern way of life which is not common in my home town.

TEST B, WRITING TASK 1 (GENERAL TRAINING)

SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 5** score. Here is the examiner's comment:

This answer does not cover the bullets well because there are no thanks for the holiday and giving the address is not logical in the context. The second bullet is given rather too much focus, so the purpose of the letter is less clear, and the tone is inappropriate at the end of the letter. The information is organised according to the ordering of the task, and although few linkers are used, there is some clear referencing. The range of vocabulary is rather restricted, but generally sufficient for the task, although inappropriacies and some word form errors occur. A mix of structures is attempted but short, simple sentences are frequent. Control of tenses and verb phrases is weak in more complex structures and this impacts on the message at times.

Dear Taufik and Lina,

I'm so glad receiving your photos when we were in Singapore. The photos are so nice and bright. They remind me for my special holiday with you.

I'm sorry because I don't write a letter to you as soon as possible. After I came back to Melbourne, my boss asked me to had two weeks training in Wellington, New Zealand. I don't have any time to tell you because it happened suddenly.

My company wants to change the system of the computer into the online system. All of the staffs must have training first, before the system running.

I hope you can come and stay with me during next holiday. My address is: 888 Little Collins Street, Melbourne, Victoria, 3000. You can contact me first if you have a plan to visit.

Thanks for your kindness and I'm looking forward for your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Victor

TEST B, WRITING TASK 2 (GENERAL TRAINING)

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.

I agree with the view that stars in the entertainment business are usually over paid. This is true whether we are considering stars of film, sport or popular music, and it often seems that the amount of money they are able to earn in a short time cannot possibly be justified by the amount of work they do.

However, it is also true that it is only those who reach the very top of their profession who can get these huge salaries. So the size of salary that stars expect is closely linked to the competition they have to overcome in order to reach success. They are, in effect, rare talents.

Furthermore, the majority of stars do not hold their top positions long. Sport stars and pop stars, for example, are soon replaced by the next younger, more energetic, generation, while the good looks of most film stars quickly fade. So this relatively short working life may be some justification for the very high pay.

Unfortunately, professionals from other fields, who make a much greater contribution to human society, are paid so much less that it is hard to disagree with the statement. Teachers, nurses, laboratory researchers etc. are never listed among the best-paid professionals, yet they are more important to our well-being and our future than the stars who earn their fortunes so quickly.

In conclusion, I think there may be some reasons why entertainment stars earn high salaries but overall I agree that they are overpaid. The gaps between their earnings and those of people who work less selfishly for the good of society cannot be justified. Such professionals should be much better appreciated and better paid.