IELTS

Write Right

IELTS FAQs & Writing Band Descriptors

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What do I have to write about in the IELTS writing section?**

   All IELTS candidates must write two short essays: Writing Task 1 and Writing Task 2. If you wish to study abroad you must complete the IELTS Academic Module, in which you will be required to write a 150-word essay describing a graph, table or diagram (Task 1) together with a 250-word essay expressing your opinion on a set topic (Task 2). If, on the other hand, you wish to migrate to an English-speaking country, you must complete the General Training Module. This involves writing a 150-word letter (T1) along with a 250-word essay similar to that completed by Academic Module candidates (T2). A total of one hour is allowed for the completion of both writing tasks. Candidates are encouraged to spend about 20 minutes on Task 1 and 40 minutes on T2. In order to achieve a high score, it is important that both tasks be answered well.

2. **How does the examiner decide what band score to give me?**

   In IELTS writing the lowest band score is 1 and the highest band score is 9. Most candidates can expect to get a score of between 4 and 7. In marking your writing, the examiner will firstly check to see whether or not you have answered the question – if you are asked to write 250 words about air pollution in cities, you should not write 150 words about side issues such as traffic problems. The examiner will then check whether or not your essay is cohesive and coherent – your ideas, sentences and paragraphs must be logically organized and linked. He/she will also assess your grammar – you must use a variety of different grammatical forms and use them accurately. Finally, the examiner will assess your vocabulary – you must use a wide range of vocabulary and ensure that it is appropriate to the task set. In most cases, you will be expected to use formal, academic English.

3. **What happens if my essay isn't long enough?**

   Length is certainly important; you should aim for 150 words in T1 and 250 words in T2. However, this should not be your main focus. It is still possible to attain a high score if you write a little less than this. Your grammar, vocabulary and spelling, as well as the

4. **What should I do if I don't have any ideas about the topic?**

   One problem faced by many candidates is lack of ideas, especially in Writing T2. It is very difficult indeed to write an essay about a topic you have never considered before. While most IELTS text books will tell you that no specialized knowledge is required to complete the IELTS writing section, many Writing T2 questions are underpinned by peculiarly western cultural concepts. It is, therefore, beneficial for candidates from Asian countries to have a broad knowledge of western social issues before taking IELTS. One thing that can help you to gain a deeper understanding of relevant issues is to research information related to known IELTS writing topics online. You might also try reading feature articles, editorials or letters to the editor in western newspapers and magazines.

5. **What happens if the examiner doesn't agree with me?**

   You will not get a lower score if the examiner disagrees with you. IELTS is a test of your English not your opinion, so do not be scared to say what you think. Make sure you give reasons for your opinion, though. For example, you might write, ***"I think we should discourage people from driving cars because cars cause pollution"***. Also, make sure your reasons are logical. Many candidates write meaningless statements like, ***"I think we should discourage people from driving cars because too many people drive cars"***. Finally, remember that in western countries, disagreeing with people is acceptable and, in fact, often expected.

6. **Should I try to memorise lots of model answers?**

   No! Memorising vocabulary and sentence structures is certainly important. However, you should not try to memorise whole model answers and hope to be given a familiar topic when you take the test. Memorised answers are obvious to the examiner and usually receive a bad score. It is better to familiarise yourself with the sentence structures and

patterns used in several different model answers and then combine them in your own way in so that your writing is both natural and different from the writing of other candidates.

7. **How can I get a higher score in IELTS writing?**
   Read read read read! You should read as many different model answers as you can, borrow sentence structures from each and then combine them in your own way. Rather than learning individual, isolated items of vocabulary you should try to learn them in the context of the whole sentences. If you learn what a word means but do not know how to use it correctly in a sentence it is useless to you. Likewise, if you learn a sentence structure but omit a preposition or use the wrong verb tense, it will not improve your score. Your writing must be accurate.

8. **Can I ask to have my writing marked again if I don't get the score I need?**
   You can ask to have your writing rechecked, but you have to pay an extra fee for this. Rechecking is only worthwhile if you overall band score is just a little lower than the band score that you need.

IELTS Writing Task 1 Band Descriptors

You might be a little confused about what the IELTS writing band scores actually mean. What does it mean to get 6 in writing? How do examiners decide what score to give you? If your grammar is good, but your spelling is bad, what score will you get? There is no easy answer to any of these questions. However, to help you understand a little more about the IELTS marking system, the following have been included. They are the public versions of the *British Council/ IDP Australia/ University of Cambridge* Writing T1 and 2 band descriptors.

The language in the descriptors is hard to understand, and the difference between different band scores is not always clear (even to native English speakers). However the important thing to remember is that the IELTS examiners will check the following four aspects of your writing:

1. **Task achievement**: Did you answer the question that they asked you or did you talk about something else?

2. **Coherence and cohesion**: Does your writing make sense? Is your essay logically organised at the sentence, paragraph and whole text level?

3. **Lexical resource**: Do you use a wide range of vocabulary accurately and appropriately? Do you spell correctly?

4. **Grammatical range and accuracy**: Do you use many different sentence structures or do you always use the same ones? How often do you make mistakes with your grammar?

Band	Task Achievement
9.0	• fully satisfies all the requirements of the task • clearly presents a fully developed response
8.0	• covers all requirements of the task sufficiently • presents, highlights and illustrates key features/bullets points clearly and appropriately
7.0	• covers the requirements of the task • (Academic) presents a clear overview of main trend, differences or stages • (General Training) presents a clear purpose, with the tone consistent and appropriate • clearly presents and highlights key features/bullet points but could be more fully extended
6.0	• addresses the requirements of the task • (Academic) presents an overview with information appropriately selected • (General Training) presents a purpose that is generally clear; there may be inconsistencies in tone • presents and adequately highlights key features/bullet points but details may be irrelevant, inappropriate or inaccurate
5.0	• general addresses the task; the format may be inappropriate in places • (Academic) recounts detail mechanically with no clear overview; there may be no data to support the description • (General Training) may present a purpose for the letter that is unclear at times; the tone may be variable and sometimes inappropriate • presents, but inadequately covers, key features/bullet points; there may be • a tendency to focus on details

4.0	• attempts to address the task but does not cover all key features/bullet points; the format may be inappropriate • (General Training) fails to clearly explain the purpose of the letter; the tone may be inappropriate • may confuse key features/bullet points with detail; parts may be unclear, irrelevant, repetitive or inaccurate
3.0	• fails to address the task, which may have been completely misunderstood • presents limited ideas which may be largely irrelevant/repetitive
2.0	• answer is barely related to the task
1.0	• answer is completely unrelated to the task
0.0	• does not attend • does not attempt the task in anyway • writes a totally memorised response

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
9.0	• uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention • skilfully manages paragraphing
8.0	• sequences information and ideas logically • manages all aspects of cohesion well • use paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately
7.0	• logically organises information and ideas; there is a clear progression throughout • uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under/overuse
6.0	• arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression • uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical • may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately
5.0	• presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression • makes inadequate, inaccurate or over-use of cohesive devices • may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution

4.0	• presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response • uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive
3.0	• does not organise ideas logically • may use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas
2.0	• has very little control of organisational features
1.0	• fails to communicate any message
0.0	• does not attend • does not attempt the task in anyway • writes a totally memorised response

Band	Lexical Resource
9.0	• uses a wide range of vocabulary with very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as "slips"
8.0	• uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings • skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation • produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation
7.0	• uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision • uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation • may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation
6.0	• uses an adequate range of vocabulary for the task • attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy • makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication
5.0	• uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task • may make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader

4.0	• uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task • has limited control of word formation and/or spelling • errors may cause strain for the reader
3.0	• uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/or spelling • errors may severely distort the message
2.0	• uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling
1.0	• can only use a few isolated words
0.0	• does not attend • does not attempt the task in anyway • writes a totally memorised response

Band	Grammatical range and Accuracy
9.0	• uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as "slips"
8.0	• uses a wide range of structures • the majority of sentences are error-free • makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
7.0	• uses a variety of complex structures • Produces frequent error-free sentences • has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors
6.0	• uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms • makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication
5.0	• uses only a limited range of structures • attempts complex sentences but these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences • may make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader

4.0	• uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses • some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty
3.0	• attempts sentence forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort meaning
2.0	• cannot use sentence forms except in memorised phrases
1.0	• cannot use sentence forms at all
0.0	• does not attend • does not attempt the task in anyway • writes a totally memorised response

IELTS Writing Task 2 Band Descriptors

Band	Task Achievement
9.0	• fully addresses all parts of the task • presents a fully extended and well supported ideas
8.0	• sufficiently addresses all parts of the task • presents a well developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas
7.0	• addresses all parts of the task • presents a clear position throughout the response • presents, extends and supports main ideas, but there may be a tendency to overgeneralise and/or supporting ideas may lack focus
6.0	• addresses all parts of the task although some parts may be more fully covered than others • presents a relevant position although the conclusions may become unclear or repetitive • presents relevant main ideas but some may be inadequately developed/unclear
5.0	• addresses the task only partially; the format may be inappropriate in places • expresses a position but the development is not always clear and there may be no conclusions drawn • presents some main ideas but these are limited and not sufficiently developed; there maybe irrelevant detail

4.0	• responds to the task only in a minimal way or the answer is tangential; the format may be inappropriate • presents a position but this is unclear • presents some main ideas but these are difficult to identify and maybe repetitive, irrelevant or not well supported
3.0	• does not adequately address any part of the task • does not express a clear position • presents few ideas, which are largely underdeveloped or irrelevant
2.0	• barely responds to the task • does not express a position may attempt to present one or two ideas but there is no development
1.0	• answer is completely unrelated to the task
0.0	• does not attend • does not attempt the task in anyway • writes a totally memorised response

Band	Coherence and Cohesion
9.0	• uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention • skilfully manages paragraphing
8.0	• sequences information and ideas logically • manages all aspects of cohesion well • uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately
7.0	• logically organises information and ideas; there is a clear progression throughout • uses a range of cohesive devices appropriately although there may be some under/overuse • presents a clear central topic within each paragraph
6.0	• arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression • uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical • may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately • uses paragraphing, but not always logically
5.0	• presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression • makes inadequate, inaccurate or overuse of cohesive devices • may by repetitive because of lack of referencing and substation • may not write in paragraphs, or paragraphing may be inadequate

4.0	• presents information and ideas but these are not arranged coherently and there is no clear progression in the response • uses some basic cohesive devices but these may be inaccurate or repetitive • may not write in paragraphs or their use may be confusing
3.0	• does not organise ideas logically • may use a very limited ranged of cohesive devices, and those used may not indicate a logical relationship between ideas
2.0	• has very little control of organisational features
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IELTS

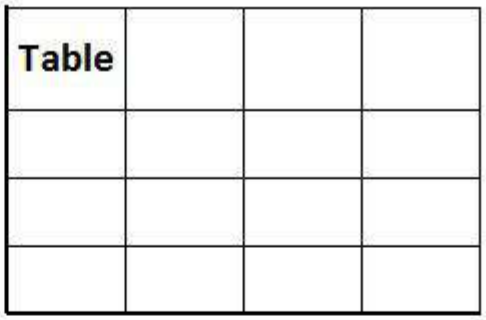
Write Right

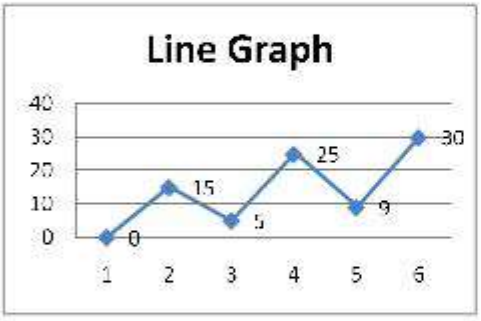
Writing Task 1: Academic Module

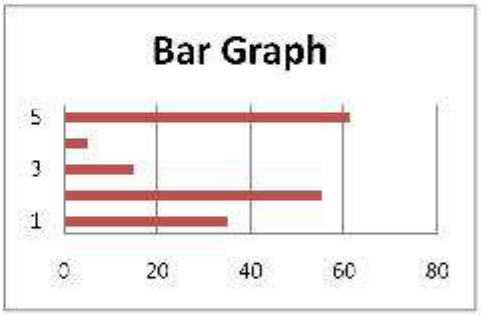
Question Types

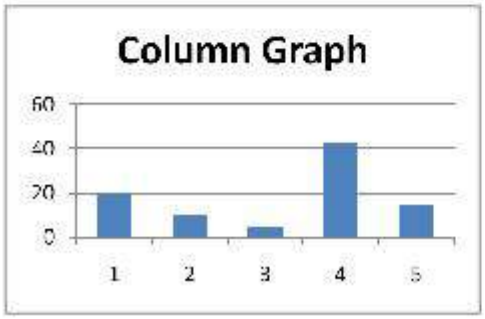
One particular challenging aspect of Academic Writing Task 1 is the range of different question types used (see below). Although this may seem daunting at first, it is important to remember that the same data can be presented in many different ways and that two very different graphs or diagrams are often very similar to column graphs. It is, therefore, often possible to use exactly the same sentence structures and vocabulary to describe them. A wide range of different question types have been included in the following pages in order to highlight the similarities and differences in the language needed to describe each of the various question types that you may face. Note that the words *"**graphs**"* and *"**chart**"* are used interchangeably and that the word "***figure***" is used to refer to any graph, chart or diagram.

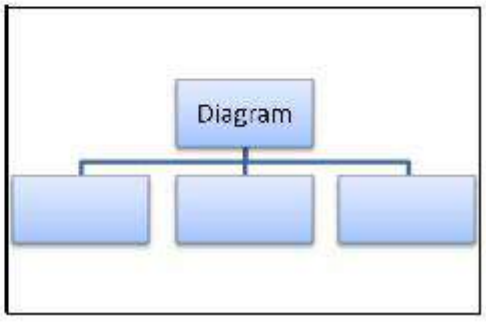












Line Graph

Question 1	Birth Rates In China and the USA

WRITING TASK 1

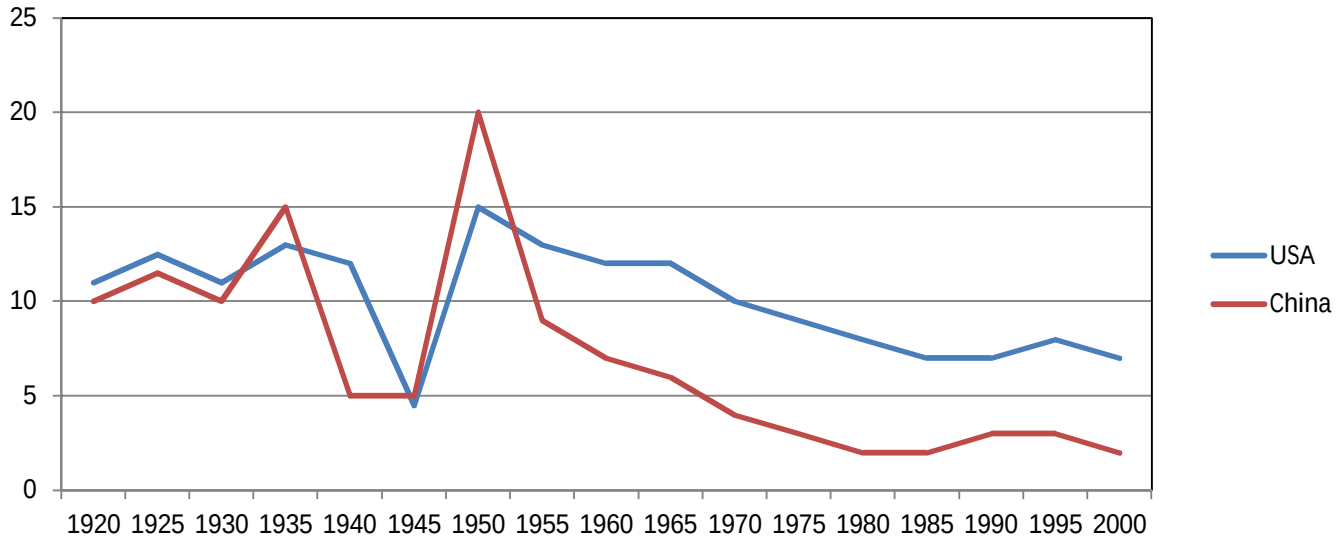
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The graph below compares changes in the birth rates of China and the USA between 1920 and 2000.

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

Write at least 150 words.

Birth Rates in China and the USA



Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

The figure given shows the birth rates of China and the USA between 1920 and 2000. Clearly, both rates fluctuated dramatically during this period.

China's birth rate rose from around 10 percent in the 1920s to 15 percent in 1935. Then it fell sharply to around 5 percent in both 1940 and 1945. It increased rapidly to a peak of 20 percent in 1950. After this it fell dramatically to less than 10 percent in 1955. Finally, it decrease steadily to about 2 percent in 1980 and remained at this level until 2000.

Meanwhile, the US birth rate fluctuated at around 12 percent from 1920 to 1940. It decreased dramatically to under 5 percent in 1945. Next it increased rapidly to a peak of about 15 percent in 1950. After 1950, it fell gradually to about 12 percent in the 1960s and around 7 or 8 percent during the last 20 years of this period.

Therefore, although the US birth rate generally higher than the birth rate of China (especially after 1950), both birth rates followed a very similar trend.

(190 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

A glance at the graph provided reveals some striking similarities between the Chinese and US birth rates during the period from 1920 to 2000. It is evident that both nations saw considerable fluctuations in fertility, with lows during the 1940s and highs during the 1950s.

Increasing from approximately 10 percent in 1920 to 15 percent in 1935, China's birth rate then plunged to a low of just 5 percent in the 1940s. This was followed by a period of exponential growth, with fertility in the country reaching a peak of 20 percent in 1950. The latter half of the century, however, brought a sustained decline in this figure.

The US birth rate, meanwhile, fluctuated at somewhere between 11 and 13 percent prior to 1940, before dropping sharply to less than 5 percent in 1945. The following 5 years saw a rapid climb in this rate, to somewhere in the vicinity of 15 percent in 1950, followed by a steady fall.

It is interesting to note that while the birth rates of both countries were comparable until 1950, the gap between the two widened after this time as fertility in China slid away.

(207 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	There graph shows some similarities between the birth rates of China and the USA from 1920 to 2000.
	IELTS 6	The graph provided reveals some surprising similarities between the Chinese and the US birth rates during the period from 1920 to 2000.
	IELTS 7+	A glance at the graph provided reveals some striking similarities between the Chinese and the US birth rates during the period from 1920 to 2000.
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	Clearly, the birth rates of both countries fluctuated dramatically, with lows in the 1940sand highs in the 1950s.
	IELTS 6	It is evident that the fertility rates of both nations fluctuated considerably, with lows during the 1940s and highs during the 1950s.
	IELTS 7+	It is evident that both nations saw considerable fluctuations in fertility, with lows during the 1940s and highs during the 1950s.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	First, China's birth rate increased from about 10 percent in 1920 to 15 percent in 1935. Then it decreased sharply to just 5 percent in the 1940s.
	IELST 6	China's birth rate increased from approximately 10 percent in 1920 to 15 percent in 1935, then plunged to a low of just 5 percent in the 1940s.
	IELTS 7+	Increasing from approximately 10 percent in 1920 to 15 percent in 1935, China's birth rate then plunged to a low of just 5 percent in the 1940s.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	Then the US birth rate increased markedly to over 15 percent in 1950.
	IELST 6	There was then a marked increase in the US fertility to over 15 percent in 1950.
	IELTS 7+	The US then saw a marked increase to over 15 percent in 1950.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

BASIC	***INTERMEDIATE***	***ADVANCED***
Show (v)		Reveal (v)
Increase (v)	Rise (v) Climb (v) Grow (v)	
Increase (n)	Rise (n) Growth (n)	
Decrease (v /n)	Fall (v/n0 Drop (v/n)	Decline (v/n)
Sharp (adj)	Dramatic (adj)	Rapid (adj) Considerable (adj) Exponential (adj) Marked (adj)
Sharply (adv)	Dramatically (adv)	Rapidly (adv) Considerably (adv) Exponentially (adv) Markedly (adv)
Fall sharply	Decrease dramatically	Slide away Plundge (v)
	Gradual (adj)	Steady (adj)
	Gradually (adv)	Steadily (adv)
	Birth rate	Fertility
About (adv)		Approximately (adv) Somewhere in the vicinity of

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these question by circling A, B or C

1. Which of these is the best way to start your essay?
   A. The graph shows…..
   B. A glance at the graph provided reveals
   C. The figure given shows
2. What is the past tense form of "**rise**"?
   A. Rose
   B. Rised
   C. Rising
3. What verb tense(s) does the writer use in these two essays?
   A. Present tense
   B. Past tense
   C. Present and past tense

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

4. In paragraph 3 of Model Answer B, "**climb**" is a verb
5. In both of these essays, the word **"peak"** is a verb which means **"low point"**
6. The sentence structures used in Model Answer A are too repetitive.
7. Model Answer B is too long.
8. The US and Chinese birth rates remained relatively stable between 1920 and 2000.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. B

   "The graph shows" is not the best way to start your essay because many other candidates will write exactly the same thing. If you want a higher score than other candidates, you should try to be different from them

2. A
3. C

   The writer mostly uses past tense in these model answers because the years on the graph are in the past (1920 -2000). However, present tense is used in sentences starting with **"the graph"** because the graph is here, now. So you can write " **The graph shows that the Chinese birth rate increased"**
4. NO

   "Climb" is often a verb. However, in paragraph 3 of Model Answer B, it is used as a noun. So you could write, **"The birth rate climbed"** or **"There was a climb in the birth rate".** Both are acceptable
5. NO

   "Peak" means **"high point"** and is a noun in both of these model answers. It can also be used as a verb so you could actually write, **"The birth rate reached a peak"** or **" The birth rate peaked"**
6. YES

   Model Answer A uses the same sentence structure several times. Two examples of this structure, **"It fell sharply"** and **"It increased rapidly".** Model Answer B is better
7. NO

   Remember that 150 words is a minimum word limit – there is no maximum word limit. After you pass 150 words, time is more important than the number of words you write. Do not work on Writing Task 1 for more than 20 minutes
8. NO

   The birth rates of both countries fluctuated

LINE GRAPH AND PIE CHART

Question 2	CRIME IN THE UK

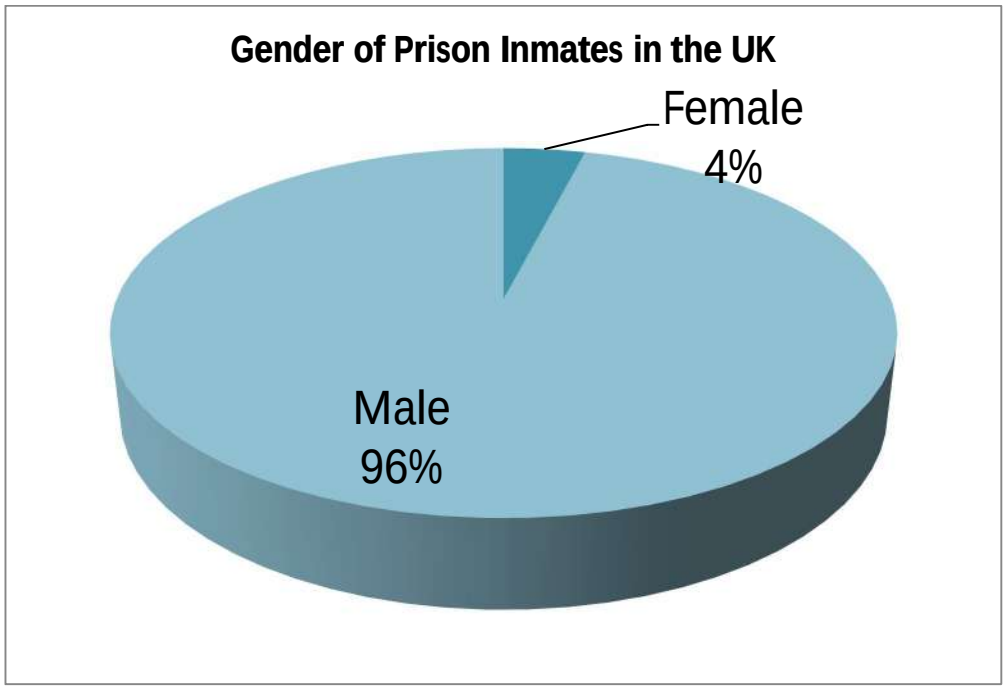
WRITING TASK 1

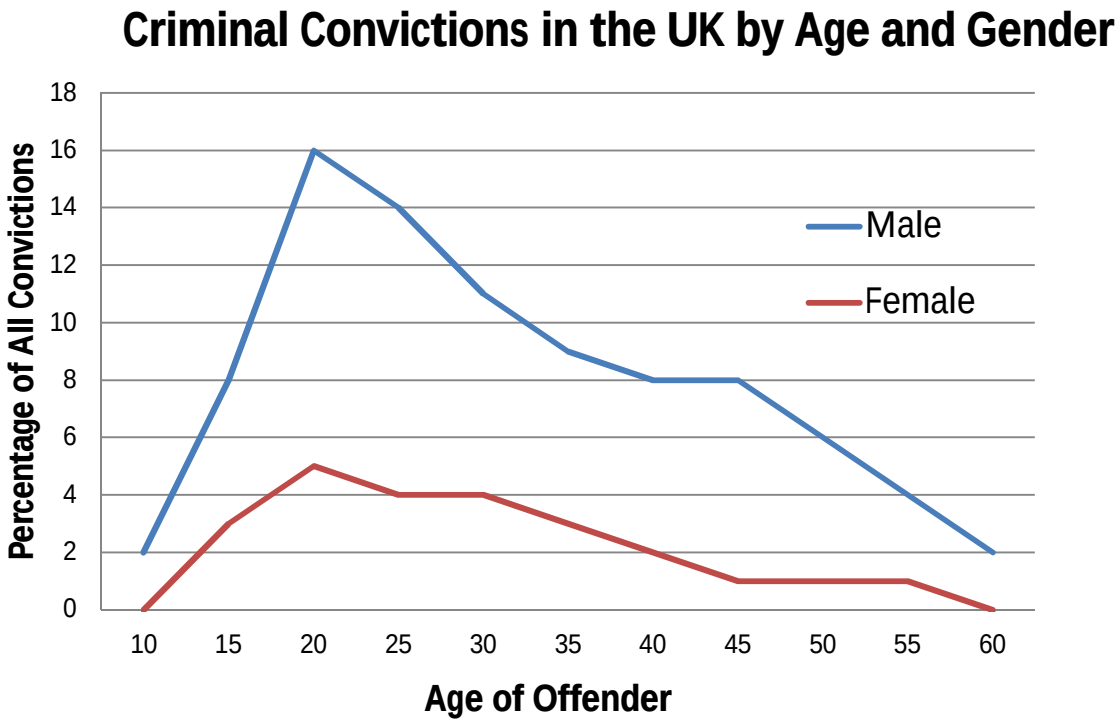
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task

The two figures below show the rate of criminal convictions among men and women of different ages in the UK and the proportion of male and female prison inmates in the British prison system.

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

Write at least 150 words


Gender of Prison Inmates in the UK
Female
4%
Male
96%


Criminal Convictions in the UK by Age and Gender
Percentage of All Convictions
18
16
14
12
10
8
6
4
2
0
10
15
20
25
30
35
40
45
50
55
60
Age of Offender
Male
Female

Model Answer A : IELTS Band 5+

The first figure shows the percentage of criminal convictions in the UK that occur among men and women of different ages, while the second compares the percentage of male and female prisoners in British gaols.*

It is clear from the graphs that most convicted criminals in the UK are in their early twenties and that men are much more likely to be convicted than women. The male conviction rate increases sharply from just 2 percent among 10 – year – olds to about 16 percent among 20 – year – olds. Meanwhile, the rate of convictions among female rises from 0 percent at the age of 10 to around 5 percent at 20. After this, the percentage of criminal convictions for both men and women decreases. According to the figures, 60 – year – old men only commit about 2 percent of all crimes and 60 – year – old women do not commit any crime at all.

Not surprisingly, the second graph shows that 96 percent of all prisoners are men while only 4 percent are female.
(162 words)

***Note:** This word is spelt **"gaol"** in British/ Australia English, but **"jail"** in American English. The pronunciation is virtually the same*

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

Given are two figure concerning criminality in Britain. The first provides data on the rates of conviction among men and women of various ages, while the second indicates the gender balance of the UK prison population

It is apparent from the information supplied that the rate of conviction among Brits of both sexes increases exponentially during adolescence and peaks at the age of about 20. Also evident is the fact that men are far more likely to offend than women. From a negligible 2 percent among 10-year-old boys, the male conviction rate soars to approximately 16 percent among 20-year-olds. The percentage of female offenders, meanwhile, climbs from 0 percent among girls of 10 to some 5 percent for 20-year-olds. The subsequent decades, however, see dramatic decreases in criminality among both sexes. A mere 2 percent of crimes are committed by 60-year-old men and 0 percent by women of the same age.

As for the proportion of male and female prison inmates, men outnumber women 24 to 1. Some 96 percent of all prisoners are men, while the remainder are female.
(180 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	These two figures are about crime in Britain
	IELTS 6	The two figures given concern criminality in Britain
	IELTS 7+	Given are two figures concerning criminality in Britain
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	The rate of conviction among males increases sharply from just 2 percent among 10-year-old boys to about 16 percent among 20-year-olds
	IELTS 6	The male conviction rate soars from a negligible 2 percent among 10 –year-old boys to about 16 percent among 20-year-olds
	IELTS 7+	From a negligible 2 percent among 10-year-old boys, the male conviction rate soars to approximately 16 percent among 20-year-olds.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	However, crime decreases dramatically among men and women over the following 20 or 30 years
	IELTS 6	However, there are dramatic decreases in criminal convictions among both sexes over the subsequent decades
	IELTS 7+	The subsequent decades, however, see dramatic decreases in criminality among both sexes
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	Clearly, the rate of conviction among British men and women increases sharply during the teenage years and reaches a peak when they are about 20 years old.
	IELTS 6	It is clear from the information given that the rate of conviction among British people of both sexes increases exponentially during adolescence and peaks at the age of about 20.
	IELTS 7+	It is apparent from the information supplied that the rate of conviction among Brits of both sexes increases exponentially during adolescence and peaks at the age of about 20.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

BASIC	*INTERMEDIATE*	*ADVANCED*
Goal (n)	Prison (n)	
Increase (v)	Climb (v) Rise (v)	
Sharp (adj)	Dramatic (adj)	Exponential (adj)
Sharply (adv)	Dramatically (adv)	Exponentially (adv)
	Increase dramatically	Increase exponentially Soar (v)
Just (adv)	Only (adv)	A negligible/ a mere
About (adv) Around (adv)	Some (adv)	Approximately (adv)
	Prisoner (n)	Offender (n) Convicted criminal/ Prison inmate
About (prep)	On (prep)	Concerning (prep)
Clear (adj)		Apparent (adj) Evident (adj)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. What verb tense(s) does the writer use in these two essays?
   A. Future tense
   B. Present and past tense
   C. Present tense
2. Which of these sentence is wrong?
   A. 96 percentage of people in gaol are men
   B. A large percentage of people in gaol are men
   C. 96 percent of people in gaol are men.
3. Which of these phrases is a bad way to start your essay?
   A. Given are two figures concerning…….
   B. A glance at the two figures provided reveals…….
   C. These two figures show……
4. Which age group has the highest incidence of criminality in Britain?
   A. The aged
   B. Children
   C. Adolescents
5. In Model Answer B, the word **"subsequent"** means:
   A. Later
   B. Earlier
   C. At the same time

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

6. In Model Answer B, the word "**peak**" is used as a noun.
7. In Model Answer B, the phrase "**men outnumber women 24 to 1**" means that there are more women than men

8. In the phrase "**data on the rates of conviction**" (see Model Answer B), the word "**on**" means "**about**"
9. "**occur**" (see Model Answer A) is a more formal, and better way to say "**happen**"

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. C

   The writer uses present tense because the question does not mention any year

2. A

   The word "**percent**" must be used with a number, while the word "**percentage**" can only be used with adjectives like "**high**" or "**low**". This, you could write, "**80 percent of people in France can speak English**" or "**A high percentage of people in France can speak English**".

3. C

   "**These two figures show**" is not a good way to start because it is too simple.. It is also exactly what every IELTS text book and every other IELTS student writes. Be different!

4. C

   There is more crime among teenagers than any other group.

5. A
6. NO

   In this case, it is a verb. Remember that "**peak**" can be a verb or a noun.

7. NO

   In fact, it means that there are more men than women.

8. YES

   "**On**" sometimes means "**about**". For example, you might write " **I am reading a book on endangered animals**".

9. YES

   "**Happen**" is often used in spoken English, while "**occur**" and "**take place**" are used in formal English, especially writing.

PIE CHART

Question 3	LEISURE ACTIVITIES IN EUROPE

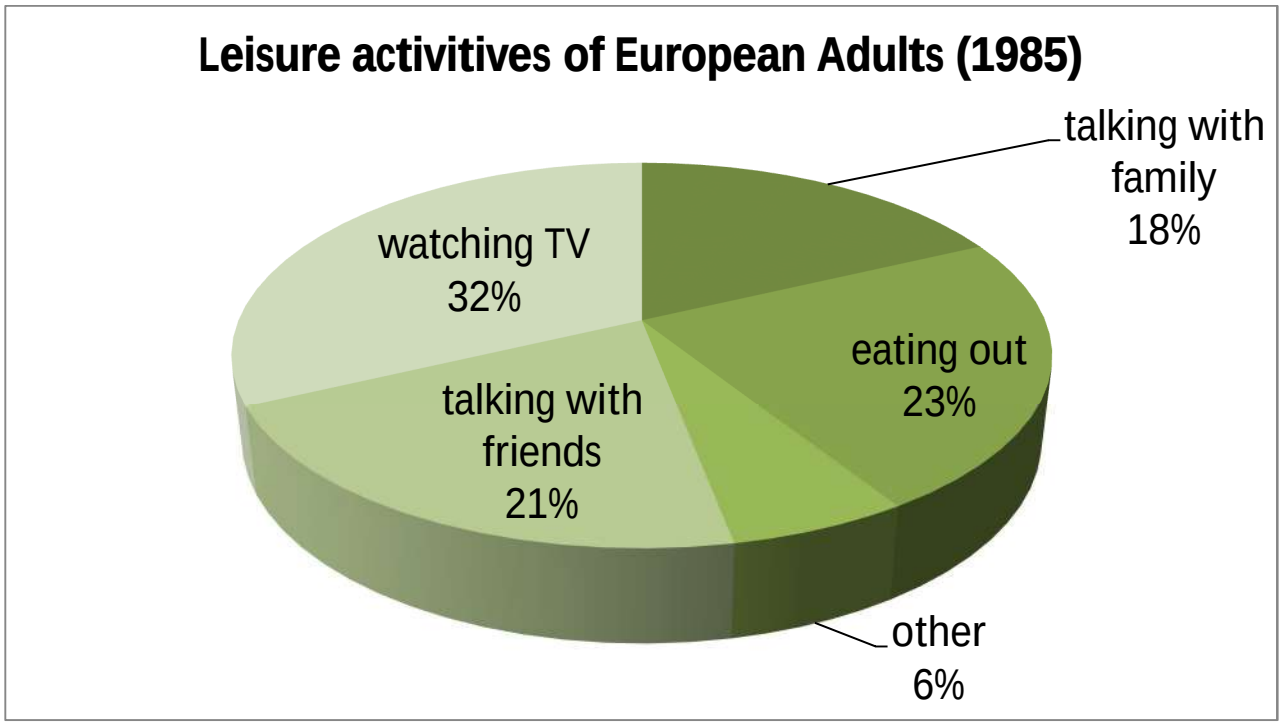
WRITING TASK 1

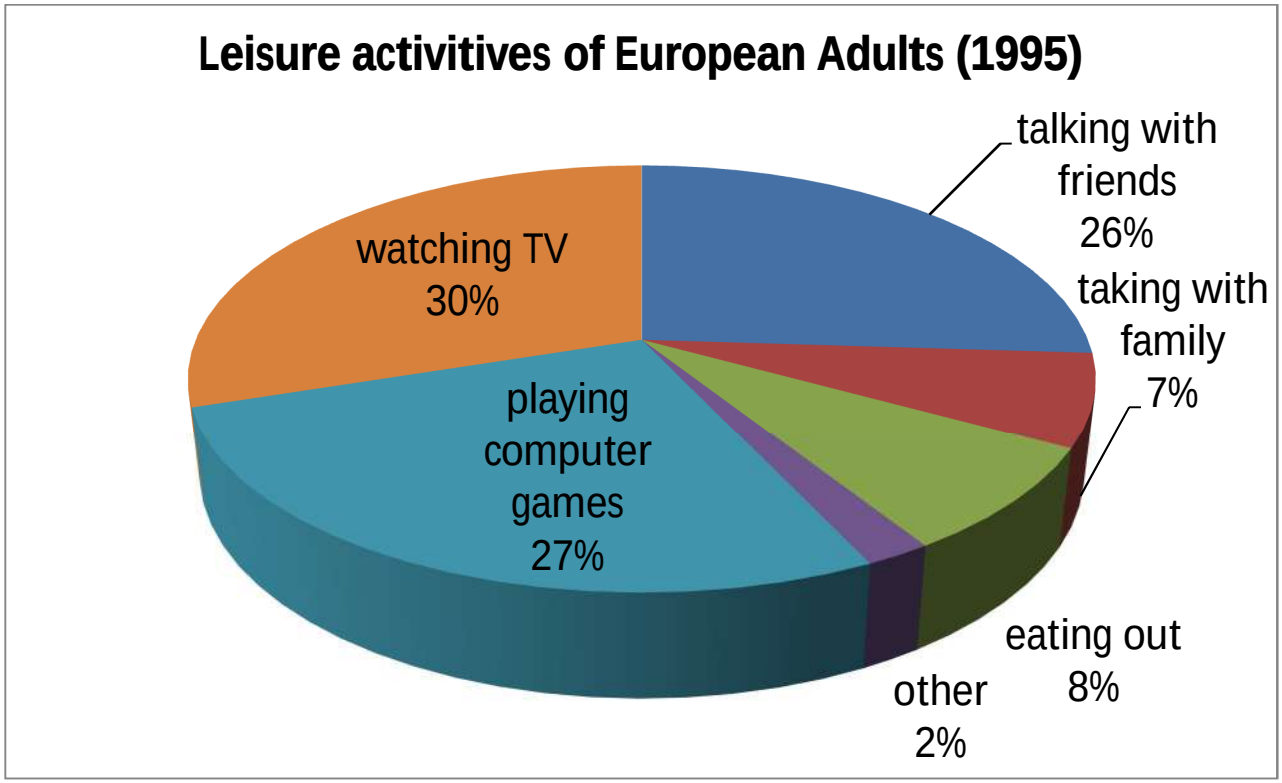
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task

The following two pie charts show the results of a survey into the popularity of various leisure activities among European adults in 1985 and 1995.

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

Write at least 150 words.


Leisure activitives of European Adults (1985)
talking with family 18%
eating out 23%
talking with friends 21%
watching TV 32%
other 6%


Leisure activitives of European Adults (1995)
talking with friends 26%
taking with family 7%
eating out 8%
other 2%
playing computer games 27%
watching TV 30%

Model Answer A: IELTS 5+

The two pie charts given show the popularity of several different hobbies among European adults in 1985 and 1995.

Clearly, watching television was the number on leisure activity in both years, at 32 percent in 1985 and 30 percent in 1995. However, the most obvious change to occur during this time was that computer games became much more popular. In 1985, nobody said that playing computer games was their favourite leisure activity, but in 1995 some 27 percent of European adults named this as the activity that they enjoyed the most. The only other hobby that became more popular was talking with friends, which rose from 21 percent in 1985 to 26 percent in 1995.

By contrast, all other activities became less popular. For instance, while 23 percent of European adults named eating out as their favourite leisure activity in 1985, this figure was just 8 percent in 1995. Similarly, the percentage of people who said that they liked talking with family, other activities or watching TV also decreased.

(169 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS 7+

A glance at the two pie charts provided reveals the relative popularity of various leisure activities among European adults in 1985 and 1995.

Of these activities, watching TV was the most widely enjoyed in both years, at 32 percent in 1985 and a slightly lower 30 percent in 1995. Yet, by far the most significant change to take place during this period was the increased popularity of computer games. Not a single respondent to the survey rated playing computer games as their preferred leisure activity in 1985. However, by 1995 this figure stood at 27 percent – the second highest overall. Also more popular in 1995 was talking with friends, at 26 percent compared to 21 percent a decade earlier.

In stark contrast, however, all other activities decreased in popularity. Eating out – which was the second most widely enjoyed pastime in 1985, accounting fot 23 percent of respondents – slipped to a mere 8 percent in 1995. Likewise, there were also considerable decreases in the popularity ratings of talking with family, other activities and (as previously mentioned) watching television.

(177 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	None of the people who were surveyed said that playing computer games was their favourite leisure activity in 1985
	IELTS 6	None of the respondents to the survey named playing computer games as their preferred leisure activity in 1985
	IELTS 7+	Not a single respondent to the survey rated playing computer games as their preferred leisure activity in 1985
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	Talking with friends was more popular in 1995 too, at 26 percent compared to 21 percent 10 years before.
	IELTS 6	Talking with friends was also more popular in 1995, at 26 percent compared to 21 percent a decade earlier
	IELTS 7+	Also more popular in 1995 was talking with friends, at 26 percent compared to 21 percent a decade earlier
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	On the other hand, all other activities became less popular
	IELTS 6	In stark contrast, however, the popularity of all other activities decreased.
	IELTS 7+	In stark contrast, however, all other activities decreased on popularity.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	Eating out was the second most popular hobby in 1985, at 23 percent of all people surveyed. However, it fell to just 8 percent in 1995.
	IELTS 6	Eating out was the second most widely enjoyed pastime in 1985, accounting for 23 percent of respondents. However, it slipped to a mere 8 percent in 1995
	IELTS 7+	Eating out – which was the second most widely enjoyed pastime in 1985, accounting for 23 percent of respondents – slipped to a mere 8 percent in 1995.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	***Intermediate***	***Advanced***
Decrease (n/v)		Slip (v)
Just (adv) Only (adv)		A mere
Several different	Various (adj)	
Hobby (n)		Pastime (n) Leisure activity
Popular (adj)		Widely enjoyed
*favourite (adj)	Preferred (adj)	
	Likewise (adv) Similarly (adv)	
	However (adv)	Yet (adv)
	By contrast	In stark contrast, however..

Note: *this word is spelt* ***"favourite"*** *in British/ Australian English, but* ***"favorite"*** *in American English. Some other words that follow this rule are* ***"neighbour/neighbor", "flavour/ flavor", "colour/ color"*** *and* ***"honour/ honor".***

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these question by circling A, B or C

1. Which was the least popular leisure activity in 1985
   A. Other
   B. Talking with family
   C. Watching TV
2. "**Popular"** is an adjective. The noun is:
   A. Popularity
   B. Popularness
   C. Population
3. In Model Answer B, the word "**likewise**" means:
   A. Similarly
   B. Such as
   C. Enjoy
4. What is the most formal?
   A. As previously mentioned
   B. Like I said before
   C. As I mentioned before

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. "**For instance**" (see Model Answer A) means "**for example**", but is slightly better because it sounds a little more formal and fewer candidates use it.
6. "**Respondents**" (see Model Answer B) are people who ask questions, carry out surveys and make charts/ graphs

7. " **Not a single respondent to the survey rated playing computer games as their preferred leisure activity in 1985**" (see Model Answer B) means that very few people said they liked playing computer games in 1985.
8. The writer uses the word "**similarly**" (see Model Answer A) to connect "**eating out in restaurants**" and "**chatting with friends**" because both of these leisure activities became less popular.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. A

   Remember that "**least**" is the opposite of "**most**"
2. A

   When you learn vocabulary, try to learn all the different forms of a word.
3. A

   Do not forget that the word "**like**" can mean "**enjoy**" or "**similar to**"
4. A

   "**As previously mentioned**" is a good way to say "**like I said before**" in academic writing
5. YES

   Try to be different
6. NO

   "**Respondents**" are people who answer questions in a survey. You can also say "**respondents to the survey**"
7. NO

   "**Not a single respondent**" means "**nobody**"
8. YES

   "**Similarly**" is always used to connect facts which are the same or similar

TABLE AND PIE CHART

Question 4	INTERNET USE IN EUROPE

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task

The figures below compare the number of internet users in several European nations as well as the prevalence of online shopping in these countries

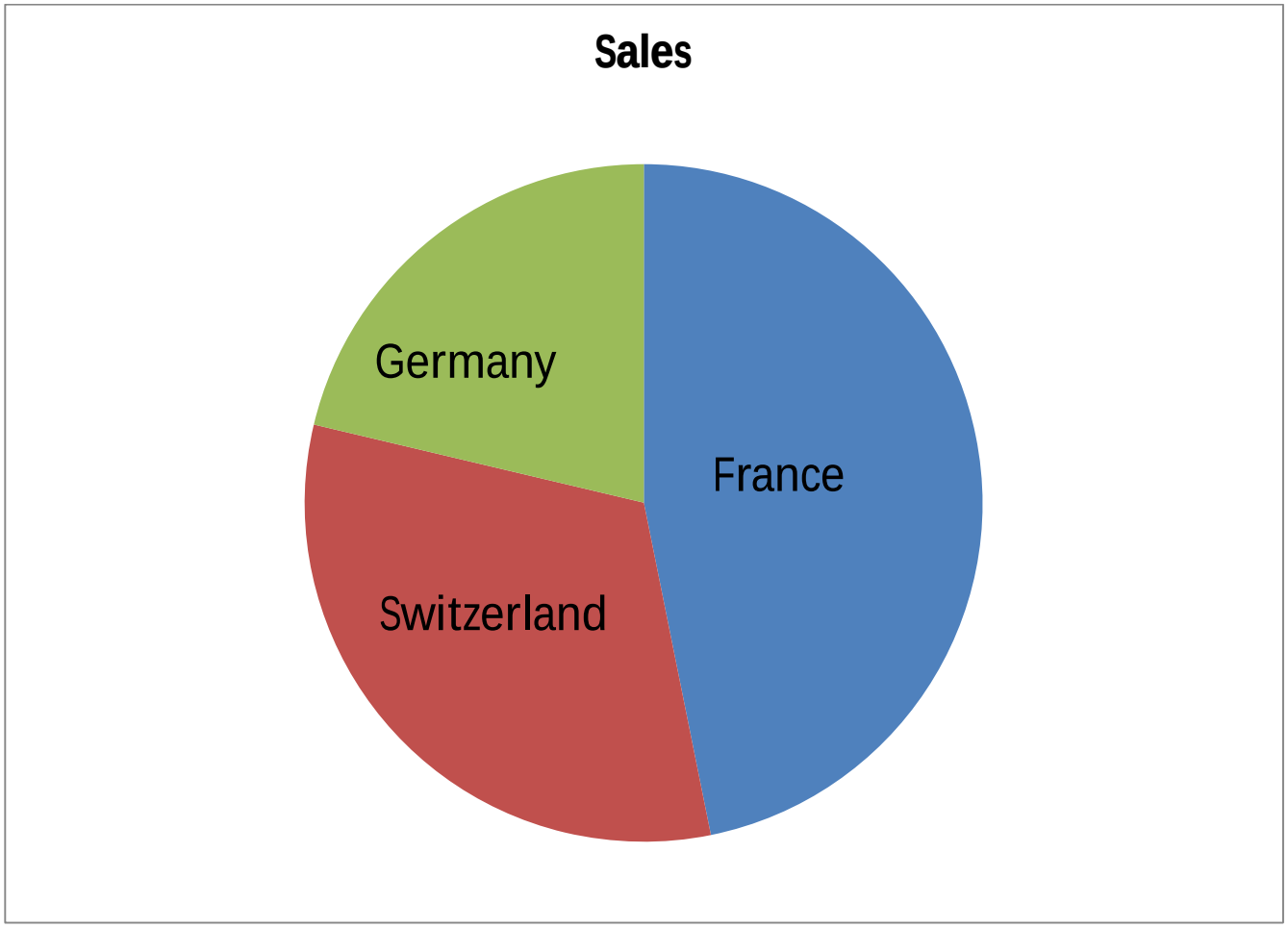
Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.

Total number of Internet users (in millions)

COUNTRY	1995	2000	2004
Switzerland	1	2	4
Germany	5	314	15
France	2	3	6
Spain	0.5	0.7	2
UK	16	22	41

Internet shopping in Europe (2004)



Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

The first figure compares the number of people connected to the Internet in five European countries in 1995, 2000 and 2004, while the second shows the level of internet shopping in these countries in 2004.

Clearly, Britain had the most internet users. The number of British people using the Internet increased dramatically from 16 million in 1995 to 22 million in 2000 and then 41 million in 2004. Germany was second. The number of internet users in this country rose from 5 million in 1995 to 14 million in 2000 and then 15 million in 2004. France had the third most users during this time, with 2 million in 1995, 3 million in 2000 and 6 million in 2004. Meanwhile, the countries with the fewest internet users were Switzerland and Spain.

Interestingly, Britain also had the highest level of internet shopping in 2004. It had twice as much online shopping as Germany and three times as much as Switzerland. Meanwhile, the levels of internet shopping in France and Spain were slightly lower than that of the UK.

(177 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS 7+

Given are two figures providing a comparison of internet use in five European countries (namely Switzerland, Germany, France, Spain and the UK) in 1995, 2000 and 2004, as well as the popularity of internet shopping in these countries.

It is evident from the information provided that Britain had by far the highest number of internet users in all three years. From 16 million in 1995, the number of British user climbed steadily to 22 million in 2000, before soaring to a staggering 41 million in 2004. Second in terms of internet use was Germany. This country saw a threefold increase during the period in question, from 15 million people in 1995 to 14 million in 2000 and 15 million in 2004. A similar increase took place in France. The two nations with the fewest internet users, meanwhile, were Switzerland and Spain.

It is also interesting to note that internet shopping was far more common in the UK than in any other country listed. In fact, the prevalence of internet shopping in Britain was double that of Germany and triple that of Switzerland. France and Spain, meanwhile, had moderate levels of online shopping.

(192 words)

MODEL STENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	Germany was the second when it came to internet use
	IELTS 6	Germany was the second in terms of internet use
	IELTS 7+	Second in terms of internet use was Germany
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	The number of internet users in this country increased threefold during this time
	IELTS 6	There was a threefold increase in the number of internet users in this country during the period in question.
	IELTS 7+	This country saw a threefold increase during the period in question.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	There was a similar increase in France
	IELTS 6	France saw a similar increase
	IELTS 7+	A similar increase took place in France
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	Actually, internet shopping was two times as popular in Britain as it was in Germany and three times more popular than in Switzerland.
	IELTS 6	In fact, internet shopping was twice as prevalent in Britain as it was in Germany and three times more prevalent than in Switzerland.
	IELTS 7+	In fact, the prevalence of internet shopping in Britain was double that of Germany and triple that of Switzerland.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	*Intermediate*	*Advanced*
	Compare (v)	Provide a comparison of
Level (n)		Popularity (n) Prevalence (n)
Increase (n/v)	Rise (n/v) Climb (n/v)	
Increase dramatically		Soar (v)
Clearly (adv)		It is evident from the information provided that
	Interestingly (adv)	It is interesting to note that
Internet shopping	Online shopping	
	Britain (n) The UK	

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these question by circling A, B or C

1. Which of these synonyms should only be used when speaking?
   A. Happen
   B. Occur
   C. Take place
2. Which sentence is correct?
   A. British had the most internet users
   B. Britain have the most internet users.
   C. Britain had the most internet users.
3. "**Staggering**" (see Model Answer B) means:
   A. Only
   B. Very big
   C. Stumbling
4. Which of these sentences is not correct?
   A. The number of people using the Internet increased threefold.
   B. There was a threefold increase in internet use.
   C. Internet use have threefold increased.

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. "**Internet**" always start with a CAPITAL LETTER
6. You must always put "**the**" before "**Internet**".
7. "**A threefold increase**" (see Model Answer B) is a 300 percent increase.
8. "**Meanwhile**" (see both model answers) should always come at the start of a sentence.
9. Internet use in France doubled between 2000 and 2004.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. A

   "**Take place**" and "**occur**" are good words to use in formal writing such as academic essays. "**Happen**" is better used when speaking or writing informally.

2. C

   "**Britain**" is a place, "**British**" is an adjective for people or things from Britain.

3. B

   "**Stagger**" sometimes means "**stumble**", but in this case " **staggering**" means "**very large**".

4. C

5. NO

   When you use "**Internet**" as a noun, you must use capital letter, but when you use it as an adjective you should not.

6. NO

   You should only use "**the**" if "**internet**" is a noun, not if it is an adjective. So the sentence, "**Many internet users shop on the Internet**" is correct.

7. YES

   " **A threefold increase**" is a 300 percent increase. Similarly, "**a twofold increase"** is a 200 percent increase, "**a fourfold increase**" is a 400 percent increase and so on.

8. NO

   "**Meanwhile**" goes at the start of the sentence in Model Answer A, but after the subject in Model Answer B. Model Answer B is better.

9. YES

TABLE

Question 5	WORLD METRO (MRT) SYSTEMS

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The table below provides statistics on several major metro (MRT) systems around the world.

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

Write at least 150 words

City	Year completed	Total length (km)	Carrying capacity per year (millions)
London	1863	1100	548
Paris	1890	594	850
Tokyo	1904	149	1434
Washington DC	1921	114	70
Kyoto	1980	11	11
Los Angeles	2001	14	90

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

The table given compares the age, length and annual carrying capacity of metro systems in London, Paris, Tokyo, Washington DC, Kyoto and Los Angeles.

It is clear that the newer metro system are generally much shorter than the older ones. The oldest metro system is that of London. It was built in 1863 and is 1100 kilometres long. Meanwhile, the second oldest metro system is in Paris. This metro was built in 1890 and is also the second longest, at 594 kilometres. On the other hand, the Kyoto and Los Angeles metro systems are much newer and shorter. They were built in 1980 and 2001, and are just 11 and 14 kilometres in length respectively.

We can also see from the table that the carrying capacities of these six metro systems are very different. The Tokyo metro system can carry the most people each year. At 1434 million. The Paris metro comes second, with 850 million. By contrast, the metro systems with the smallest carrying capacities are Kyoto and Washington DC. These two metros can only carry 11 million and 70 million people per year respectively.

(187 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

A glance at the table provided reveals a number of clear differences between the major metro systems of the world in terms of age, scale and annual carrying capacity.

One particularly interesting fact highlighted by the figure is that the more recently established metro systems are considerably shorter than the older ones. Completed in 1863, the London underground is the oldest of the metro systems listed and also the longest, extending for 1100 kiliometres. Likewise, the second oldest system is also the second longest: built in 1890. The Paris metro is some 594 kilometres in length. In stark contrast, however, the Kyoto and Los Angeles metro system – established in 1890 and 2001 respectively – are far shorter. The former covers a mere 11 kilometres and the latter just 14 kilometres.

With regard to yearly carrying capacity, the metro systems mentioned in the table vary greatly. The Tokyo metro is equipped to carry the largest number of passengers, at 1434 million. With 850 million, meanwhile, the Paris metro has the second largest carrying capacity. The systems with the smallest capacities are those of Kyoto and Washington DC, transporting just 11 million and 70 million people per year respectively.

(196 words)

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	Interestingly, the newer metro systems are shorter than the older ones
	IELTS 6	It is interesting to note that the more recently established metro systems are far shorter than the older ones
	IELTS 7+	One particularly interesting fact highlighted by the figure is that the more recently established metro systems are considerably shorter than the older ones.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	The London metro was finished in 1863. It is the oldest metro system in the table and also the longest, at 1100 *kilometres
	IELTS 6	The London underground was completed in 1863. It is the oldest of the metro system listed and also the longest, stretching for 1100 kilometres.
	IELTS 7+	Completed in 1863, the London underground is the oldest of the metro system listed and also the longest, extending for 1100 kilometres.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	The metro systems mentioned in the table are very different in terms of how many passengers they can transport each year.
	IELTS 6	The metro systems mentioned vary greatly with regard to yearly carrying capacity.
	IELTS 7+	With regard to yearly carrying capacity, the metro systems mentioned in the table vary greatly.
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	At the same time, the Paris metro can transport the second largest number of people, at 850 million.
	IELTS 6	Meanwhile, the Paris metro has the second largest carrying capacity, at 850 million.
	IELTS 7+	With 850 million, meanwhile, the Paris metro has the second largest carrying capacity.

*Note: this word is spelt **"kilometre"** in British/Australian English, but **"kilometer"** in American English. Other examples of difference in spelling are **"centre/center, "metre/meter"** and **"theatre/theater"***

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic 5	**Intermediate 6**	**Advanced 7+**
new (adj)		recently established
	yearly (adj/adv)	
are very different		vary greatly
much (shorter)	far (shorter)	considerably (shorter)
on the other hand	by contrast	in stark contrast, however,...
build (v)		establish (v)
length (n)		scale (n)
transport (n/v)	carry (v)	

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

Questions 1-3 relate to the following two statements from Model Answer B.

A. The more recently established metro systems are considerably shorter than the older ones.
B. The London underground is the oldest of the metro systems listed and also the longest, extending for 1100 kilometres.

1. Which is the most general statement?

2. Which statement is an example?

3. Which statement goes at the start of the paragraph?

4. In Model Answer B, ***"completed"*** means:
   A. finished
   B. 100 percent
   C. complex

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. **"*The table given compares*"** (see Model Answer A) means **"*the table which the examiner has given to me compares*"**.

6. The Paris metro is the third oldest metro (see both model answers)

7. **"*The former*"** refers to the Kyoto metro system while **"*latter*"** means the Los Angeles metro system (see Model Answer B).

8. **"*With regard to*"** (see Model Answer B) means **"*about*"** and is often used to start talking about a new subject.

9. **"*The Kyoto metro system can carry 11 millions of passengers per year*"** is grammatically correct.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **A**
   This statement does not mention name or numbers.

2. **B**
   The London metro is an example of an old and long metro system.

3. **A**
   This kind of general sentence at the start of a paragraph is called a topic sentence. It is a very good idea for you to practise writing a topic sentence at the start of every paragraph you write, then giving examples and supporting information later.

4. **A**

5. **YES**
   The word **"*given*"** makes the sentence structure a little more complex and interesting. Other ways to say the same thing are **"*provided*"** and **"*supplied*"**.

6. **NO**
   It is the second oldest.

7. **YES**
   "*The former*" means **"*the first one that I mentioned*"**, while **"*the latter*"** means "***the last one that I said***". Use these two words if you talk about two different places or things. For example, ***"Sidney is the largest city in Australia. Melbourne is second. The former is in the state of New South Wales, while the latter is in Victoria"***.

8. **YES**
   "*With regard to*" is a very good phrase to use in academic writing.

9. **NO**
   You should write ***"The Kyoto metro system can carry 11 million passengers per year"***.

Column Graph

Question 6	Global Education Rates

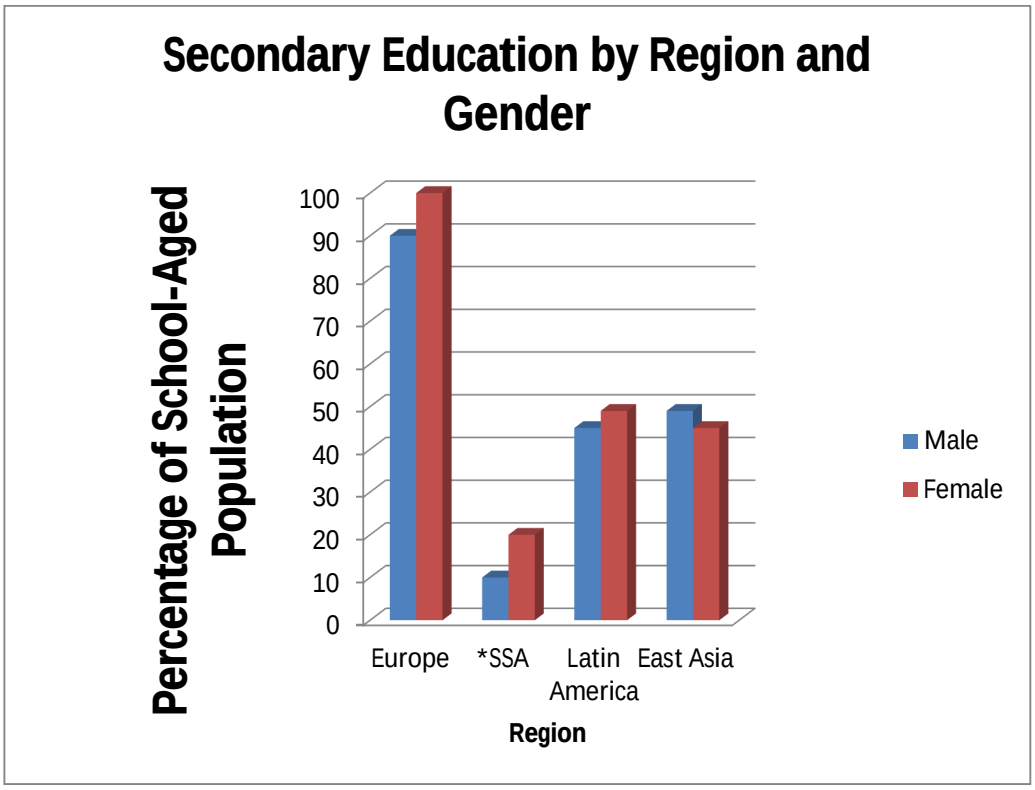
WRITING TASK 1

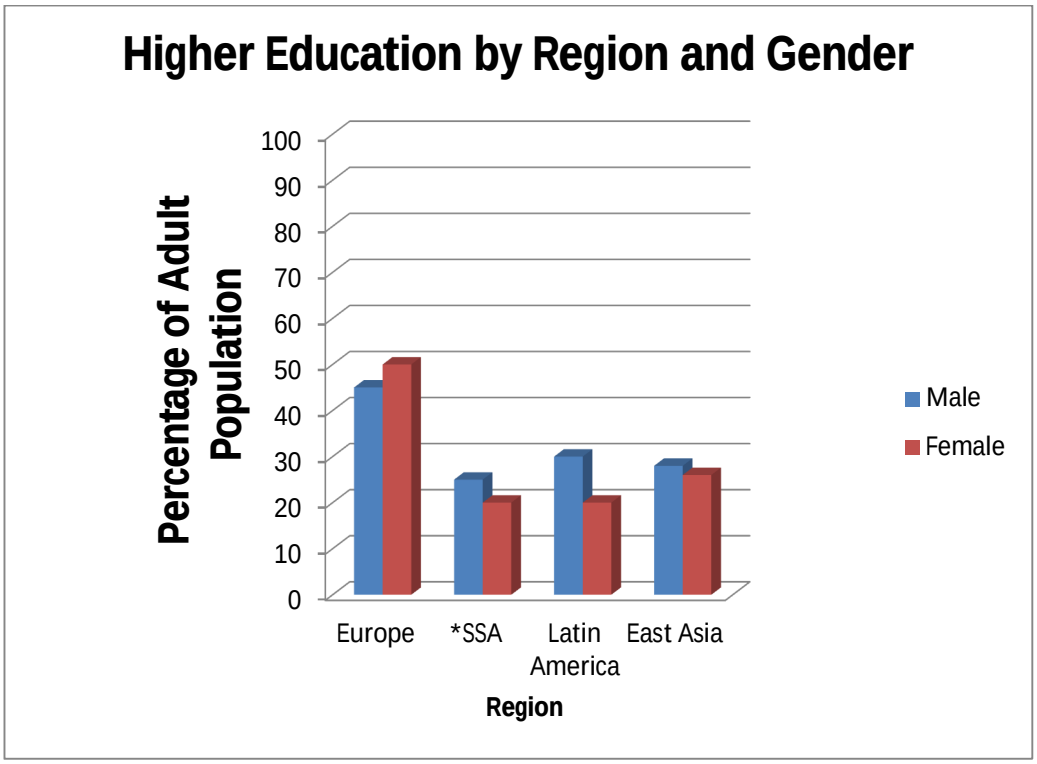
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The graphs below show current rates of secondary and higher education among people in various parts of the world.

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

Write at least 150 words.





***SSA: Sub-Saharan Africa**

Model Answer A: IELTS band 5+

The graphs provided show the percentage of males and females with secondary and higher education in four parts of the world.

Clearly, Europe has much higher levels of education in general than any other region. While 100 percent of school – aged girls and 90 percent of school – aged boys in Europe get a secondary education, the figures for girls and boys in Sub – Saharan Africa are just 20 and 10 percent. Meanwhile, the figures for Latin America and East Asia are between 40 and 50 percent.

We can also see from the graphs that higher education is more common in Europe. About 50 percent of adult females and 45 percent of adult males in this region have a higher education. By contrast, just 20 percent of women and 25 percent of men in Sub – Saharan Africa have this level of education. The figures for Latin America and East Asia are only a little higher than those for Africa.

Finally, it is interesting to note that females are generally more likely to get a secondary education, but less likely to get a tertiary education.

(179 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

Given are two column graphs comparing the rates of secondary and tertiary education among males and females in various different parts of the world.

While Europe enjoys relatively high levels of education overall, it seems that people in less affluent regions are far less likely to be educated. All European girls of school age and 90 percent of boys receive of girls and 10 percent of boys in Sub – Saharan Africa Latin. America and East Asia, meanwhile, have moderate levels of secondary education – between 40 and 50 percent for both sexes.

With regard to higher education, the figures are much lower throughout the world. In Europe, some 50 percent of adult females and 45 percent of adult males gain a higher education. Conversely, only 20 percent of females and 25 percent of males in sub – Saharan Africa attend college or university. The figures for Latin America and East Asia are marginally higher than those of Africa.

Also note worthy is the fact that females are more likely to receive a secondary education in all regions except East Asia, but less likely to receive a tertiary education in all regions except Europe.

(196 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentences 1	**IELTS 5**	Generally, Europe has quite high levels of education. However, it seems that far fewer people in poorer parts of the world get an education.
	IELTS 6	Overall, Europe enjoys relatively high levels of education. However, it seems that people in less affluent regions are much less likely to be educated.
	IELTS 7+	While Europe enjoys relatively high levels of education overall, it seems that people in less affluent regions are far less likely to be educated.
Sentences 2	**IELTS 5**	Levels of higher education are much lower in parts of the world.
	IELTS 6	The figures for higher education are much lower throughout the world.
	IELTS 7+	With regard to higher education, the figures are much lower throughout the world.
Sentences 3	**IELTS 6**	On the other hand, just 20 percent of women and 25 percent of men Sub – Saharan Africa go to college or university.
	IELTS 7+	Conversely, only 20 percent of females and 25 percent of males in Sub - Saharan Africa attend college or university.
Sentences 4	**IELTS 5**	It is also important to note that more girls go to high school in all parts of the world except East Asia.
	IELTS 6	It is also worth noting that females are more likely to attend secondary school in all regions except East Asia.
	IELTS 7+	Also noteworthy is the fact that females are more likely to receive a secondary education in all regions except East Asia.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic (5)	**Intermediate (6)**	**Advanced (7)**
	Higher education	Tertiary education
Get (v.)		Receive (v.)
		Gain an education / receive an education
		Gain a higher education/ attend college or university
	In general overall (adv.)	
Woman (n.)	Females (n/adj.)	
Man (n.)	Male (n/adj.)	
A little		Marginally (adv.)
	Part of the world	Region of the world
		Conversely (adv.) By contrast
	Percentage (n.) Rate (n.)	

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

Questions 1-3 relate to the following two statements from Model Answer B.

A. All European girls of school age and 90 percent of boys receive a secondary education.
B. Europe enjoys relatively high levels of education overall.

1. Which is the most general statement (the topic sentence)?

2. Which statement is an example?

3. Which statement should be placed at the start of a paragraph?

4. In these two essays, **"figure"** means:
   a. number
   b. graph
   c. both graph and number
5. Which of these is incorrect?
   a. We can also see from the graphs...
   b. We can also find from the graphs...
   c. According to the graphs...

6. In Model Answer B, **"relatively"** means:
   a. quite
   b. like family
   c. very

7. In Model Answer B, **"affluent"** means:
    a. poor
    b. rich
    c. not fluent

8. Which of the following phrases is wrong?
    a. between 40 and 50 percent
    b. from 40 to 50 percent
    c. between 40 to 50 percent

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

9. **"Throughout the world"** (see Model Answer B) means **"worldwide"**.

10. **"School"** and **"university"** are the same thing.

11. The most impoverished region has the lowest rate of university attendance.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. B
There are no percentages or other specific details in this sentence.

2. A
"All European girls of school age and 90 percent of boy" is a good example of Europe's high level of education.

3. B
This is the topic sentence of paragraph 2.

4. C

"Figure" has two meanings

5. B
"We can find" is wrong.

6. A
Other worlds for **"relatively"** include **"comparatively"** and **"rather".** The word **"relative"** means **"family member".**

7. B
Another word **for "affluent"** is **"wealthy".** A good way to write **"poor" is "impoverished".**

8. C
The word **"between"** should not go with **"to".**

9. Yes
Make sure you spell "worldwide" correctly. **"Worldwild"** is wrong.

10. No
In American English the words **"school"** and **"university"** can mean the same thing. However, in British Australian English **"school"** means **"primary school"** or you go to get a higher education after you graduate from **"school".**

11. Yes
Sub-Saharan Africa is the poorest region of the world and it has the lowest rate of university attendance.

Question 7	Plastic surgery in Korea

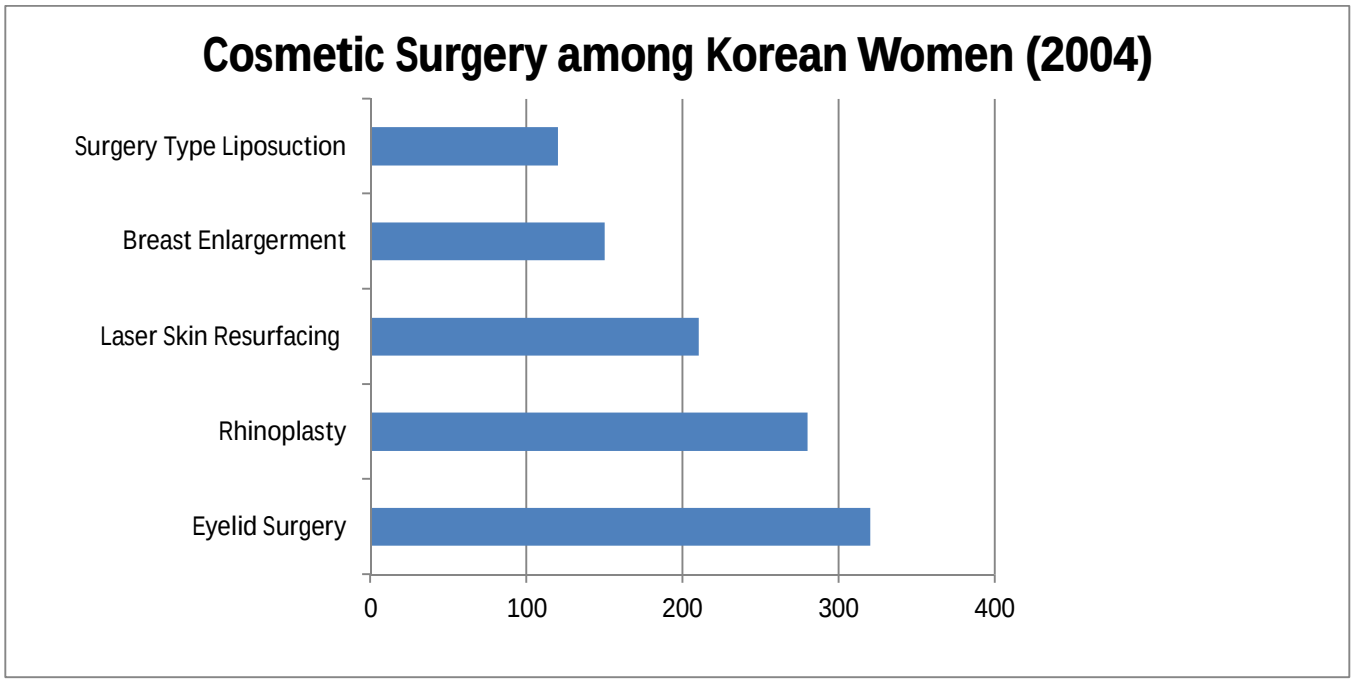
WRITING TASK 1

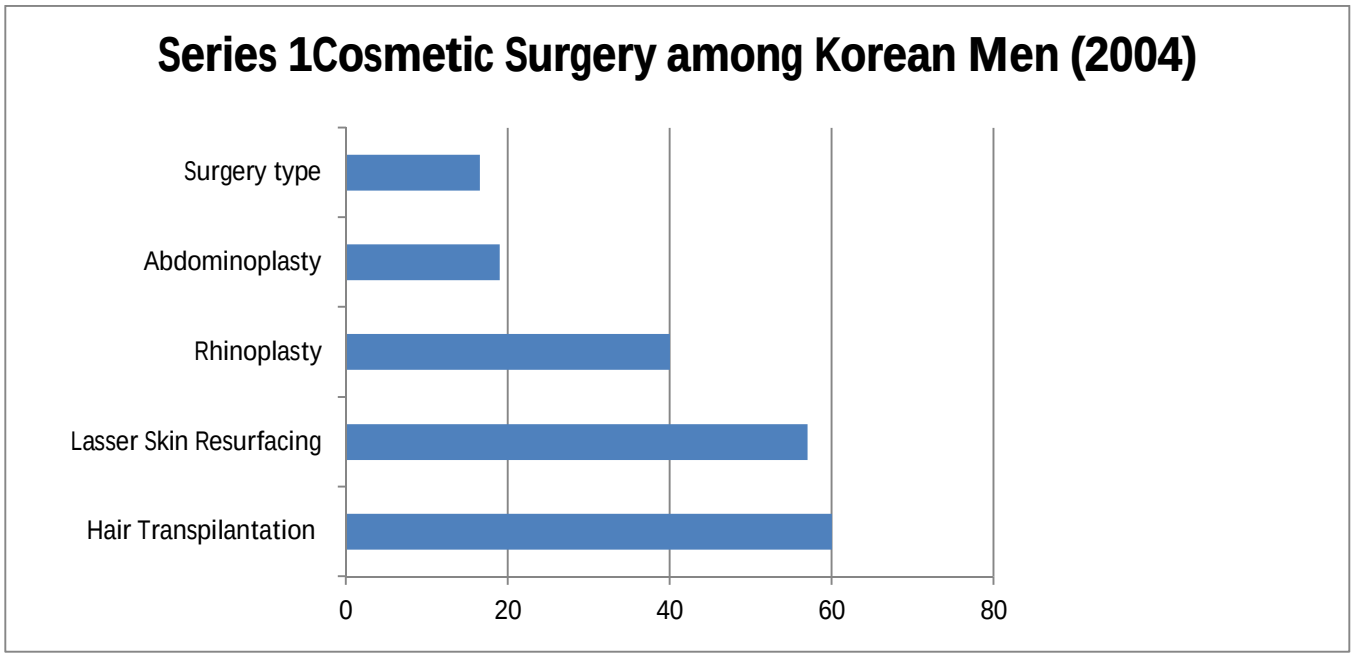
You should spend about 20 minutes on this task

The graphs below compare the number of cosmetic procedures performed on males and females in Korea in 2004.

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

Write at least 150 words.





*Total Number of Procedures (000)

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

The two graphs provided show how popular different kinds of plastic surgery were among Korean men and women in 2004.

It is clear that plastic surgery was quite popular among women. The most common types of surgery for this group were eyelid surgery and rhinoplasty, with 320,000 and 275,000 operations respectively. Laser skin resurfacing was third, at 215,000. Meanwhile, breast enlargement and liposuction were a little less common. There were just 145,000 and 120,000 of these operations.

As for Korean men, most kinds of plastic surgery were much less popular. Hair transplantation was the most common type of surgery for this group; however, there were only 60,000 of these operations. The second most popular kind of plastic surgery for men was laser skin resurfacing, with 55,000 operations. Rhinoplasty was the third most common, at 40, 000 operations. Last of all, abdominoplasty and facelifts were much less popular-there were just 19,000 and 14,000 of these operations respectively.

Interestingly, no hair transplantation, abdominoplasty or facelift operations were reported among Korean women in 2004. Similarly, no liposuction, breast enlargement or eyelid surgery procedures were conducted on men.

(184 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

A glance at the two figures provided reveals the popularity of various forms of cosmetic surgery among Korean men and women 2004.

Not surprisingly, plastic surgery enjoyed widespread popularity among women. By far the most common forms of cosmetic procedure for this group, eyelid surgery and rhinoplasty were performed a staggering 320,000 and 275,000 times respectively. Third in terms of popularity, meanwhile, was laser skin resurfacing. An approximate 215,000 of these procedures were conducted on women during the year in question. Breast enlargement and liposuction were considerably less common, at 145,000 and 120,000 operations respectively.

Equally predictable is the fact that plastic surgery war far less popular among men. In contrast to women, hair transplantation was the most common cosmetic procedure. There were just 60,000 of these operations among Korean males. Numbering some 55,000 procedures, laser skin resurfacing was second for this group. Third was rhinoplasty, at approximately 40,000 operations. Finally, a relatively small 19,000 abdominoplasty and 14,000 facelift procedures were carried out on men during 2004.

It is interesting to note that hair transplantation, abdominoplasty and face lift patients wre exclusively male, while 100 percent of liposuction, breast enlargement and eyelid surgery patients were female.

(196 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	**IELTS 6**	It is not surprising to see that plastic surgery was quite popular among women.
	IELTS 7^{+}	Not surprisingly, plastic surgery enjoyed widespread popularity among women.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	Eyelid surgery and rhinoplasty were the most common types of plastic surgery for this group. There were 320,000 and 275,000 of these operations.
	IELTS 6	Eyelid surgery and rhinoplasty were by far the most common forms of cosmetic procedure for this group. These operations were performed a staggering 320,000 and 275,000 times.
	IELTS 7^{+}	By far the most common forms of cosmetic procedure for this group, eyelid surgery and rhinoplasty were performed a staggering 320,000 and 275,000 times respectively.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	Laser skin resurfacing was the second most popular type of plastic surgery for this group, at about 55,000 procedures
	IELTS 6	Laser skin resurfacing was second for this group, numbering some 55,000 procedures.
	IELTS 7^{+}	Numbering some 55,000 procedures, laser skin resurfacing was second for this group.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic (5)	**Intermediate (6)**	**Advanced (7^+)**
Graph (n./v.)		Figure (n.)
Kind (n.) Type (n.)		Form (n.)
Different kinds		Various forms
	Some (adv.)	Approximately (adv.) An approximate
		Conduct (v.) Perform (v.) Carry out
	Not surprising	Predictable (adj.)
	Common (adj.) Popular (adj.)	
Much less popular	Far less popular	Considerably less common
	Operation (n.)	Procedure (n.)
	Plastic surgery	Cosmetic procedure/ Cosmetic surgery
	Interestingly (adv.)	It is interesting to note that
Woman (n.)	Female (n.adj.)	
Man (n.)	Male (n.adj.)	

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A , B or C

Questions 1-3 relate to the following two statements from Model Answer B.

A. Eyelid surgery and rhinoplasty were performed a staggering 320,000 and 275,000 times respectively.
B. Plastic surgery enjoyed widespread popularity among women.

1. Which statement is the topic sentence (the sentence that introduces a new idea in the general way)?

2. Which statement comes at the start of a paragraph?

3. Which statement gives examples of different kinds of plastic surgery?

4. Which of these words does not belong in this list? Why not?

   A. Eyelid surgery
   B. Abdominoplasty
   C. Plastic surgery

5. How many verb tenses does the writer use in these essays?
   A. one
   B. two
   C. three

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

6. The two model answers discuss men and women in the same paragraph.

7. In Model answer A, the writer says **"as for Korean men"** after he has finished discussing Korean women.

8. In Model Answer B**, "Hair transplantation…patients were exclusive male"** means that most hair transplant patients were men.

9. These essays have no conclusion.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **B**

This statement introduces the topic of plastic surgery and women

2.**B**

This sentence comes at the start of paragraph 2.

3.**A**

The two examples given are "**eyelid surgery**" and "**rhinoplasty**".

4.**C**

"**Plastic surgery**" is a category, whereas "**eyelid surgery**" and "**abdominoplasty**" are examples of it. Category words or phrases are best used at the start of a paragraph, in the topic sentence.

5.**B**

The writer uses present tense to talk about the graphs and past tense to discuss trends in plastic surgery in 2004. Note the verb tenses used in the phrases, "**a glance at the two figures provided reveals**" and "**it is clear that**".

6.**NO**

Each new topic needs a new paragraph-one paragraph is written about men and one is written bout women.

7.**YES**

"**As of Korean men**" is the same as "**with regard to Korean men**". This is a good way to change the subject.

8.**NO**

It actually means that all hair transplant patients were men.

9.**YES**

It is not necessary to write a conclusion for Writing Task 1. Instead, you may choose to highlight a point that you think is interesting.

DIAGRAM

Question 8	River Pollution

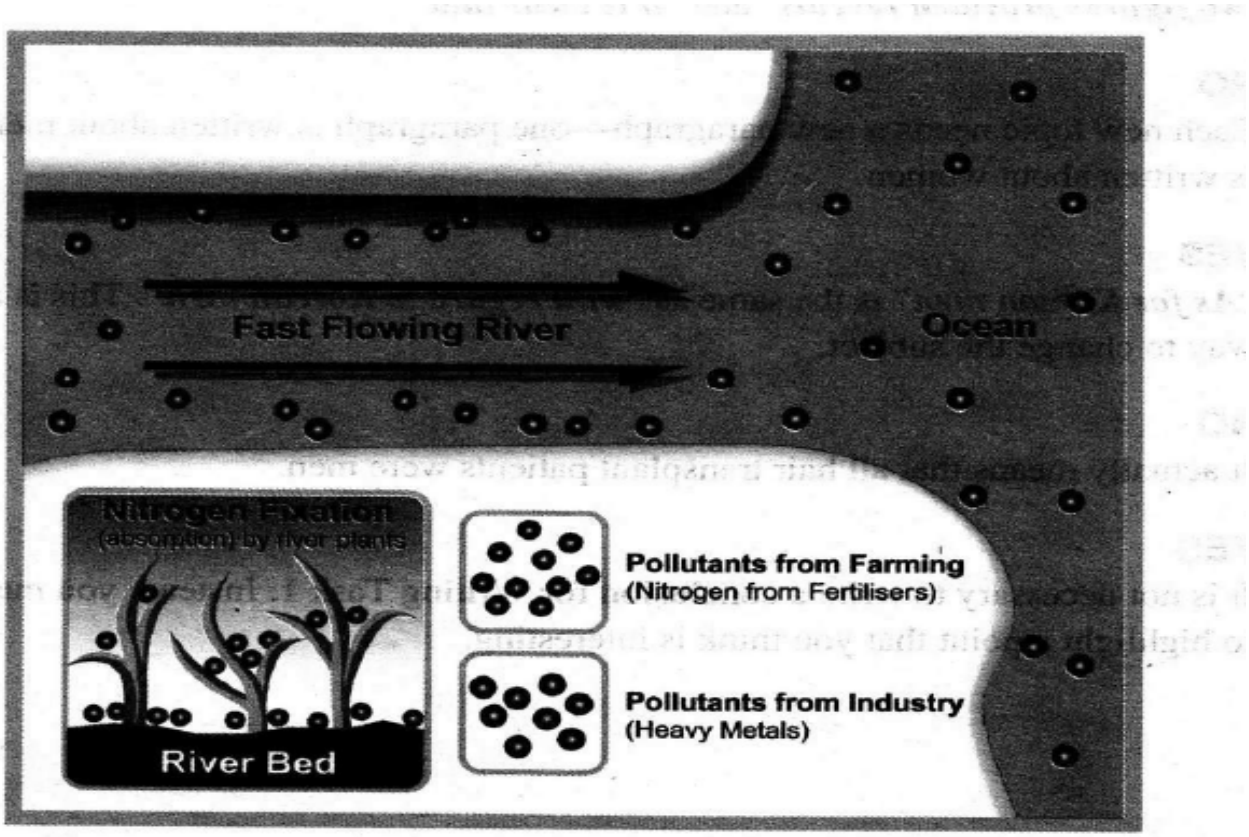
WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The diagram below shows what happens to pollutants from farming and industry once in a river system.

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

Write at least 150 words.



Model Answer A : IELTS Band 5+

The diagram given shows a river flowing quickly towards the ocean and what happens to two difference kinds of pollutants when they enter it. The pollutants that are mentioned in the diagram are fertilizers from farming and heavy metals from industry. The fertilizers are shown as blue spots, while the heavy metals are shown as black spots.

It is clear that the pollutants from industry stay in the river for a longer period of time than the pollutants from farming. According to the diagram, plants growing on the river bed remove fertilizers from the water through a process called nitrogen fixation. However, they do not absorb heavy metals in the same way. These industrial pollutants either sit on the bottom of the river or flow into the sea.

Therefore, the effects of heavy metals on the environment probably continue for longer than those of fertilizers.

(145 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

Given is a diagram illustrating the interaction between two types of pollutants – namely fertilizers from farming and heavy metals produced by industry – and the ecosystem of a fast flowing river. The fertilizers are denoted by blue spots, while the heavy metals are marked as black sports.

From the information supplied, it is evident that fertilizers are more readily removed from the water through natural processes than heavy metals, and that the latter tend to remain in a river system for much longer periods of time. In the lower section of the diagram, plants growing on the river bed are shown to absorb fertilizers from the water through a process known as nitrogen fixation. By contrast, heavy metals are not filtered from the river system in this way and instead either settle on the bottom or are emptied into the sea.

Thus, it is reasonable to surmise that the effect of heavy metals on the environment is longer lasting than that of fertilizers.

(162 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	The blue spots show fertilizers. At the same time, the black sports denote heavy metals.
	IELTS 6	The fertilizers are shown as blue spots. Meanwhile, the heavy metals are denoted by black spots.
	IELTS 7+	The fertilizers are denoted by blue spots, while the heavy metals are marked as black spots.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	The diagram clearly shows that natural processes in the river take fertilizers out of the water much more quickly and easily than heavy metals. These heavy metals usually stay in the river system for much longer.
	IELTS 6	From the information supplied, it is clear that natural processes in the river remove fertilizers from the water much more readily than heavy metals, and that these heavy metals tend to remain in the water for much longer periods of time.
	IELTS 7+	From the information supplied, it is evident that fertilizers are more readily removed from the water through natural processes than heavy metals, and that the latter tend to remain in a river system for much longer periods of time.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	The lower part of the diagram shows that the river plants take fertilizers out of the water through nitrogen fixation.
	IELTS 6	In the lower section of the diagram shows that plants growing on the river bed absorb fertilizers from the water through a process called nitrogen fixation
	IELTS 7+	In the lower section of the diagram, plants growing on the river bed are shown to absorb fertilizers from the water through a process known as nitrogen fixation
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	On the other hand, plants do not remove heavy metals from the river system in the same way.
	IELTS 6	By contrast, plants do not filter heavy metals from the river system in this way.
	IELTS 7+	By contrast, heavy metals are not filtered from the river system in this way.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
*show (v.)		Illustrate (v.)
*show (v.)	Mark (v.)	Denote (v.)
give (v.)	Supply (n./v.)	
Stay (v.)	Remain (v.)	
	According to the diagram/ the diagram given shows	
Clear (adj.)		Evident (adj.)
Sit (v.)		Settle (v.)
	Remove (v.)	Absorb (v.) Filter (n./v.)
	Therefore (adv.)	Thus (adv.)

Note: 1. **"show"** means **"reveal".** Eg. **"This catalogue shows how much a TV costs."**

2. **"Show"** means **"stand for"** or **"symbolize".** E.g**: " The symbol $ (the dollar sign) shows money."**

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. What is the main idea of these tow essays?

A. Heavy metals are worse for the environment than fertilizers.
B. Fertilisers and heavy metals are equally bad for the environment.
C. Rivers carry fertilizers and heavy metals towards the sea.

2. Which is the American spelling?

A. Fertiliser

B. Fertilizer

3. In Model Answer B, the word **"readily"** means:
A. Quickly and easily
B. Gradually
C. Sometimes

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

4. The writer only uses past tense in these essays.
5. **"Surmise"** (see Model Answer B) is the more formal word for **"guess"**
6. In Model Answer B, **"tend to"** means **"seldom"**.
7. Model Answer A is not long enough to get a good score in the real test.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

2. **B**
   You can use either American spelling or British/Australian spelling, but you should try to be consistent. Choose one, not both.
3. **A**
4. **NO**
   In fact, the writer only uses present tense in these model answers because there is no year given to indicate that this information is taken from the past. You should use present tense in most diagram questions.
5. **YES**
   "Surmise" is a good word to use in academic English.
6. **NO**
   "Tend to" means **"frequently"** or **"often".** It is used to talk about a typical occurrence or trend.
7. **NO**
   It all depends on the question. In this case, it only took 145 words to describe the diagram completely. The length of your essay is just one thing the examiner looks at, so if your essay is a little short you can still get a good score.

Diagram (Flow Chart)

Question 9	Mobile Phone Recycling

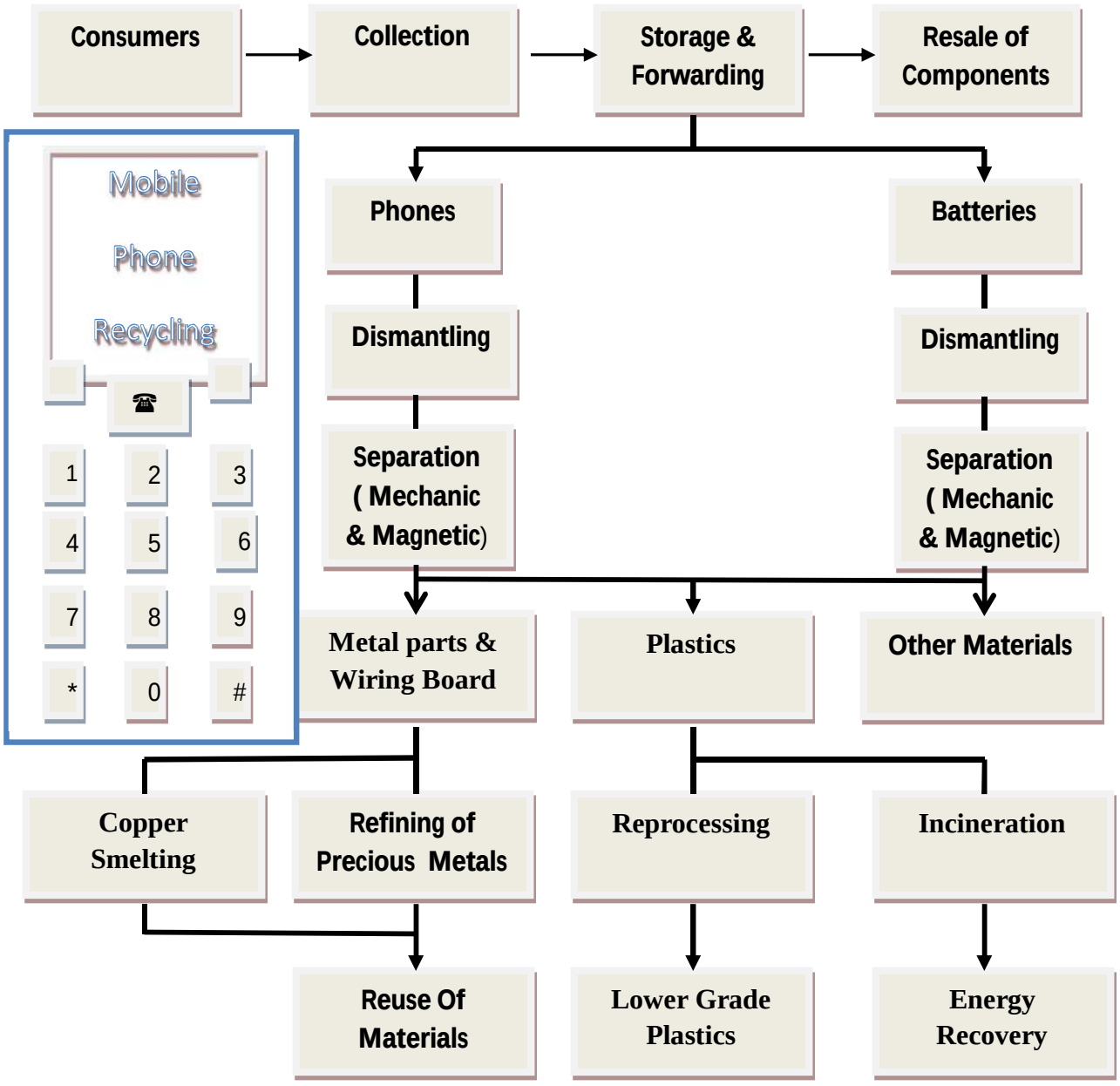
WRITING TASK 1:

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The following is a diagram of the mobile phone recycling process.

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

Write at least 150 words


Consumers
Collection
Storage & Forwarding
Resale of Components
Mobile Phone Recycling
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
*
0
#
Phones
Batteries
Dismantling
Dismantling
Separation (Mechanic & Magnetic)
Separation (Mechanic & Magnetic)
Metal parts & Wiring Board
Plastics
Other Materials
Copper Smelting
Refining of Precious Metals
Reprocessing
Incineration
Reuse Of Materials
Lower Grade Plastics
Energy Recovery

Model answer A: IELTS Band 5+

The diagram given shows how mobile phones are recycled. Clearly, the recycling process has three main stages.

In the first stage of the process, the recycling company collects mobile phones from consumers. Then it stores or forwards the phones and resells some of the components.

In the second stage of the recycling process, the company separates the mobile phones from their batteries and dismantles both of these. Then it separates the phones and the batteries into mechanical and magnetic parts. After this, it divides these parts up into different kinds of material. The kinds of material that are mentioned in the diagram are metals parts and writing boards, plastics and other materials.

In the third part of the process, the recycling company removes copper and precious metals from the metal parts. It smelts the copper and refines the precious metal. Then it reuses these materials. As for the plastic parts, it reprocesses of these into lower grade plastics and incinerates the rest of them to recover energy. The diagram does not show what happens to the other materials.

(179 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

Given is a diagram illustrating the process by which mobile phones are recycled. It is evident from the information provided that there are three main phases involved.

Prior to the actual processing of the phones, it is first necessary for the recycler to collect them from consumers. They are then either placed into storage or forwarded directly. At this point, the resale of certain components occurs.

The second stage of the recycling process, meanwhile, entails the separation of the mobile phones from their batteries and the dismantling of both. Having further separated the phones and batteries into mechanical and magnetic parts, these parts are then divided into metals, plastics and other materials.

In the third and final phase, copper and precious metals are extracted from the metal components. The former is smelted while the latter are refined and the raw materials produced though these processes are subsequently reused. Meanwhile, plastic parts are either converted into lower grade plastics or incinerated to recover energy. The diagram does not indicate how other kinds of material are disposed of.

(176 words)

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	The diagram given shows how mobile phones are recycling
	IELTS 6	The diagram given illustrates the process by which mobile phones are recycling
	IELTS 7+	Given is a diagram illustrating the process by which mobile phones are recycled
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	The recycling company has to collect the phones from consumers before it actually processes them
	IELTS 6	Before it actually processes the phones, the recycler first has to collect them from consumers
	IELTS 7+	Prior to the actually processing of the phones, it is first necessary for the recycler to collect them from consumers
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	Then the recycling company resells some of the parts
	IELTS 6	Some of the components are then resold (by the recycling company)
	IELTS 7+	At this point, the resale of certain components occurs
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	The recycler separates the phones and batteries into mechanicals and magnetic parts. Then it divides these parts into metals, plastic and other materials.
	IELTS 6	After separating the phones and batteries into mechanicals and magnetic parts, the recycler then divides them into metals, plastics and other materials
	IELTS 7+	Having separated the phones and batteries into mechanical and magnetic parts, these parts are then divided into metals, plastics and other materials

Academic Vocabulary:

Basic (5)	**Intermediate (6)**	**Advanced (7)**
	Recycling company Recycler (n.)	
	Involve (v.)	Entail (v.)
Part (n.)	Stage (n.)	Phase (n.)
Then (adv.)	After this	Subsequently (adv.) At this point
	Divide (v.) Separate (v.)	
Part (n.)		Component (n.)
	Remove (v.)	Extract (v.)
Show (v.)		Indicate (v.)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C:

1. Which of the following sentences is grammatically correct?
   A. The recycling company collect mobile phones from customers.
   B. The recycle company collects mobile phones from customers.
   C. The recycling company collects mobile phones from customers.
2. In Model Answer B, " ***convert"*** means:
   A. Transform
   B. Mix
   C. Recycle
3. ***"Dispose of"*** (see Model Answer B) is a more formal way to say:
   A. Sell
   B. Throw away
   C. Keep
4. In Model Answer B, ***"the former"*** refer to:
   A. Precious metals
   B. Copper
   C. Mobile phones
5. ***"Prior to"*** (see Model Answer B) is a more formal way to say:
   A. Before
   B. After
   C. During

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO:

6. In Model Answer A, the writer begins too many sentences with ***"the recycling company", "the company"*** or ***"it"***

7. ***"Dismantle"*** is a less formal word for ***"build"*** (see both model answers)
8. **"Place"** (see Model Answer B) is a word we often use for ***"put"*** in spoken English
9. The dismantling phase precedes the separation phase.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. ***C***

   "My brother" is ***"he"; "your friends"*** are ***"they";*** and ***"the recycling company***" is ***"it".*** Therefore, the verb ***"collect"*** must take an ***"s"***

2. **A**

   The write uses the word ***"convert"*** followed by ***"into".*** In most cases, you must use both. So you could write, ***"freezers convert water into ice"***

3. **B**

   The phrase ***"dispose of"*** means ***"get rid of"*** or ***"throw away".*** It is very useful in academic writing, especially when describing diagrams or flow charts. Do not forget **"of".** For instance***, "Old furniture can be difficult to dispose of".***

4. **B**

   In the model answer, ***"the former"*** refers to ***"copper"***; ***"the latter"*** means ***"precious metals".***

5. **A**
6. **YES**

   Model Answer A contains too many active sentence. When describing diagrams, it is a good idea to try writing more passive sentences.

7. **NO**

   The word ***"dismantle"*** is a more formal word for ***"take apart"***

8. **NO**

   Use ***"put"*** when speaking and ***"place"*** when writing.

9. **YES**

   The dismantling phase comes before the separation phase.

Diagram (Map)

Question 10	Planned Shopping Centre Locations

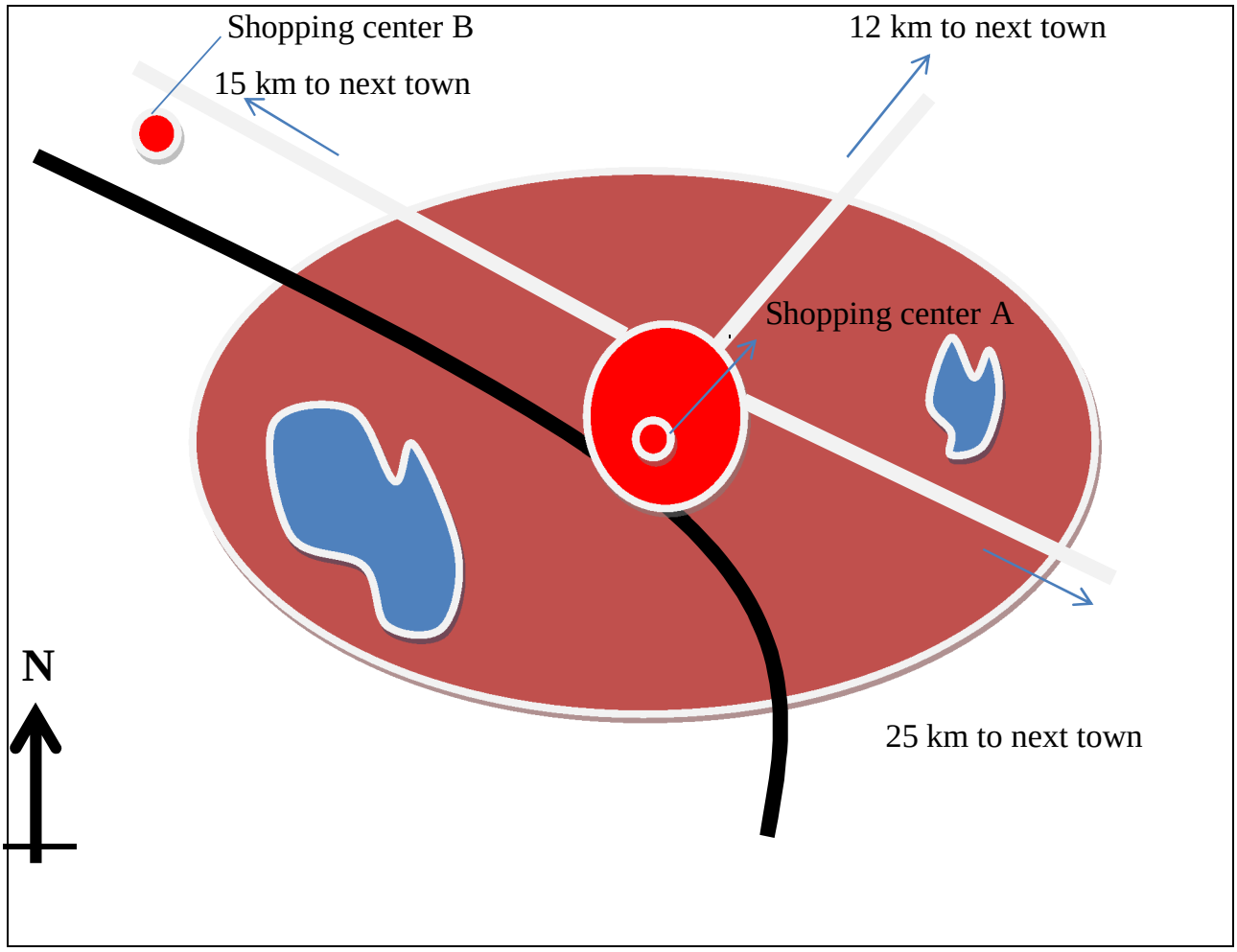
WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The figure below is a town planning map. Showing the likely position of new shopping centers as well as the various different zones and major transportation route of the town.

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

Write at least 150 words



Rural Zone (Countryside)

Central Business District(no traffic)

Industrial Zone

Main Road

Residential Zone (Suburbs)

Railway line

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

This is a map of a town showing where two new shopping centers will probably be built as well as different zones and transportation routes

.

In the middle of the town there is a small zone called the central business district. Cars are not allowed in this zone. Outside the central business district there is a lager residential zone and outside this there is an even larger rural zone. There is also a railway line running right through the town and three main roads which start on the edge of the central business district and go to nearby towns.

According to the diagram, one shopping center will probably be built in the middle of the town while the other one will be built in the northern rural area. People will be able to get to the first shopping center by train or park their cars on the edge of the central business district and walk to it. Meanwhile they will be able to get to the second shopping center by car or train because it will be located between the railway line and the main northwest road.

(187 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

Given is a map of an unnamed town illustrating the probable sits of two new shopping centers in the relation to various different zones as well as major transportation links.

As shown in the figure, the town has four main zones. Located at the apes of three arterial roads is a relatively small central business district. Cars are not permitted in this area and all major roads terminate at its outer edge. Surrounding the town center is a much larger residential zone which has within it two smaller industrial zones. Beyond this, meanwhile, is an even larger rural area. A railway line runs through the entire town from the northwest to the southeast

With regard to the planned locations of the two new shopping centers, one is likely to be situated in the town center and will be accessible by train or by parking on the edge of the central business district and walking. The other will probably be placed on the outskirts of the town to the northwest. Access to this shopping center will be by either car or train as it will be situated between the railway line and the main northwest road.
(194 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	There is a small central business district at the intersection of three main roads
	IELTS 6	There is a relatively small center business district located at the apex of three arterial roads
	IELTS 7+	Located at the apex of three arterial roads is a relatively small central business district
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	At the same time, there is an even bigger rural area beyond this
	IELTS 6	Meanwhile, there is an even larger rural area beyond this
	IELTS 7+	Beyond this, meanwhile, is an even larger rural area
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	One of the new shopping centers will probably be located in the town center and people will be able to visit by train or by parking on the edge of the central business district and walking
	IELTS 6	As for the locations of the two new shopping centers, one will probably be situated in the town center and people will be able to access it by train or by parking on the edge of the central business district and walking
	IELTS 7+	With regard to the planned locations of the two new shopping centers, one is likely to be situated in the town center and will be accessible by train or by parking on the edge of the central business district and walking

Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	People will be able to get to this shopping center by car or by train because it will be located between the railway line and the main northwest road
	IELTS 6	People will be able to access this shopping center by car or train as it will be situated between the railway line and the main northwest road.
	IELTS 7+	Access to this shopping center will be either car or train as it will be situated between the railway line and the main northwest road.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Show (v.)		Illustrate (v.)
	Will probably	(be) likely to
	Allow (v.)	Permit (v.)
	(be) located	(be) placed (be) situated
Middle (n.)	Center (n.)	

Test Your Comprehension

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

Questions 1-3 relate to the following two statements from Model Answer B

A. The town has four main zones

B. Located at the apex of three arterial roads is a relatively small central business district

1. Which sentence is more general?
2. Which statement should be placed at the beginning of a paragraph?
3. Which statement names one of the zones in the town?
4. What verb tense(s) does the writer use in these essays?
   - A. Future tense
   - B. Present tense
   - C. Present and future tense
5. The future tense form of **"can"** is:
   - A. Will be able to
   - B. Will can
   - C. Can going to
6. How many times does the writer start sentences with **"there is"** or **"there are"** in Model Answer A?
   - A. 1
   - B. 2
   - C. 4
7. **"Rural area"** (see Model Answer B) is a more formal way to say:
   - A. The city
   - B. The country
   - C. The suburbs

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO:

8. In Model Answer B, **"terminate"** is more formal way to say **"end".**

9. The word **"accessible"** (see Model Answer B) means that people can reach or get to a place or facility easily

10. **"The outskirts of the town"** (see Model Answer B) refers to the **"city center".**

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. A

"Four main zones" is a general term.

2. A

This statement is found at the start of Model Answer B paragraph 2. It is a topic sentence (a general sentence that introduces a paragraph).

3. B

"Central business district" is one example of the ***"four main zones"*** mentioned in the topic sentence.

4. C

The writer uses present tense to talk about the map and the town, but future tense to talk about the planned shopping centers and how people will access them.

5. A

6. C

Model Answer A uses ***"there is"*** and ***"there are"*** too repetitively. Model Answer B is better because it has more variety.

7. B

"Rural" is an adjective that means ***"country".*** A good adjective for ***"city"*** is ***"urban***"

8. YES

"Terminate" is a good word to use in academic writing.

9. YES

The word ***"access"*** means ***"reach"*** or ***"get to".***

10. NO

"The outskirts of town" are the outer edges of a city.

IELTS WRITE RIGHT TASK 2

In Writing Task 2 of both the Academic and General Training modules you will be expected to write 250 words or more expressing your opinion about a given topic. The vast majority of IELTS Writing Task 2 questions are about trends or problems in society. It is essential that you learn to distinguish between these two: global tourism is a trend because it has both positive and negative aspects (it is both good and bad), while pollution is a problem because it only has negative aspects (it is all bad). IELTS writing questions related to such societal trends and problems generally come in the following forms:

1. Do you Agree or Disagree?

You may be asked whether you agree or disagree with a given statement and requested to give reasons for your answer. This type of question can be expressed in the following two ways:

Form A: **What are your opinion on this?**

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Writing about the following topic:

International tourism is now more common than ever before. Some feel that this is a positive trend, while others do not.

What are your opinions on this?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Form B **Do you agree or disagree?**

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Men and women are different in term of their characteristics and abilities. For this reason, some jobs are better done by men and others by women.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience
Write at least 250 words.

2. Discuss Causes, Effects and/or Solutions.

Some IELTS writing tasks will require you to discuss the causes, effects and/or solutions to a topical , societal issue.

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many people believe that educational standards have declined in recent times, particularly in the area of literacy and numeracy.
Discuss the causes of this problem and offer some possible solutions to it

Write at least 250 words

What Are Your Opinions on This?

Question 11	The Internet

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

> ***The Internet has dramatically altered our lives over the past few decades. Although some of these changes have been negative, the overall effect of this technology has been positive.***
>
> ***What are your opinions on this?***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant example from your own knowledge or experience

Write at least 250 words

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7

The Internet has brought significant changes to our lives in recent years. Yet, there remains some disagreement as to whether the overall effect of this technology has been positive or negative. While there are certainly valid arguments to the contrary, I personally believe that the benefits of the Internet far outweigh its drawbacks. These benefits are twofold.

First of all, it is an indisputable fact that the Internet has revolutionized the way we communicate. Despite the risk of social isolation – a problem occasionally seen in people who spend too much time at their computer terminal rather than relating to people in the real world – most of us have benefited greatly from e-mail and internet chat programs like MSN Messenger. These incredibly useful and powerful tools of communication facilitate both contact with loved ones in faraway places and global trade.

Equally importantly, though, the Internet has placed the entire word (and all of the information in it) at our fingertips. In earlier times, conducting research entailed long hours searching library shelves. Now, however, the same information can be accessed at the click of a button. Admittedly, not all of the information available on the Internet is reliable or helpful – there is a vast amount of material online that some would consider offensive or dangerous, ranging from pornography to instructions on how to make bombs. Nonetheless, I would contend that this free flow of information has generally been a very positive development.

By way of conclusion, I once again reaffirm my position that the Internet has had a positive impact on modern life because of its influence on communication and the flow of information

(272 words)

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	The Internet has dramatically changed our lives in recent times
	IELTS 6	The Internet has caused dramatic changes in our lives in recent years
	IELTS 7^{+}	The Internet has brought significant changes to our lives in recent years
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	But people still disagree about whether the effect of the Internet has been good or bad
	IELTS 6	However, there is still some disagreement about whether the overall effect of the Internet has been good or bad
	IELTS 7^{+}	Yet, there remains some disagreement as to whether the overall effect of this technology has been positive or negative
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	First, most people would agree that the Internet has improved the way we communicate
	IELTS 6	Firstly, most people would disagree that the Internet has greatly improved the way we communicate
	IELTS 7^{+}	First of all, it is an indisputable fact that the Internet has revolutionized the way we communicate
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	It is true that spending too much time using the Internet is dangerous because it can cause social problems. However, e-mail and internet chat programs like MSN Messenger have helped most of us
	IELTS 6	Although there is some danger of social isolation (a problem that we sometimes see in people who spend too much time online instead of talking to real people), e-mail and internet chat programs like MSN Messenger have brought great benefits to most of us

	IELTS 7^{+}	Despite the risk of social isolation-a problem occasionally seen in people who spend too much time at their computer terminal rather than relating to people in the real world-most of us have benefited greatly from e-mail and internet chat programs like MSN Messenger
Sentence 5	**IELTS 5**	But I feel that this free movement of information has been a very positive trend
	IELTS 6	However, I would argue that this free movement of information has generally been a very positive trend
	IELTS 7^{+}	Nonetheless, I would contend that this free flow of information has generally been a very positive development
Sentence 6	**IELTS 6**	In conclusion, I restate my opinion that the Internet has positively influenced modern life because of its effect on communication and the movement of information
	IELTS 7^{+}	By way of conclusion, I once again reaffirm my position that the Internet has had a positive impact on modern life because of its influence on communication and the flow of information

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Opinion (n.)	Position (n.)	
Change (n./v.)		Alter (v.)
Affect (v.) Effect (n.)	Influence (v./n.)	Impact (v./n.)
	Believe (v.) Feel (v.)	
	Improve (v.)	Revolutionize (v.)
Talk to		Relate to
	Communication (n.) Contact (n./v.)	
	Instead of	Rather than
Family and friends		Loved ones
Other countries		Faraway places
	International business	Global trade
	In the past	In earlier times
	Involve (v.)	Entail (v.)
	(be) available	Can be accessed
	Of course	Admittedly (adv.)
	Much of	A vast amount of
True (adj.)		Reliable (adj.)
Helpful (adj.) Useful (adj.)		
		Nevertheless (adv.) Nonetheless (adv.)
	To conclude	By way of conclusion
		Reaffirm (v.) Restate (v.)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. What is Question 11 about?
   A. The causes of a problem in society
   B. The effects of a societal trend
   C. The effects of a problem in society

Question 2-4 refer to the following three simplified sentences (from paragraph 2 of both model answers)

I.	**These communication tools help us to keep in touch with people in other countries.**
II.	**E-mail and chat programs like MSN Messenger are especially useful.**
III.	**The Internet certainly makes it easier to communicate**

2. Put the above sentences in the correct order.
   A. II./I./III.
   B. I./II./III.
   C. III./II./I.
3. Which of these sentences is the most general?
   A. i.
   B. ii.
   C. iii.
4. What does the phrase **"these communication tools"** (see Model Answer A) refer to?
   A. E-mail and chat programs like MSN Messenger
   B. The Internet
   C. People in other countries
5. What verb tense does the writer use in these essays?
   A. Past and present tense
   B. Past tense
   C. Past, present perfect and present tense

6. Which of the following sentences is grammatically correct (see Model Answer B)?
   A. The Internet has brought significant changes to our lives in recent years.
   B. The Internet has brought significant changes to our life in recently
   C. The Internet brought significant changes to our lives recent years
7. Which of the following sentence is grammatically correct (see Model Answer A)?
   A. In the past, research had involved spending many hours in the library.
   B. In the past, research has involved spending many hours in the library.
   C. In the past, research involved spending many hours in the library.

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

8. The writer says what other people think before offering his own opinion (see Model Answer A)
9. In Model Answer B, the word **"benefit"** is used as both a noun and a verb.
10. In Model Answer B, **"pornography"** is an example **of "offensive or dangerous material"**

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. B

The Internet has advantages and disadvantages, so it is a trend not a problem

2. C

The first sentence (iii.) says that the Internet makes it easier to communicate; the second (ii.) gives examples of internet communication; and the last sentence (i.) says how these programs help us.

3. C

You should start each paragraph with a general sentence and then give specific examples to support it.

4. A

5. C

Any time you need to talk about changes between the past and the present, you will probably need these three tenses

6. A

Any time you write **"recently"** or **"in recent times",** you will probably need to use present perfect tense (has/have done). Also, the plural form of **"life"** is **"lives"**

7. C

Whenever you write ***"in the past"*** or ***"in earlier times",*** you will probably need to use past tense.

8. YES

This makes the writer's opinion seem stronger.

9. YES

"Benefit" can be a noun or a verb. The adjective is **"beneficial"**

10. YES

Question 12	Fast Food

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic:

Fast food is now universally in most countries and is becoming increasingly popular.

Some feel that this is a positive trend, while others do not.

What are your opinions in this?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer B: Ielts Band 7+

The past 50 years have seen a dramatic increase in the availability of fast food. Some laud its convenience and relatively low cost; however, in this essay I intend to argue that this kind of food is detrimental both to the individuals that consume it and to society at large. There are two primary reasons for this.

First of all, it is an undeniable fact that consuming fast food to excess results in serious health problems. Foods such as fried chicken, hamburgers and chips – which are incredibly high in fat and salt are responsible for such ailments as high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease. Moreover, although I certainly agree that fast food is both affordable and convenient, the cost and inconvenience of treating the illnesses it causes in later life are significant. In other words, while fast food is beneficial in the short term, its long-term effects are generally negative.

Further and even more importantly, though, some fast food chains deliberately attempt to attract children in order to shape their future eating habits. One particularly good example of this is the character Ronald McDonald the bright clothes and smile of the McDonalds clown are a beacon to children. Having grown up eating in McDonalds restaurants, people are likely to continue eating there throughout their adult lives. It is also interesting to note that McDonalds provides playgrounds and frequently holds children's birthday parties in order to attract young children and their parents.

By way of conclusion, I believe that fast food will continue to become more popular as the pace of life increases. Given the health risks associated with this trend, I believe that public education campaigns warning people about the dangers of fast food would be warranted

(288 words.)

Model sentences structure.

sentence 1	IELTS 5	Fast food is now much more widely available than it was 50 years ago
	IELTS 6	in the past 50 years the availability of fast food has increased dramatically
	IELTS 7+	The past 50 years have seen a dramatic increase in the availability of fast food
sentence 2	IELTS 6	some people feel that this kind of food plays a positive role in the world because it is convenient and cheap
	IELTS 7+	Some people believe that this kind of food has a positive role to play in the world because of its convenience and low cost
sentence 3	IELTS 5	But I believe that this kind of food is bad for the people who eat it and also for society
	IELTS 6	however, in this essay I will argue this kind of food is harmful both to individuals who eat it and to society in general.
	IELTS 7+	however, in this essay I intend to argue that this kind of food is detrimental both to the individuals that consume it and to society at large
sentence 4	IELTS 5	As everybody knows, fast food is very unhealthy
	IELTS 6	firstly, it is a well-know fact that eating too much fast food cause serious health problems.
	IELTS 7+	first of all, it is an undeniable fact that eating fast food to excess results in serious health problems
sentence 5	IELTS 5	Food like fried chicken, hamburgers and chips contain large amounts of fat and salt. They cause illnesses like high blood pressure, weight problems and heart disease.
	IELTS 6	Foods such as fried chicken, hamburgers and chips are very high in fat and salt. These foods are responsible for ailments like high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease.
	IELTS 7+	foods such as fried chicken, hamburgers and chips which are incredibly high in fat and salt are responsible for such ailments as high blood pressure, obesity and heart disease.

Academic Vocabulary

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
	cause(n.V)	(be) responsible for /result in
	harmful(adj)	detrimental
	firstly(adv)	
	first of all	
too much		to excess
		(be) incredibly high in fat/ contain a great deal of fat
	illness	ailment
	serious health problem	major health problem
	when we get older	in later life
	although(conj) while(conj)	
cheap(adj)		affordable
	in addition to this	further and even more importantly, though,
	believe (v) feel(v)	
	interestingly(adv)	it is interesting to note that
eat(v)		consume(v)
	in conclusion	by way of conclusion
	danger(n)	risk(n)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. Question 12 asks you to write about:
    a. The effects of a societal problem
    b. The causes of a problem in society
    c. The positive and negative effects of a societal trend
2. Choose the best title for these two essays.
    a. Fast food is a bad things
    b. Fast food is a good things
    c. Fast food is unhealthy
3. Choose the best summary of Model answer B
    a. We should warn people about the dangers of fast food. It is unhealthy and fast food chains try to change children's eating habits. Fast food is a bad things.
    b. Fast food is a bad thing. It is unhealthy and fast food chains try to change children's eating habit. We should warn people about the dangers of fast food.
    c. Fast food is unhealthy and fast food chains try to change children's eating habits. Fast food is a bad thing. We should warn people about the dangers of fast food.
4. In Model Answer B, the word "**laud**" means:
    a. Dislike
    b. Discuss
    c. Welcome
5. Which of the following statements is grammatically correct?
    a. This kind of foods have a positive role to play in the world because it is convenience
    b. This kind of food has a positive role to play in the world because of it is convenient
    c. This kind of food has a positive role to play in the world because of its convenience
6. In paragraph 2 of both model answers, **"obesity"** means:
    a. Fatness
    b. Overeating
    c. Fat
7. In the phase **"having grown up eating in McDonalds restaurants"** (see model answer B) the word **"having"** means:
    a. Before
    b. After

c. During

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

8. In these essays, the writer says that the growing popularity of fast food is a positive trend.
9. **"Because of"** is exactly the same **"given"**
10. In model Answer B, the writer uses the word **"moreover"** in the middle of a paragraph.
11. **"A great deal of"** means **"a little"**
12. The writer makes a suggestion in the conclusion of Model Answer B

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. C : "**Societal trend"** means "**trend in society**"
2. A : the writer says this at the end of paragraphs 1 using different words: "**it (fast food) is harmful both to the people who eat it and to society at large**". You should always state your opinion at the end of your introduction.
3. B : you should plan your essay by writing this kind of summary on a separate piece of paper before you start writing the actual essay.
4. C : :**laud"** means to **"like"** and "**welcome**" a new trend or development
5. C: "**Because of"** must be followed by a noun such as "**convenience**"
6. A: "**Fatness**" is not a real word in English. You must write "**obesity**" instead.
7. B
8. NO : the writer says that the popularity of fast food is a negative trend.
9. Yes: look at question 5 to see how to use "**because of**"
10. Yes: the writer uses this word in the middle of the paragraph to make a stronger point on the same topic. This is the best place for it.
11. NO: it means "**a lot**"
12. Yes: this is often a good way to conclude.

Question 13	International Tourism

WRITING TASK 2:

International tourism is now more common than ever before. Some feel that this is a positive trend, while others do not.

What are your opinions on this?

Model Answer B : 7+

The past 50 years have seen a considerable increase in global tourism. Despite the undeniable economic prosperity it has brought to many host countries, I would argue that the overall impact of international holiday making has in fact been negative. Two of the primary drawbacks associated with this trend are as follows.

First of all, global tourism tends to export many negative aspects of western culture. Since it is only the wealthy who can afford to travel abroad, developing countries like Thailand and Indonesia have become the playgrounds of tourists from more affluent ones. In many such nations, this influx of mainly western tourists has brought with it problems such as prostitution as well as alcoholism and drug abuse. Admittedly, international tourism does have the potential to foster greater understanding and tolerance between people of different cultures. However, this is unlikely to occur while it remains such a potent symbol of western cultural domination and moral decadence.

Even more disturbing, though, is the environmental degradation that international tourism has caused in many parts of the world. One particularly salient example of this is Great Barrier Reef in Australia – the countless boats, divers and snorkellers that have visited the reef over the past few decades have gradually destroyed vast sections of coral. Similarly, world renowned Kuta Beach in Bali has become heavily polluted in recent years. In order to be sustainable, greater regulation of global tourism is required.

In conclusion, the challenges presented by the booming international tourist industry are numerous and complex. Although they are by no means insurmountable, it is highly unlikely that they will be resolved in the foreseeable future.

(272 words)

Model sentences structure.

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	I will now discuss two of the main problems caused by international tourism
	IELTS 6	the following are just two of the main difficulties involved with international tourism
	IELTS 7	two of the primary drawbacks associated with this trend are as follows
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	because of only rich people have enough money to travel overseas, poorer countries like Thailand and Indonesia have become the playgrounds of richer ones.
	IELTS 6	As it is only the rich that can afford to holiday overseas, poorer countries such as Thailand and Indonesia have become the playgrounds of wealthier nations.
	IELTS 7	Since it is only the wealthy who can afford to travel abroad, developing countries like Thailand and Indonesia have become the playgrounds of tourists from more affluent ones.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	In many of these countries, this increasing number of visitors (mostly from western countries) has caused problems like prostitution, alcoholism and drug abuse.
	IELTS 6	In many such countries, this flood of mostly western tourists has created problems like prostitution along with alcoholism and drug abuse.
	IELTS 7	In many such nations, this influx of mainly western tourists has brought with it problems such as prostitution as well as alcoholism and drug abuse.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	However, the damage that global tourism has caused to the environment in many places is even more worrying.
	IELTS 6	Even more worrying, however, is the damage that international tourism has caused to the environment in many parts of the world.
	IELTS 7	Even more disturbing, though, is the environmental degradation that international tourism has caused in many parts of the world.

Sentence 5	IELTS 5	Australia's Great Barrier Reef is an especially good example of this - large areas of coral reef have been slowly destroyed by the thousands of boats, scuba divers and snorkellers that have visited it over the years.
	IELTS 6	one especially good example of this is Australia's Great Barrier Reef - the numerous boats, divers and snorkellers who have been there in recent years have slowly destroyed large areas of coral reef.
	IELTS 7	One particularly salient example of this is the Great Barrier Reef in Australia - the countless boats, divers and snorkelers that have visited the reef over the past few decades have gradually destroyed vast sections of coral.
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	They are certainly not impossible to overcome, but I believe these problems will probably continue for some time.
	IELTS 6	They are certainly not insurmountable; however, it is very unlikely that they will be solved in the near future.
	IELTS 7	Although they are by no mean insurmountable, it is highly unlikely that they will be resolved in the foreseeable future.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
last (adj)	past(adj)	
international(adj)	global (adj)	
	although (conj) while (conj)	
	industry (n)	
	trade (n)	
	wealth (n)	prosperity(n)
country (n)	nation (n)	
	destination country/ host country	
travel (n)	tourism(n)	holidaymaking(n)
actually(adv.)	in fact	
	bring problems/ cause problems	create difficulties
	create wealth	bring economic prosperity
solve(v)	resolve(v)	
main (adj)		primary(adj)
many (adj)	numerous (adj)	countless (adj)
problem (n)	difficulty(n)	challenge(n)
	involved with	associated with
rich(adj)	wealthy(adj)	affluent(adj)
overseas (adj/adv)	abroad(adj/adv)	
visit (v)	holiday in	
poorer country	developing country	
like/such as		
flood (N)		influx (n)
	mostly (adv)	mainly(adv)
and	as well as	
	not likely	highly unlikely
powerful(adj)		potent(adj)
sign(n)		symbol (n)
power(n)		domination(n)

	lack of moral standards	moral decadence
	worrying(adj)	disturbing (adj)
	however (conj)/ though	
	damage (n)	degradation(n)
	especially (adv)	particularly(adv)
good example		salient example
	large(adj)	vast (adj)
slowly (adv)	gradually(adv)	
area (n)	section(n)	
	likewise(adv)/similarly (adv)	
famous (adj)		world renowned
growing		booming (adj)
complicated (adj)	complex (adj)	
	certainly not	by no mean
	impossible to overcome	insurmountable (adj)

c. i/ii/iii

3. which of the above sentences gives examples of less affluent nations?
   a. i.
   b. ii.
   c. Iii.
4. Which of the above sentences is the topic sentence (the most general sentence)?
   a. i.
   b. ii.
   c. Iii.

5. Which of the following statements is grammatically wrong?

A. People in some place believe that western tourists lack moral standards.

B. People in some places believe that western tourists lack of moral standards

C. There is a lack of moral standards among some western tourists.

6. In Model Answer B, "**is unlikely to"** means:

A. will probably not

B. might

C. will probably

Answer these questions by writing YES or No

7. The word **"insurmountable"** (see Model Answer B) means "**cannot be overcome"**

8. In the introduction to Model Answer B, the writer says that tourism has damaged the environment.

10. The phrase **"as a result"** (see Model Answer A) is a more formal (and better) way to say "**so".**

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1.**C**

2.**B**

Note that the sentences become progressively more specific

3.**A**

"Thailand" and "**Indonesia"** are examples of poorer (less affluent) countries.

4.**B**

5.**B**

"Lack" can be a verb or a noun. In the phrase "**a lack of"** the word **"lack"** a noun. You could write, **"They lack moral standards" or" There is a lack of moral standards among these people"**

6. **A**

7. **YES**

8**. YES**

The writer says that global tourism has brought "**economic prosperity"** to many countries.

9. **YES**

"Environmental degradation" means **"environmental damage"**

10**. YES**

QUESTION 14	IMMIGRATION

Writing task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic:

Nowadays, more people are migrating to other countries than ever before. In order to become integrated into society in their adopted countries, immigrants should abandon their old ways and adapt to local customs and codes of behavior.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

There are a variety of different opinions on whether or not immigrants should change their behavior to fit in with their new country. Although some people would no doubt disagree, I personally believe that newcomers should indeed try to adapt. In my view, this means following both the written laws and social customs of their adopted country. There are two primary reasons for this.

Firstly, it is obvious that society would not function properly if newcomers did not obey the law. One particularly good example of this is road rules – image what would happen if people refused to drive on the same side of the road. Thus, it is necessary for immigrants to make sure that they obey the law in their new country even if laws in their home country are different. Two other examples of things which are allowed in some countries but illegal in others are owning a gun and gambling.

Secondly, it is important to remember that societies are built on shared values. The social rules of a country are the glues that keep it together, so immigrants must respect them. Certainly, having many different cultures makes a country more interesting; however, I would argue that too much difference weakens a society by making people feel that they do not belong there. I believe that similarities between people bring them together, while their differences pull them apart. A healthy society is a society with strong sense of unity.

In conclusion, I once again restate my belief that new immigrants to a country must try to adjust to local rules of behavior. As the old saying goes: “When in Rome, do as the Romans do”

(280 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

These days, it seems that more people are migrating to other countries than ever before. This raise certain question about the integration of newcomers into society. Although there are valid arguments to the contrary, in this paper I will argue that it is the responsibility of immigrants to adapt to accepted rules of behavior in their adopted country, both written and unwritten. The reasons for this are twofold.

Firstly, it is vitally important that newcomers observe the laws of their adopted country for the sake of social order. Imagine the chaos that would ensure if people refused to drive on the same side of the road. It is, therefore, necessary for all-immigrants to ensure that they observe the law in their new country regardless of any differences to laws in their home country. Two further instances of practices which are permitted in some countries but prohibited in others are the possession of firearms and gambling.

Secondly and more importantly, though, in order to maintain societal cohesion it is essential that newcomers respect the social norms of their adopted country. Of course, having a mixture of different cultures and traditions gives a country color and vibrancy; however, I would contend that too much cultural diversity undermines a society by alienating people from each other. It is my belief that similarities unite people, whereas differences have a tendency to divide. A strong society is a homogenous society with shared values and goals.

By way of conclusion, I believe that this issue is likely to become even more important in the future as border between countries become increasingly blurred. It, therefore, demands out further consideration.

(273 words)

Model sentence structure

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	First, if we want society to run smoothly, immigrants must follow the rules of their new country
	IELTS 6	Firstly, it is very important that immigrants obey the laws of their new country to maintain order in society
	IELTS 7	Firstly, it is vitally important that newcomers observe the laws of their adopted country for the sake of social order
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	So immigrants should follow the rules in their new country even if laws in their home country are different.
	IELTS 6	Therefore, immigrants need to make sure that they obey the law in their new country despite any differences to laws in their home country.
	IELTS 7	It is, therefore, necessary for all immigrants to ensure that they obey the law in their new country regardless of any differences to laws in their home country.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	It is true that different cultures makes a country more interesting, but I believe that too much difference makes it weak by making people feel that they do not fit in there
	IELTS 6	Certainly, having many cultures makes a country more interesting; however, I would argue that too much difference weakens a society by making people feel that they do not belong there
	IELTS 7	Of course, having a mixture of different cultures and traditions gives a country color and vibrancy; however, I would contend that too much cultural diversity undermines a society by alienating people from each other.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	I believe that things we have in common bring us together, but difference pull us apart.
	IELTS 6	I believe that similarities between people unite them, while their differences divide them
	IELTS 7	It is my belief that similarities unite people, whereas difference have a tendency to divide
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	To conclude, I think this question will be even more important in the future because the lines between countries are slowly disappearing
	IELTS 6	In conclusion, I believe that this issue will probably become even more important in the future as borders between countries become less and less clear.
	IELTS 7	By way of conclusion, I believe that this issue is likely to become even more important in the future as borders between countries become increasingly blurred.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic 5	Intermediate 6	Advanced 7
	immigrant (n.) newcomer (n.)	
rule of behavior/ social rule	social custom	social norm
fit in		adapt (v.) adjust (v.)
new country		adopted country
rule (n.)	law (n.)	
	obey the law	observe the law
	therefore (adv.)	thus (adv.)
important (adj.)	necessary (adj.)	essential (adj.) vitally important
make sure		ensure (v.)
example (n.)		instance (v.)
	allow (v.)	permit (v.)
	illegal (adj.)	prohibited (adj.)
own (v.)		possess (v.)
gun (n.)		firearm (n.)
	social (adj.)	societal (adj.)
	in conclusion	by way of conclusion

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these question by circling A, B or C

1. Choose the best heading for these essays.
   A. Immigrants should drive on the same side of the road as locals.
   B. Newcomers should try to adapt to local ways.
   C. Immigrants should observe the social rules of their adopted country.
2. Choose the best summary for Model Answer B.
   A. Immigrants should try to fit in. Society needs written laws. It also needs social rules. This issue will become even more important in the future
   B. This issue will become even more important in the future. Society needs social rules. It also needs written laws. Immigrants should try to fit in.
   C. Society needs written laws. It also needs social rules. This issue will become even more important in the future. Immigrants should try to fit in.
3. Which of these is the strongest?
   A. Should
   B. Must
   C. Have to
4. Which of the following sentences is grammatically wrong (see both model answers)?
   A. Imagine the chaos that would ensue if people refused to drive on the same side of the road.
   B. Image the problems it would cause if people refused to drive on the same side of the road.
   C. Image what would happen if people refused to drive on the same side of the road.
5. The word **"chaos"** (see Model Answer B) is:
   A. A verbs
   B. An adjective
   C. A noun

Answer these questions by writing Yes or No

6. **"Imagine what would happen"** (see Model Answer A) is exactly the same as **"Imagine what will happen"**.
7. The writer concludes Model Answer A with the English proverb, **"When in Rome, do as the Romans do"**. You can also use Vietnamese proverbs in your essays.
8. The word **"whereas"** (see Model Answer B) is similar to **"but"**.
9. The noun "homogenous" (see Model Answer B) means **"all the same kind"**

10. **“ Increasingly blurred”** (see Model Answer B) means **“less and less clear”**

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. B
   This means that immigrants should change and try to fit in with local customs.
2. A
   You should write this kind of summary as a plan before you write your essay. Each sentence in the summary represents one paragraph in your essay.
3. C
   “Should” is used to suggest; **“must”** is used to make a strong suggestion; and **“have to”** is used to talk about an obligation (something you have no choice in) or give an order.
4. B
   “Image” is not a verb; it is a noun that means **“pictures”. “Imagine”** is a verb, so it is correct in these sentences.
5. C
   “Chaos” is a noun; **“chaotic”** is the adjective. There is no verb.
6. NO
   The first phrase is used to talk about an unreal or imaginary situation; the second one is used to talk about a planned situation.
7. NO
   Chinese sayings often sound strange in English. (in Vietnamese is “Nhập gia tùy tục”)
8. YES
   “Whereas” means “**while”** or **“on the other hand”**
9. NO
   “Homogenous” means **“all the same kind”,** but it is an adjective.
10. YES

QUESTION 15	Jobs and Gender

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Men and women are different in terms of their characteristics and abilities. For this reason, some jobs are better done by men and others by women.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

There are a variety of different perspectives on the question of whether or not men and women are equally good at all jobs. Although many people still believe that some kinds of work should only be done by females and other kinds by males, it is my argument that both men and women are able to do any job well. There are two main reason for this.

Firstly, I would argue that traditional ideas about men and women are not always right. It is certainly true that there are characteristics that are typically male and others which are typically female; however, not everybody is typical. Not every woman is physically weak, in the same way that not every man is a poor communicator – traditional gender roles do not fit everybody. A man who wants to do a job normally performed by women or a woman who wants to work in a male – dominated industry should be given the chance to demonstrate his/ her ability.

Furthermore, I feel that having both male and female employees in a workplace creates a sense of balance. The two sexes often, though certainly not always, do things differently. Instead of seeing these differences as weaknesses, I believe that we should view them as chances to find new ways of doing things and thus improve the way we work. Therefore, a person's weak point can be turned into strengths.

To conclude, for the reasons stated above I maintain that men and women can do any job equally well and that a person's individual ability is far more important than their sex in this regard.

(266 words)

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 7^{+}

These days, it seems that more women are entering "male occupations" than ever before and vice versa. While some still hold to the conservative view that certain jobs are better performed by men and others by women, it is my personal belief that people of their sex are capable of doing any job effectively. The reasons for my position are as follows.

First of all, I believe it is a mistake to base our views on broad generalisations about the characteristics of men and women as such stereotypes are often inaccurate. Although there are certainly traits which are typical of men and others which are typical of women, there are exceptions to every rule. Not all women are physically weak, just as not all men are poor interpersonal communicators; conventional gender roles are not appropriate for everybody. If a man and woman desires to pursue a career which is traditionally reserved for the opposite sex, I believe he/ she should be provided the opportunity to prove him/ herself capable.

Secondly, I would contend that the presence of both males and females in a workplace brings a sense of balance. Men and women frequently, though by no means always, have different methods of doing things. Rather than judging these differences to be weakness, I feel that we should view them as opportunities for innovation and the discovery of more effective and efficient work practices. A person's weakness can thus be transformed into strengths.

In summary, I once again reaffirm my position that both male and female employees are an asset to any industry and as our stereotypes about men and women are not always appropriate, we must not discourage anyone from choosing an occupation simply because of his/ her gender.

(285 words)

Model sentence structure

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	There are many different opinions about whether or not men and women are equally good at all jobs.
	IELTS 6	There are various different opinions on the question of whether men and women are equally good at all jobs.
	IELTS 7^+	There are a variety of different perspective on the question of whether or not men and women are equally good at all jobs.
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	Some people with more traditional view think that women should do some jobs and men should do others, but I believe that both men and women can do any job well.
	IELTS 6	Some people still take the traditional view that some occupations are better done by women and others by men; however, I personally believe that people of either sex are able to do any job effectively.
	IELTS 7^+	While some still hold to the conservative view that certain jobs are better performed by men and others by women, it is my personal belief that people of either sex are capable of doing any job effectively.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	First, we should not base our opinions on traditional ideas about men and women because these ideas often wrong
	IELTS 6	First, I feel it is a mistake to base our opinions on broad generalisations about men and women because these stereotypes are often wrong.
	IELTS 7	First of all, I believe it is a mistake to base our views on broad generalisations about the characteristics of men and women as such stereotypes are often inaccurate.
Sentence 4	IELTS 6	If a man wants to do a job which is usually done by women or if a woman to do a man's job, I think he/she should be given a chance to show that he/she can do it.
	IELTS 7	If a woman desires to pursue a career which is traditionally reserved for the opposite sex or vice versa, I believe he/she should be provided the opportunity to prove him/herself capable.
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	Instead of seeing these differences as weaknesses, I believe we should see them as chances to find new and better ways to work.
	IELTS 6	Instead of judging these differences to be weaknesses, I feel we should view them as opportunities to innovate and discover more effective and efficient ways to work.
	IELTS 7	Rather than judging these differences to be weaknesses, I feel that we should view them as opportunities for innovation and the discovery of more effective and efficient work practices.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
	view (n) position (n)	perspective (n)
	(be) able to	(be) capable of
man (n)	male (n/adj)	
woman (n)	female (n/adj)	
Job (n)		occupation (n)
traditional (adj)		conservative (adj) conventional (adj)
	well (adv)	effectively (adv)
		although (conj)
		while (conj)
	believe (v) feel (v)	
	argue (v)	contend (v)
	I believe I feel	I would argue / I would contend
		generalisation (n) stereotype (n)
right (adj)		accurate (adj)
sex (n)		gender (n)
give (v)	provide (v)	
chance (n)		opportunity (n)
	bring (v) create (v)	
often (adv)		frequently (adv)
	instead of	rather than
see (v)	view (v)	
	weak point weakness (n)	
want (v)		desire (v)
	therefor (adv)	thus (adv)
		maintain (v) reaffirm (v)
	in summary / to conclude	

Note: the words **"sex"** and **"gender"** do not mean exactly the same thing, but the difference between them is very small and for IELTS purposes they can be used interchangeably.

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. Question 15 asks you to
   A. List the different characteristics of men and women.
   B. Say why men are such poor communicators.
   C. Agree or disagree that men and women can do any job equally and explain why

Question 2 refers to the following four simplified sentences based on the above assays.

i. Not all women are physically weak
ii. Therefore, I believe that men and women can do any job equally well.
iii. Similarly, not any man is poor communicator
iv. Traditional ideas about men and women are not always right because not everybody is typical.

2. Put the above sentences in the correct order.
   A. iii / ii / i / iv
   B. iv / i / iii / ii
   C. i / ii / iii / iv
3. Which of the following sentences is wrong (see Model Answer B) ?
   A. If a person desires to pursue a career which is traditionally reserved for the opposite sex, I believe they should be provided the opportunity to prove themselves capable.
   B. If a man or woman desires to pursue a career which is traditionally reserved for the opposite sex, I believe he/ she should be provided the opportunity to prove him/ herself capable.
   C. If a man or woman desires to pursue a career which is traditionally reserved for the opposite sex, I believe he should be provided the opportunity to prove himself capable.
4. Which of the following means **" I still believe"** (see Model Answer A) ?
   A. I maintain
   B. I would contend
   C. I feel
5. What two stereotypes are mentioned in these essays?

A. Women are weak and men do not know how to communicate with people.
B. Men are physically strong and know how to communicate with people.
C. Women are good with children, while men are good at earning money

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

6. The main reason that Model Answer B would get a higher IELTS band score is because it is longer than Model Answer A
7. **" Certain jobs"** (see Model Answer B) is a more formal way to say **" some jobs"** because it is more formal.
8. **" Simply"** (see Model Answer B) is a more formal way to say **"only"**
9. The writer gives several examples of jobs that women should not do.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. C
   Your must agree or disagree with the statement (on your introduction) and give reasons (in the main body of your essay)
2. B
   The writer says that stereotypes are not always right, gives two examples of inaccurate stereotypes, and then concludes.
3. C
   Nowadays, you cannot just write **"he"** because it is considered sexist. You must try to be inclusive.
4. A
5. A
6. No
   Length is not the most important factor.
7. YES
   " Certain" often means **"some"** and is more academic sounding.
8. YES
9. NO
   Because the writer does not believe that there are any jobs that should only be done by men or women.

Question 16	Cigarette Smoking

WRITING TASK 2 :
You should spend about 40 minutes on this task
Write about the following topic:

Smoking is a major cause of serious illness and death throughout the world today. In the interest of the public heath, governments should ban cigarettes and other tobacco products. Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answers and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

There are range of different views on the question of whether tobacco should be banned or not. Some people would argue that smoking is a personal choice and that introducing laws to prevent people form smoking would be repressive. However, I feel that tobacco should indeed be made illegal. There are two main reasons for this.

Firstly, it is important to remember that tobacco is actually a drug. Most countries around the world have strict laws against selling or using recreational drugs. Therefore, if governments want to consistent in the way they handle the problem of drug abuse, I believe they must ban tobacco as well. This is especially true considering the fact that many drugs which are now illegal, such heroin and marijuana, could be used by doctors to treat various real medical problems. On the other hand, tobacco is useless.

Further and even more importantly, though, smoking should be banned for the sake of public health. It is a proven fact that smoking causes serious illnesses, such as lung cancer and heart disease. Although cigarette companies and pro-smoking groups may claim that people have the right to decide what to put into their own bodies, I would argue that the rights of society are more important than those of the individual. The medical treatment smokers need when they get sick is often very expensive , and it is usually governments and society who pay the bill. Thus, I believe that anti-smoking laws would be a good idea.

To conclude, although governments will probably not ban tobacco in the near future, I feel this should be the long-term goal as there are few habits as pointless and destructive as smoking

(283 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

There are widely differing views on the issue of whether tobacco should be banned or not. Some people would suggest that it is their right to smoke and that prohibiting cigarettes would be a violation of their civil liberties; however, I personally believe that tobacco should indeed be made illegal. There are two principal reasons for this.

One point which I believe to be absolutely pivotal is the fact that tobacco is a drug. The majority of governments around the world take a prohibitionist approach to the problem of substance abuse. If the governments wish to be consistent in pursuing their "war on drug" , therefore, I believe they must ban tobacco as well. This is particularly so given the fact that many currently illicit drugs – including heroin and marijuana - have legitimate medical applications, while tobacco has none.

However, perhaps the strongest argument in favour of banning cigarettes and other tobacco products is that of public health. It is irrefutable fact that smoking leads to lung cancer and other such potentially fatal diseases. Pro-smoking groups would no doubt argue that each individual has the right to determine what goes into his/her own body. Nevertheless, I would suggest that the interests and rights of society at large must override those of the individual. The medical treatment that smokers require is often incredibly costly, and it is frequently governments and society that cover these costs rather than the individual smoker. Hence, I feel laws prohibiting smoking would be entirely justified.

In reality, of course, the widespread prohibition of smoking is unlikely in the near future. However, given the seriousness of the problems that it causes, I believe that this should be the ultimate goal.

(282 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	One thing that I think is very important is that tobacco is a drug
	IELTS 6	One thing which I believe to be vitally important is the fact that tobacco is a drug.
	IELTS 7	One point which I believe to be absolutely pivotal is the fact that tobacco is a drug .
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	This is especially true because doctors could use some illegal drugs, like heroin and marijuana, to treat sick people if they were not banned.
	IELTS 6	This is especially so considering the fact that some drugs which are now illegal, such heroin and marijuana, could be used by doctors to treat various real medical problems.
	IELTS 7	This is particularly so given the fact that some currently illicit drugs – including heroin and marijuana – have legitimate medical applications while tobacco has none.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	But maybe the best reason to ban smoking is that it is bad for our health
	IELTS 6	However, possibly the best argument for banning cigarettes and other tobacco products is public health.
	IELTS 7	However, perhaps the strongest argument in favour of banning cigarettes and other tobacco products is that of public health
Sentence 4	IELTS 6	It is a proven fact that smoking causes lung cancer and other serious illnesses
	IELTS 7	It is an irrefutable fact that smoking leads to lung cancer and other such potentially fatal diseases.
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	So I think that there are a number of very good reasons to ban smoking.
	IELTS 6	Thus, I believe it would be justified to ban smoking.
	IELTS 7	Hence, I feel that laws prohibiting smoking would be entirely justified.
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	Of course, the fact is that smoking probably will bot be banned for many years to come.
	IELTS 6	Of course, in reality smoking is unlikely to be prohibited in the near future.
	IELTS 7	In reality, of course, the widespread prohibition of smoking is unlikely in the near future.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
question (n/v)	issue (n)	
	ban (n/v)	prohibit (v)
	illegal (adj)	illicit (adj)
main (adj)		principal (adj)
important (adj)		absolutely pivotal
	therefore (adv)	thus (adv) hence (adv)
most (adj)		the majority of
	drug abuse	substance abuse
want (v)		wish (v)
		especially (adv) particularly (adv)
	Proven (adj)	irrefutable (adj)
	Cause (n/v)	lead to
pay the bill		cover the cost
	illness (n) diseaes (n)	
expensive (adj)		Costly (adj)
decide (v)		Determine (v)
		I would argue that / I would suggest that
need (v)		require (v)
	however (adv)	nevertheless (adv)
very (adv)	incredibly (adv)	
often (adv)	frequently (adv)	
	feel (v) believe (v)	

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. Question 16 is about
   A. Why people like to smoke
   B. How we can stop people from smoking
   C. Whether smoking should be banned

Question 2 refers to the following three simplified sentences (from paragraph 1 of both model answers)

i. Some people believe that they have the right to smoke
ii. But I think smoking should be illegal
iii. There is little agreement on the issue of banning smoking

2. Put the above sentences in the correct order.
   A. ii / I / iii
   B. i / ii / iii
   C. iii / ii / i
3. What reasons does the writer give for banning smoking?
   A. Smoking is unhealthy, but drugs like heroin and marijuana are worse.
   B. Smoking is unhealthy and should be treated in the same way as other drugs
   C. Smoking is unhealthy and many drugs are now illegal, such as heroin and marijuana, could be used by doctors.
4. Which of the following sentences is a grammatically correct way to make a prediction about results of a action?
   A. Laws naming smoking would improve public health
   B. Laws naming smoking will improve public health
   C. Laws naming smoking have improved public health
5. Which of the following if weakest ?
   A. Have to
   B. Must
   C. Should
6. Which of the following means **"most"** (see Model Answer B) ?
   A. A minority of
   B. The minority of
   C. A large proportion of

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

7. Most countries will certainly ban smoking in the future
8. **"Wish to**" (see model answer B) is a more formal way to say **"want to"**
9. **"Pro-smoking groups"** (see model answer B) refers to people who dislike smoking and want it banned
10. **"Costly**" (see model answer B) means **"cheap"**

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. C
2. C
   One way to start an introduction to this kind of opinion-type essay is to say that people tend to disagree about the topic, then say what other people think, and finally state your opinion. You should not give reasons for your opinion in the introduction.
3. B
4. A
   "Would" is correct, because the writer thinks it is unlikely that governments will ban smoking. This kind of structure is common in IELTS writing task 2.
5. C
   "Should" is a suggestion, whereas **"must"** is a very strong suggestion and "have to" means that there is no choice
6. B
   "the majority of" is a formal way to write **"most"**
7. NO
   What will happen in the future is never 100% certain
8. YES
   "Wish" has two different meanings. **"Wish to"** means **"want to"** in formal writing (E.g. I wish to enrol in your Master's programme) ; however, "wish" can also mean to want something impossible
9. NO
   "Pro" means to like support something. The opposite of **"pro"** is **"anti"**
10. NO
    "Costly" means **"expensive"**

Question 17	Endangered Species.

Writing task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic:

Trying to save endangered animal species from extinction is a waste of valuable resources.

Do you agree or disagree?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A: IELTS band 5+

The question of whether nor not we should try to save endangered species is definitely a controversial one. Although some people argue that these animals are not useful and we should let them die in the same way that many others (like the dinosaurs) have die out before, i personally believe that endangered species are actually worth saving. There tow main reasons for this.

First of all, it is important for us to recognise the key role that endangered species play in nature. The environment is made is for fragile ecosystems, where plans and animals all rely on one another to survive. If one animal disappear or a new one is introduced, it upsets the balance of nature and affects other animals above and below it tin the food chain by changing the environment that they live in. These changes often come back to affect us in ways that we do not expect. In the same way that rabbits introduced Australia by the British now eat the plants that many native animals need to live and ruin farmer's crops, the extinction of a predatory animal would allow its prey to reproduce out of control and would probably cause plagues. Thus, because environment change is actually a danger to us, we clearly have an interest in saving endangered species.

However, maybe the strongest argument for saving endangered species is that all life is valuable in and of itself. Even of these animals do not have any practical use, they should still be saved. Furthermore, because human activity has destroyed the natural living environment of many endangered species, we should do the best we can to save them.

To conclude, i feel that endangered animal are indeed worth saving. They not only their own value, but the balance of nature would be disturbed if that died out.

(311 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS band 7+

The issue of whether we should attempt to save endangered species from extinction or not is certainly a contentious one. Despite the arguments of some people that such animals serve no useful purpose and should be allowed to die out just as many others (including the dinosaurs) have in the past, it is my personal belief that they should in fact be preserved. Two of the principal reasons for this are as follows.

Firstly, it is vital that we appreciate the importance of endangered species on maintaining the balance of nature. Ecosystems are delicate arrangements where plants and animals all depend on each other for survival. The disappearance or introduction of any animal species disrupts the balance and negatively impacts upon other plants and animals by breaking the food chain and altering the habitat in which they live. Such imbalances frequently returns to haunt us in unexpected ways. Just as rabbits that were introduced to Australia soon after European settlement now compete with native species for food and destroy farmer's crops, the extinction of a predator can cause plagues by following its prey to multiply unchecked. Therefore, since ecological change constitutes a potential risk to us and our environment, it is clearly in our own interest to protect endangered species.

Yet, perhaps the strongest argument in favour of preserving endangered species is that all life has intrinsic value; even if endangered species are not useful to us in any practical way they should be preserved nevertheless. Further, given that humans are responsible for destroying the natural habitat of many endangered animals, we should make every possible effort to save them.

In conclusion, i once again restate any view that saving endangered species is worthwhile. Not only do they help to maintain balance of nature, but they also have value in and if themselves.

(305 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	Some people say that we should let these animals die out just like the dinosaurs did because they are not useful, but I think that they should be saved.
	IELTS 6	Although some people might argue that these animals are not useful and should be allowed to die out just like many others (such as the dinosaurs) have died out in the past, I personally believe that they should be saved.
	IELTS 7	Despite the arguments of some people that such animals serve no useful purpose and should be allowed to die out just as many others (including the dinosaurs) have in the past, it is my personal belief that they should in fact be preserved.
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	When an animal disappears or a new one is introduced, it disturbs the balance of nature and negatively affects other plants and animals by breaking the food chain and changing their natural environment.
	IELTS 6	When any animal species disappears or a new one is introduced, it disrupts the balance and negatively influences other plants and animals by breaking the food chain and altering the environment which they live in.
	IELTS 7	The disappearance or introduction of any animal species disrupts the balance and negatively impacts upon other plants and animals by breaking the food chain and altering the habitat in which they live.
Sentence 3	IELTS 6	Imbalances like this often come back and cause unexpected problems in the future.
	IELTS 7	Such imbalances frequently returns to haunt us in unexpected ways.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	Clearly, we should save endangered species because environment change is dangerous to us and also to the world that we live in.
	IELTS 6	Because ecological change is a possible ganger to us and to the world that we live in, it is clearly best for us to protect endangered species.
	IELTS 7	Since ecological change constitutes a potential risk to us and our environment, it is clearly in our own interest to protect endangered species.

Sentence 5	IELTS 5	Also, because we people are destroying the homes of many rare animal species, we should try so save them.
	IELTS 6	Furthermore, since we people are destroying the natural living environment of many endangered animal species, we should make an effort to save them.
	IELTS 7	Further, given that humans are responsible for destroying the natural habitat of many endangered animals, we should make every possible effort to save them.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
question (n)	issue (n)	
try (v)		attempt (v)
save (v)	protect (v)	preserve (v)
	definitely (adv) certainly (adv)	
	controversial (adj)	contentious (adj)
let (v)	allow (v)	
	die out disappear (v)	become extinct
like (prep)	including (prep)	
before (adv)	in the past	
main (adj)		principal (adj)
firstly (adv) first of all		
important (adj)		vital (adj)
	recognise (v)	appreciate (v)
		delicate (adj) fragile (adj)
	depend on/ rely on	
each other / one another		
	upset (v) disturb (v)	disrupt (v)
	affect (v)	impact upon
change (v)		alter (v)
often (adv)	frequently (adv)	
come back	return (v)	

	destroy (v)	ruin (v)
		predator (n) predatory animal
	multiply (v)	reproduce (v)
out of control		unchecked (adj)
	therefore (conj)	thus (conj)
because (conj)	since (conj)	given that
danger (n)		risk (n)
maybe (adv)	perhaps (adv)	
	still (conj)	nevertheless (conj)
	furthermore (conj)	further (conj)
natural living environment		habitat (n)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. What dose question 17 ask you to do?
   A. Say if you think endangered species are worth saving
   B. Say why endangered species are dying out
   C. Talk about the best way to save endangered species
2. Which of these sentences is the best to use in academic writing ?(see Model answer B)
   A. It's really important for us to save endangered species
   B. It is undeniably important that we endangered species
   C. It's undeniably important that we endangered animal species
3. Which of the following is not a good sentence to include in your introduction?
   A. Some people would argue that trying to save endangered animal species from extinction is a waste of valuable resources.
   B. Some people would argue that the cost of preventing endangered animals from dying out is too high.
   C. Certainly, preventing endangered animals from becoming extinction is an expensive and difficult endeavour.
4. Which of the following sentences is the most logical?
   A. Some people would suggest that endangered species serve no useful purpose, and I agree that they are not worth saving.
   B. Some people would suggest that saving endangered animals is not worthwhile; however, I believe that such animals should be preserved.

C. Despite the argument of some people that endangered animals serve no useful purpose and should be allowed to die out just as many others (including the dinosaurs) have in the past, it is my personal belief that we should not attempt to preserve them.

5. These essays are both too long
6. The writer argues that endangered species should be saved because they are a vital part of the ecosystems in which they live.
7. The writer suggest that we have a responsibility to preserve endangered animals as we are largely responsible for destroying their homes.
8. The writer repeats his main opinion in the conclusion of both model answers.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. A
2. B
   Sentence A is too informal; sentence C is not bad, but we should not use contractions (like **"isn't"** or **"can't"**) in formal writing.
3. A
   Sentence A uses exactly the same words as the question. You should try to avoid this.
4. B
   It sounds strange to write what other people think and then agree with them. You can write your opinion directly without discussing other people's views or write what other people think and then disagree with them.
5. NO
   There is no maximum word limit. Most candidates should try to write 150-200 words in Task 1 and 250-300 words in Task 2. However, you will not lose marks for writing more. Just make sure you spend enough time on both questions.
6. YES
   The writer says**, "Firstly, it is vital that we appreciate the importance of endangered species on maintaining the balance of nature. Ecosystems are delicate arrangements where plants and animals all depend on each other for survival".**
7. YES
   The writer says, **"Further, given that humans are responsible for destroying the natural habitat of many endangered animals, we should make every possible effort to save them."**

8. YES
   This is one thing that you can often do to conclude your essay. It is a good idea to use different words, rather than simply repeating yourself though.

Discuss : Causes and effects / and Solutions

Question 18	Rural depopulation

WRITING TASK 2 :

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task

Write about the following topic:

These days, it seems that an increasing number of people are leaving rural areas to live in the city.

Discuss some of the effects of rural depopulation (migration from the country to the city) and suggest some ways on which this trend could be reversed.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A : IELTS band 5+

Rural depopulation is a very important issue in many parts of the world today. In this essay, I will discuss some of the main effects of this problem and also offer some possible solutions to it.

Firstly, it is clear that migration away from the country negatively affects life in the city. Serious environmental and social problems often occur when cities become overcrowded. Problems such as air, water and noise pollution are increasing common in urban areas around the world because there are simply too many people living there. Pollution can make city life very uncomfortable indeed and can even cause illness. Beijing is a very good example of this. Overcrowding in cities can also lead high unemployment (especially in poorer parts of the world) and crime.

In order to prevent people from moving away from the country and reduce the size of cities, I feel we make country life more attractive. In my view, the best way of doing this would be to improve services in the country. One of the main reasons that so many people have left the country is that facilities like shopping centres, cinemas, swimming pools, restaurants, libraries, schools and hospitals are generally batter in the city. If such facilities were available in the country, more people would choose to live there. Another effective solution would be for the government to subsidies businesses and workers who move the country.

In conclusion, I believe we must all recognise how serious this problem is. For the sake of the environment and our own quality of life it is vital that we preserve rural communities.

(271 words)

Model Answer B : IELTS band 7+

While country towns were once vibrant and growing places, these days many appear to be dying as people move to the city in search of work and excitement. In this essay, I intend to discuss the impact of this problem as well as how more people could be encouraged to live in the rural areas.

Surprisingly, the most serious consequences of rural depopulation are often felt in urban areas. As a result of overcrowding, cities throughout the word today are increasing prone to environment problems like air, water and noise pollution. Beijing is a particularly good example of this. Further, the uncontrolled growth of cities also gives rise to social problems such as high unemployment, crime and in less affluent countries, the creation of slums. Clearly, there is a limit to how many people can live in one area before living standards are negatively influenced.

In order to stem the tide of rural depopulation, I believe we must first address its root causes. At the heart of the matter is the disparity between services and facilities in the country and those in the city. I firmly believe that urban and rural dwellers alike would find the idea of country life far more appealing if high quality shopping centres, cinemas, swimming pools, restaurants, libraries, schools and hospitals were more readily available in the country. One further method of attracting people to the country would be for government to provide financial incentives to business and professional workers who willingly relocate to rural areas.

In reality, this problem is unlikely to be resolved in the short term. However, it is by no means insurmountable, and I am convinced that more people will choose the country as city life becomes less comfortable and more expensive.

(291 words)

Model sentence structure

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	It is surprising to note that cities often experience the most serious effects of migration away from the country.
	IELTS 6	It is somewhat surprising that the most serious effects of rural depopulation are often experienced in the city.
	IELTS 7	Surprisingly, the most serious consequences of rural depopulation are often felt in urban areas
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	Cities everywhere are having more and more environmental problems like air, water and noise pollution because they are overcrowded.
	IELTS 6	Because of overcrowding, cities around the word today are suffering from more and more environmental problems like air, water and noise pollution.
	IELTS 7	As a result of overcrowding, cities throughout the word today are increasing prone to environment problems like air, water and noise pollution.
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	Overcrowding in cities also causes problems like high unemployment and crime.
	IELTS 6	Further, overcrowding in cities also leads to social problems like high unemployment (especially in poorer parts of the world) and crime.
	IELTS 7	Further, the uncontrolled growth of cities also gives rise to social problems such as high unemployment, crime and in less affluent countries, the creation of slums.
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	If we want to prevent people from moving to the city we must resolve the causes of the problem.
	IELTS 6	If we are to slow the flow of people moving from the country to the city, I believe we must first resolve its causes.
	IELTS 7	In order to stem the tide of rural depopulation, I believe we must first address its root causes.
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	The main cause of the problem is that services and facilities in the country are different from services and facilities in the city.
	IELTS 6	At the centre of the problem is the difference between services and facilities in the country and those in the city.
	IELTS 7	At the heart of the matter is the disparity between services and facilities in the country and those in the city.
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	One other way to get people to live in the country would be for government to give companies and workers money of they move to the country.

	IELTS 6	Another method of attracting people to the country would be for government to give subsidies to business and professional workers who choose to move to the country.
	IELTS 7	One further method of attracting people to the country would be for government to provide financial incentives to business and professional workers who willingly relocate to rural areas.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic - 5	Intermediate - 6	Advanced - 7
today (n./adv)	these days	
affect (v.) effect (n.)	influence (n.v.)	consequence (n.) impact (n./v.)
the country		rural area
the city		urban area
	cause (n./v.)	lead to / give rise to
poorer (adj.)		less affluent
	feel (v.) believe (v.)	(be) convinced
	resolve (v.)	address (v.)
	attractive (adj.)	appealing (adj.)
		subsidise (v.) provide financial incentives
move (n./v.)		relocate (v.)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. Question 18 asks you to :
   A. Say if you think it is a good or bad thing that people are leaving the country
   B. Talk about why people prefer to live in the city and suggest how the trend could be reversed
   C. Discuss the consequences of people moving from the country to the city and offer some solutions
2. The writer begins Model Answer B by talking about:
   A. The past
   B. The present
   C. The future
3. The solutions to rural depopulation are strongly connected to:
   A. The city
   B. The effects of the problem
   C. The causes of the problem
4. What negative effects of rural depopulation are mentioned?
   A. Pollution, crime and joblessness
   B. Pollution and cramped living space
   C. Crime, unemployment and high cost of living

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. In the introduction to Model Answer A the writer says what he plans to write about.
6. The writer gives examples of how the problem of rural depopulation affects country towns in both model answers.
7. In both model answers, the writer gives examples of facilities that are better in the city.
8. The word ***"increasingly"*** (see both model answers) means ***"more and more".***

9. In both model answers the writer says that governments should provide more job opportunities in the country.
10. ***"Stem the tide"*** (see Model Answer B) means ***"slow or stop something from happening".***
11. The conclusion of Model Answer B talks about the future of this problem.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **C**

   The question asks you to discuss the effects (consequences) of the problem and suggest how it could be resolved.
2. **B**

   The writer often talks about the past, then talks about the present. This is useful if you need to discuss changes that have happened and say whether you think the past was better or worse than the present.
3. **C**

   The best solutions to a problem are usually connected to its causes.
4. **A**

   "Air, water and noise pollution" are mentioned as well as ***"crime"*** and ***"unemployment"***
5. **YES**

   It is good idea to say what you want to talk about at the end of your introduction.
6. **NO**

   The writer gives examples of how rural depopulation affects cities.
7. **YES**

   In Model Answer A, the writer states that **"facilities like shopping centres, cinemas, swimming pools, restaurants, libraries, schools and hospitals are generally better in the city"**. Model Answer B says something very similar.
8. **YES**

"Increasingly" is a better word to use in academic writing. ***"More and more"*** sounds like spoken English.

9. **NO**

   The writer says that governments should ***"subsidise businesses and workers who move to the country"***. This means that they should give money to these companies and people, not jobs.

10. **YES**

    Another way to say the something would be ***"stem the flow"***

11. **YES**

    It is often possible to conclude by talking about the future of a trend or problem.

Question 19	Distance within Modern Families

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

With divorce rates and family breakdowns increasing globally, it is generally accepted that families today are not as close as they used to be.

Discuss the causes of this problem and offer some possible solutions to it.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A: IELTS 5+

Lack of communication and closeness between family members is a vitally important issue in many societies today. In this essay, I will firstly discuss the causes of this problem and then offer some possible solutions to it.

In my view, the primary cause of this problem is the modern lifestyle. Most parents today work much harder than ever before. In the past, one parent – usually the mother – stayed at home to take care of the children. In recent times, however, it has become increasingly common for both parents to work. As a result, more and more children now grow up with neither parent at home. It is unsurprising, then, that families are no longer as close as they once were. One other factor adding to this problem is that people today spend too much time on solitary activities like watching television.

In order to overcome this problem and make families closer, people's lifestyle must change. I feel more parents should stay at home and take care their children. Perhaps governments could subsidise parents who choose to look after their families rather than working. Of course, these subsidise would probably not fully cover the income a family would reduce the financial pain of surviving on one income and afford to do so. Another positive step would be to promote active pastimes through public education programmes.

To conclude, while it is improbable that any solution will be found in the near future, I feel that the abovementioned measures would be a good first step.

(280 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS 7+

Divorce and family breakdown were virtually unheard of just 100 years ago. Now, however, almost half of all marriages fail. This phenomenon is symptomatic of the growing distance between family members in modern society. In this essay, I intend to explore the sources of this problem along with some possible solutions to it.

Chief among the causes of this problem is the modern lifestyle. Today's parents have to work harder than those of previous generations to support their families. Traditionally, one parent assumed the role of breadwinner, while the other – typically the mother – acted as the homemaker. Recently, though, double income families have become the norm. Consequently, an increasing number of children now grow up in a parentless environment. Little wonder, then, that they feel alienated. Another contributing factor is the passive and solitary nature of many modern forms of entertainment.

In order to resolve this sense of alienation within families, I believe we must first address its root causes. Perhaps the most effective method of doing this would be for governments to offer financial incentives to parents who choose to remain at home and take care of their families. Admittedly, such incentives would probably not fully compensate couples for lost income; however, they would at least soften the hardship of living on a single income and provide an alternative for parents who would rather remain at home but are unable to do so because of financial constraints. One further measure would be to promote more interactive leisure activities in the community through public education campaigns.

In conclusion, I believe that this is clearly a problem of such complexity that no solution is likely in the short term. However, I believe that the measures outlined above would constitute a good first step.
(292 words)

Model Sentences Structures

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	Divorce and family breakdown were very unusual in the past.
	IELTS 6	Divorce and family breakdown were almost unheard of in the past.
	IELTS 7^{+}	Divorce and family breakdown were virtually unheard of just 100 years ago.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	The modern way of life is the main cause of this problem.
	IELTS 6	The chief cause of this problem is the modern way of life.
	IELTS 7^{+}	Chief among the causes of this problem is the modern lifestyle.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	However, double income families have become more common recently.
	IELTS 6	Recently, however, double income families have become more normal.
	IELTS 7^{+}	Recently, though, double income families have become the norm.
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	So more and more children now grow up without their parents at home.
	IELTS 6	As a result, more and more children now grow up in a parentless environment.
	IELTS 7^{+}	Consequently, an increasing number of children now grow up in a parentless environment.
Sentence 5	**IELTS 5**	So it is not surprising that they do not feel close (to their families).
	IELTS 6	It is no wonder, then, that they do not feel close (to their families).
	IELTS 7^{+}	Little wonder, then, that they feel alienated (from their families).
Sentence 6	**IELTS 5**	One other cause of this problem is modern entertainment.
	IELTS 6	Another factor that adds to this problem is that many types of modern entertainment are passive and designed for one person.
	IELTS 7^{+}	Another contributing factor is the passive and solitary nature of many modern forms of entertainment.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic (5)	Intermediate (6)	Advanced (7^+)
	discuss (v.)	explore (v.)
	cause (n./v.)	source (n.) contributing factor
	recently (adv.)	in recent times
		offer (n./v.) provide (v.)
		chief (n./adj.) primary (adj.)
	traditionally (adv.) in the past	
usually (adv.)		typically (adv.)
		consequently (adv.) as a result
more and more		an increasing number of
		little wonder/ it is unsurprising
	resolve (v.)	address (v.) overcome (v.)
	feel (v.) believe (v.)	
		subsidy (n.) financial incentive
	of course	admittedly (adv.)
choice (n.)		alternative (n.)
look after/		

take care of		
	programme (n.)	campaign (n./v.)
	would prefer to	would rather
stay (v)		remain (v)
cannot (do)		(be) unable to (do)
	leisure activity	pastime (n)
	another (adj) one other	one further
	to conclude/ in conclusion	
step (n)		measure (n)
		abovementioned (adj) outlined above

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. Question 19 asks you to:

   A. say why families are not so close and what can be done to improve the situation.

   B. say what the effects of family problems are and offer some solutions to the problem.

   C. discuss whether or not families are as close as they used to be.

2. Which of the following is the best sentence to use in academic writing?

   A. Now, however, almost half of all marriages fail.

   B. However, now almost half of all marriages fail.

   C. But now nearly half of all marriages fail.

3. The introduction to Model Answer B says that:

   A. divorce was very unusual 100 years ago.

   B. many people have gotten divorced in the past 100 years.

   C. divorce was illegal 100 years ago.

4. The second paragraph of both model answers is about:

A. problems with the modern lifestyle

B. watching television

C. both parents working

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. Question 19 asks you to talk about families who live far away from each other.

6. The writer gives three examples of the modern lifestyle in both model answers.

7. ***"Is symptomatic of"*** (see Model Answer B) means ***"is a sign of"***.

8. ***"Of course"*** (see Model Answer A) and ***"admittedly"*** (see Model Answer B) are opposites.

9. The writer suggests that governments should give money to parents who stay at home to raise their children (see both model answers).

10. The writer suggests that mothers should stay at home instead of working (see Model Answer B).

11. Model Answer B concludes by saying that this problem will probably be solved soon.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **A**

The question says ***"discuss the causes of this problem and offer some possible solutions to it"***.

2. **A**

"However" is better than ***"but"*** in academic writing, and it is often better to place ***"however"*** after the adverb of time or after the subject of the sentence.

3. **A**

The phrase ***"virtually unheard of"*** means ***"very unusual"***.

4. **A**

"Problems with the modern lifestyle" is the topic of the paragraph. ***"Watching television"*** and ***"both parents working"*** are example of this.

5. **NO**

The question asks you to talk about families who feel far away from each other.

6. **NO**

The writer only gives two examples – both parents working and modern entertainment.

7. **YES**

The word ***"symptomatic"*** sounds good in academic writing.

8. **NO**

These words mean the same thing in the context of this essay (they are synonyms).

9. **YES**

The writer says that governments should subsidise or give financial incentives to parents who stay at home to raise their children.

10. **NO**

The writer says that a parent should stay at hone, but does not say that it must be the mother.

11. **NO**

It says we probably will not solve this problem anytime soon.

Question 20	Declining Educational Standards

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Many people believe that educational standards have declined in recent times, particularly in the areas of literacy and numeracy.

Discuss the causes of this problem and offer some possible solutions to it.

Write at least 250 words.

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

This issue of falling educational standards is of great importance in the world today. In this essay, I will briefly discuss some of the main causes of this problem and also offer some possible solutions to it.

In my view, one of the main reasons for poor quality education is that school students are not disciplined properly. In the past, teachers could smack or cane children who misbehaved. Now, however, this kind of punishment is not allowed and many teachers are losing control of their students as a result. If student do not listen, teachers cannot teach and learning becomes impossible. Clearly, discipline must be restored if we are to improve educational standards. Of course, there are many other ways to discipline children; however, I would argue that physical punishment is still the most effective method.

Another reason for poor reading, writing and mathematical skills among students today is that many schools waste too much time teaching "soft" subjects like music, art and drama. These subjects are certainly interesting. However, they tend to distract students from more important subjects like mathematics and English. The more time a student spends learning how to paint, the less time they spend learning how to read. Thus, in order to improve basic literacy and numeracy, I would argue that schools should focus their attention on core subjects.

In conclusion, this is such a complex problem that I don't believe any real solution will be found in the near future. However, I am convinced that the steps mentioned above would be helpful.

(258 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

There is a widely held perception in many parts of the world today that educational standards are in decline. In the following essay, I aim to identify the sources of this problem as well as some viable solutions to it.

From my perspective, one of the most significant obstacles to learning in schools today is lack of discipline. While the teachers of previous generations were able to maintain order through the use of corporal punishment, such methods are no longer permitted. This has left many teachers powerless to control unruly students. The resultant misbehaviour and inattention on the part of students seriously undermines the learning process. If educational standards are to be raised, therefore, it is crucial that classroom discipline be restored. Admittedly, there are numerous alternatives to corporal punishment, which is frowned upon by many these days. Nonetheless, I remain firmly convinced that physical forms of punishment are often the most effective method of behaviour management.

Another major contributing factor in the sub-standard academic achievement of today's students is the undue attention that many schools give to "soft" subjects like music, art and drama. Interesting though they may be, these subjects simply serve to distract students from more important and practical subjects like mathematics and English. The more time a student spends learning how to paint, for instance, the less time they spend learning how to read. In order to improve educational outcomes, therefore, we must ensure that core subjects are not neglected.

In reality, of course, this is a vast oversimplification of the issue. Solutions such as the reintroduction of corporal punishment would be problematic in themselves. However, I believe that the hard way is sometimes the best way.

(281 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	The falling quality of education is a very important matter in the world today.
	IELTS 6	The falling standard of education is an issue of great importance in the world today.
	IELTS 7+	The issue of falling educational standards is of great importance in the world today.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 6**	If students spend more time learning to paint, they spend less time learning to read.
	IELTS 7+	The more time a student spends learning how to paint, the less time they spend learning how to read
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	Many people in the world today believe that the quality of education is falling.
	IELTS 6	Many people in the world today hold the perception that educational standards are declining.
	IELTS 7+	There is a widely held perception in many parts of the world today that educational standards are in decline.
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	In my opinion, what prevents students from learning in schools today is that they are not disciplined.
	IELTS 6	From my perspective, one of the greatest barriers to learning in schools today is that students lack discipline.
	IELTS 7+	From my perspective, one of the most significant obstacles to learning in schools today is lack of discipline.

Sentence 5	**IELTS 5**	These subjects are interesting. However, they just prevent students from concentrating on more important and practical subjects like mathematics and English.
	IELTS 6	Although these subjects are interesting, they simply distract students from more important and practical subjects like mathematics and English.
	IELTS 7^{+}	Interesting though they may be, these subjects simply serve to distract students from more important and practical subjects like mathematics and English.
Sentence 6	**IELTS 5**	Of course, the truth is that this question is not really so simple.
	IELTS 6	In truth, of course, this is an oversimplification of the matter.
	IELTS 7^{+}	In reality, of course, this is a vast oversimplification of the issue.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic (5)	Intermediate (6)	Advanced (7^+)
	fall (n/v)	decline (n/v)
	poor quality	sub-standard (adj)
smack or cane	discipline (n/v) punish (v)	
	physical punishment	corporal punishment
	cause (n/v) reason (n)	factor (n) source (n)
important (adj)		crucial (adj)
	in my view	from my perspective
	allow (v)	permit (v)
		major (adj) significant (adj)
important subject		core subject
	therefore (adv)	thus (adv)
	however (adv)	nonetheless (adv)
like (prep)	such as	
	of course	admittedly (adv)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

Questions 1-3 refer to the following four simplified sentences based on the above essays.

i. Now, however, this kind of punishment is not allowed.

ii. In the past, teachers could smack naughty children.

iii. Thus, students are becoming more and more difficult to control and this makes teaching impossible.

iv. Educational standards are falling because school students are not disciplined properly.

1. Put the above sentences in the correct order.

A. ii / i / iii / iv

B. iv / ii / i / iii

C. ii / i / iv / iii

2. Which of the above sentences is the most general?

A. i

B. ii

C. iii

D. iv

3. Which of the above sentences focuses on the effects of poor discipline?

A. i

B. ii

C. iii

D. iv

4. Which of these two simplified introductions is better?

A. Many people believe that educational standards are falling. In this essay, I will discuss the causes of this problem and also some ways to resolve it.

B. In this essay, I will discuss the causes of falling educational standards and also some ways to resolve this problem. Many people believe that educational standards are in decline.

5. An ***"obstacle"*** (see Model Answer B) is something that:

A. stops you

B. helps you

C. teaches you

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

6. The question asks you whether or not educational standards have fallen.

7. The writer mentions causes and solutions in different paragraphs (see both model answers).

8. The writer says that physical punishment is cruel and unnecessary (see both model answers).

9. ***"Thus"*** (see Model Answer A) and ***"therefore"*** (see Model Answer B) mean the same thing.

10. In the conclusion of Model Answer B, the writer discusses some weakness in the solutions he has suggested.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **B**

The writer starts with a very general sentence, then talks about the past, the present and the final result. This is a logical way to write a paragraph and makes it easier to read.

2. **D**

3. **C**

The word ***"thus"*** is a clue. It is often used when talking about results or effects.

4. **A**

It is more logical to say what you will talk about at the end of your introduction, not the beginning.

5. **A**

An ***"obstacle"*** is a ***"barrier"***.

6. **NO**

It asks you why educational standards have fallen and how we can resolve this problem.

7. **NO**

Paragraphs 2 and 3 contain one cause and one solution each.

8. **NO**

The writer says that physical punishment is both important and necessary.

9. **YES**

These words are synonyms.

10. **YES**

If you have to make some suggestions, it may be possible to discuss remaining questions or possible challenges in the implementation of your solutions towards the end of your essay. However, you must be careful not to undermine your arguments.

IELTS WRITING RIGHT TASK 1

Question Types

In General Training Writing Task 1 you will be asked to write a letter of at least 150 words. Although General Training Writing Task 1 is somewhat easier than Academic Writing Task 1, it is still a challenge for most candidates and there are still several different question types that you must prepare for.

Firstly, you should practice writing letters to people you know and also to people you do not know. Letters to people you know should have an informal, friendly style, whereas letters to people you do not know should be more formal. Therefore, this section highlights some of the differences between informal and formal English.

You should also practice writing letters with different purposes. You must be able to write letters of request, complaint, enquiry, apology, explanation and thanks. Do not forget that many letters have several purposes: for example, you may wish to complain about poor service you received at a hotel and request an apology or explanation.

The following are examples of the two main question types you are likely to face, taken from the model questions below.

1. Formal Letter

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

> ***You recently went to Australia for a holiday. However, your return flight was delayed by a day.***
>
> ***Write a letter to the airline company. In your letter:***
>
> ***• Introduce yourself***
>
> ***• Complain about the delay***
>
> ***• Explain the problems that it caused you***
>
> ***• Ask for a letter of apology and / or some form of compensation***

Write at least 150 words.

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear …,

2. <u>Informal Letter</u>

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

> ***An old friend of yours is coming to visit your city. You had planned to meet him at the airport, but something has come up and you will not be able to make it there on time. Write to your friend. In your letter***
>
> ***• Explain the situation***
>
> ***• Offer to make alternate arrangements***

Write at least 150 words.

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear …,

Formal Letter

Question 21	Internet Connection Problems

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You are a university student living in on-campus accommodation. You are having some problems with the internet connection in your room.

Write to the supervisor of your residence. In your letter

- ***Introduce yourself***
- ***Inform him / her of the situation***
- ***Request that the problem be fixed***

Write at least 150 words.

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear …,

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7^{+}

Dear Mr Jones,

My name is Jenny Chen – a recently arrived overseas student currently staying in Unit 5 of Cassowary House. While I have found most of the facilities here quite satisfactory thus far, I wish to lodge a complaint about the university's internet system. Your student accommodation brochure, which I read closely prior to booking this room, indicated that I would have unlimited access to the Internet. Upon arrival, however, I discovered that MSN Messenger and other such internet communication programs would not run properly. I discussed the matter with some of my fellow students who informed me that these programs had been blocked by the university. As you are no doubt aware, international phone calls are incredibly expensive by comparison with chatting online. Considering the high tuition fees we overseas students already pay, I feel it is entirely unreasonable to prevent us from seeking more affordable alternatives when it comes to communicating with loved ones at home. I was, therefore, wondering if you could unblock these programs? Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Chen

(181 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	I think most of the facilities here are pretty good, but I want to complain about the university's internet system.
	IELTS 6	So far I have found most of the facilities here quite satisfactory. However, I wish to complain about the university's internet system.
	IELTS 7+	While I have found most of the facilities here quite satisfactory thus far, I wish to lodge a complaint about the university's internet system.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	I read your student accommodation brochure before I booked this room. It said that I would have full internet access.
	IELTS 6	I read your student accommodation brochure prior to booking this room and it indicated that I would have unlimited access to the Internet.
	IELTS 7+	Your student accommodation brochure, which I read closely prior to booking this room, indicated that I would have unlimited access to the internet.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	But when I arrived, I found out that MSN messenger and other internet communication programs did not work properly.
	IELTS 6	However, upon arrival I found that MSN messenger and other similar internet communication programs would not work properly.
	IELTS 7+	Upon arrival, however, I discovered that MSN messenger and other such internet communication programs would not run properly.
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	So could you please unblock these programs?
	IELTS 6	Therefore, I was wondering if you could unblock these programs?
	IELTS 7+	I was, therefore, wondering if you could unblock these programs?
Sentence 5	**IELTS 5**	Thanks very much for your help.
	IELTS 6	I really appreciate your assistance in this matter.
	IETLS 7+	Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
New (adj.)		Recently arrived
So far		Thus far
Pretty (adv.)	Quite(adv.)	
Say (v.)		Indicate (v.)
Work properly	Run properly	
Problem (n.)		Matter (n.)
Tell (v.)		Inform (v.)
	Realize (v.)	(be) aware
Very (adv.)		Incredibly (adv.)
Compare to		By comparison with
Unfair (adj.)		Unreasonable (adj.)
Stop (v.)		Prevent (v.)
Cheaper (adj.)		More affordable
Keep in touch	Communicate (v.)	
Help (n./v.)		Assistance (v.)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. Question 21 asks you to write a letter to:
    a. Someone you know well
    b. Someone you may have met but do not know well
    c. Someone you have never met
2. This letter should be:
    a. Friendly
    b. Informal
    c. Formal
3. The purpose of this letter is to:
    a. Make an enquiry
    b. Make a complaint
    c. Make a complaint and a request
4. How does the writer start these two letters?
    a. She introduces herself.
    b. She says why she is writing.
    c. She givers her contact details.
5. Which of the following is the most formal?
    a. Make a complaint
    b. Lodge a complaint
    c. Complain

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

6. It is acceptable to use contractions like **"I'm"** and **"didn't"** in formal letters.
7. The writer makes up extra details about the situation that are not included in the question.
8. The writer asks the supervisor of the residence to help her and then explains the situation.
9. **"Considering"** (see Model answer B) means **"because of"**.

10. **"Yours sincerely"** (see model answer B) is a good way to finish a letter if you do not know a person's name and have never met him/her before.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **B**

   you have probably met the supervisor for your residence before, but the question does not make this clear.

2. **C**

   the letter should be formal because you do not know the person well. Therefore, Model Answer B is better.

3. **C**

   You do not just want to complain. You also want the supervisor to do something about the situation.

4. **A**

   It is usually a good idea to introduce yourself if you do not know the recipient well.

5. **B**

6. **NO**

   Contractions should not be use in formal writing.

7. **YES**

   It is very difficult to write this kind of letter without including detail. Use your imagination and make up a story.

8. **NO**

   The writer explains the situation and then makes a request.

9. **YES**

   "Considering" is better because it is more formal.

10. **NO**

    "Yours sincerely" is usually used to sign off on a letter to someone whose name you know but you have never met.

Question 22	DELAYED FLIGHT

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You recently went to Australia for a holiday. However, your return flight was delayed by a day.

Write a letter to the airline company. In your letter

- **Introduce yourself.**
- **Complain about the delay**
- **Explain the problems that is caused you**
- **Ask for a letter of apology and/or some form of compensation.**

Write at least 150 words.

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear….,

Model Answer B: IELTS Brand 7+

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing with regard to an unexpected delay in a flight I took with your airline recently. I was initially booked to leave Beijing for Sydney on the 12th of December and return on the 28th of January. The first leg of the journey was uneventful enough. However, on arrival in the boarding lounge at Kingsford Smith Airport, I was informed that my return flight would be delayed by 14 hours and that I would have to spend one night in Brunei on my way back to Taiwan. This caused considerable inconvenience, not only to myself but also to my employers, as I was due to commence work again the following day. In fact, it almost cost me my job. Given the fact that this foul-up occurred at such short notice and was entirely the fault of your airline, I feel that compensation in the form of a complimentary ticket of the same distance would be warranted. I can be contacted at the address supplied. A swift response would be greatly appreciated.

Yours Faithfully,
Tony Yu,

(179 words)

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	I am writing to you about a last-minute delay in a flight I took with your airline last week.
	IELTS 6	I am writing to you regarding an unexpected delay in a flight I took with your airline recently.
	IELTS 7+	I am writing with regard to an unexpected delay in a flight I took with your airline recently.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	Originally, I booked a flight from Beijing to Sydney on December 14 and from Sydney to Beijing on January 28.
	IELTS 6	Initially, I was booked to leave Beijing for Sydney on December 14 and come back on January 28.
	IELTS 7+	I was initially booked to leave Beijing for Sydney on the 14th of December and return on the 28th of January.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	Because this problem happened so suddenly and your airline was completely to blame, I think you should give me something to make up for it.
	IELTS 6	Given the suddenness of the delay and the fact that your airline was entirely to blame for this foul-up, I feel that you should compensate me by giving me a free ticket of the same distance.
	IELTS 7+	Given the fact that this foul-up occurred at such short notice and was entirely the fault of our airline, I feel that compensation in the form of a complimentary ticket of the same distance would be warranted.
Sentence 4	**IELTS 6**	You can contact me at the address I have given
	IELTS 7+	I can be contacted at the address supplied
Sentence 5		
	IELTS 6	I would greatly appreciate a quick reply.
	IETLS 7+	A swift response would be greatly appreciated.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic (informal)	**Intermediate**	**Advanced**
About (prep.)		With regard to
Come back	Return (v.)	
Part of the trip		Leg of the journey
	Trip (n.)	Journey (n.)
But (adv./conj.)	However (adv.)	
Tell (v.)		Inform (v.)
Company (n.)		Employers (n.)
Start (n./v.)		Commence (v.)
Because (conj.)		Since (conj.) Given the fact that
Problem (n.)		Foul-up
Free (adj.)		Complimentary (adj.)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. Question 22 asks you to write to:
    a. An acquaintance
    b. A stranger
    c. A friend
2. This letter should be:
    a. Informal
    b. Semi-formal
    c. Formal
3. Which of the following is the best way to start a formal letter to someone if you do not know their name?
    a. To customer service
    b. To whom it may concern
    c. Dear Sir/Madam
4. Which of the following should not be used in formal writing?
    a. I feel
    b. I believe
    c. I think
5. Which of the following phrases is best in formal writing?
    a. I am writing to you about…
    b. I am writing with regard to…
    c. I am writing this letter because I want to…

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

6. The question tells me what my flight dates were and where I travelled to.
7. The writer mentions the consequences of the flight delay before making his request.
8. ***"By the way"*** (see Model Answer A) is informal and should only be used in speaking.
9. ***"Yours faithfully"*** is used to sign off when you know a person's name, but have never met him/her before.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **B**

   This is not mentioned in the question, but it is unlikely that you have met the person you are writing to. In any case, you certainly do not know him/her well.
2. **C**

   This is a serious letter to someone you do not know well.
3. **C**

   This is the normal way to start a formal letter if you do not know the recipient's name
4. **C**

   "I think" is often used in speaking.
5. **B**
6. **NO**

   The writer made these details up. Be creative-try making up extra detail to make your letter sound more nature.
7. **YES**

   The writer explains the problem and its consequences and then asks for compensation.
8. **YES**

   "By the way" is for speaking and informal writing. It is not for formal writing.
9. **NO**

   "Yours faithfully" is a good way to sign off if you do not know the other person's name.

Question 23 | Problem with a rented car

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You rented a car recently, but were not satisfied with it.

Write a letter of complaint to the rental agency. In your letter

- **Introduce yourself**
- **Explain what went wrong with the car you rented**
- **Ask for some form of compensation.**

Write at least 150 words.

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear…,

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+
Dear Sir,

I'm writing because I was not very happy with a car I hired from your company a few weeks ago. When I picked it up from your city office, I saw that there was lots of smoke coming from the back. I told your employee, Rich, that I need a reliable car because I was going to drive it a long way. He promised me that the car was fine and said I wouldn't have any problems with it. But when I drove it in the country it broke down and I got stuck 200 kilometers from the nearest town. And do you know what happened next? The air conditioner broke. It was terrible. After I waited for help and then waited for the car to be fixed, I had to drive it without an air conditioner in the middle of summer. I rented that car because of what your employee said so I think you should give me my money back. Anyway, I've written my phone number and address at the top of the page. Could you deal with this quickly please? Thank you.

Regards,
Jamie Wang

(190 words)

Model Answers B: IELTS Band 7+
Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing this letter in order to complain about a car that I rented from your agency recently. When I collected it from your city branch, I noticed clouds of smoke coming from the exhaust pipe. I told your representative that I required a dependable vehicle as I would be making a long journey, and he assured me that I would not have any mechanical difficulties with it. However, as soon as I took it for a longer trip it broke down, leaving me stranded 200 kilometers from the nearest town. To make matters worse, the air conditioning stopped working as well. Consequently, after several hours of waiting, first for help and then for repairs, I had to drive on in the summer heat. Since I rented this car on your representative's advice, I feel that I am entitled to request a full refund. I can be contacted at the address or phone number provided. I would greatly appreciate your prompt resolution of this matter.

Yours faithfully,
Jamie Wang

(171 words)

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	I am writing because I want to complain about a car I rented from your company a few weeks ago.
	IELTS 6	I am writing this letter to complain about a car I rented from your agency recently.
	IELTS 7+	I am writing this letter in order to complain about a car that I rented from your company recently.
Sentence 2		
	IELTS 6	When I picked it up from your city office, I saw that there was smoke coming from the exhaust pipe.
	IELTS 7+	When I collected it from your city branch, I noticed clouds of smoke coming from the exhaust pipe.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	I told your employee I needed a car that would not break down because I wanted to drive it a long way, and he promised me that I would not have any problems with it.
	IELTS 6	I told your representative that I required a reliable car as I would be driving it a long way, and he assured me that I would not have any mechanical problems with it.
	IELTS 7+	I told your representative that I required a dependable vehicle as I would be making a long journey, and he assured me that I would not have any mechanical difficulties with it.
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	So after I spent several hours waiting for help and repairs, I had to keep driving in really hot weather.
	IELTS 6	Consequently, after I spent several hours waiting, first for help and then for repairs, I had to continue driving in the hot sun.
	IELTS 7+	Consequently, after several hours of waiting, first for help and then for repairs, I had to drive on in the summer heat.

Sentence 5	**IELTS 5**	Because of your employee convinced me to rent this car, I think you should give me my money back.
	IELTS 6	Since your representative convinced me to rent this car I feel it is my right to ask for a full refund.
	IETLS 7+	Since I rented this car on your representative's advice, I feel that I am entitled to request a full refund.
Sentence 6	**IELTS 5**	Could you please deal with this matter quickly?
	IELTS 6	I would appreciate it if you could resolve this matter promptly.
	IELTS 7+	I would greatly appreciate your prompt resolution of this matter.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic (informal)	Intermediate	Advanced (formal)
	Hire (v.) Rent (v.)	
Company (n.)	Agency (n.)	
A few weeks ago	Recently (adv.)	
Pick up	Collect (v.)	
City office	City branch	
See (v.)	Notice (v.)	
	Employee (n.)	Representative (n.)
	Promise (n./v.)	Assure (v.)
		Dependable (adj.) Reliable (adj.)
Car (n.)		Vehicle (n.)
	Trip (n.)	Journey (n.)
But (adv. /conj.)	However (adv.)	
So (adv. /conj.)		Consequently (adv.)
Because (conj.)		Since (conj.)
Deal with		Resolve (v.)
Quick (adj.)		Prompt (adj.)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. Question 23 asks you to write:
    A. A formal letter to someone you know
    B. An informal letter to someone you do not know
    C. A formal letter to someone you do not know well.

Question 2 – 3 refer to the following four simplified sentences taken from the model answers.

i. However, when I took it for a longer trip it broke down.
ii. Your employee told me that the car I rented would not have any problems
iii. I wish to complain about a car that I rented from your agency recently.

iv. Therefore, I feel that you should give me my money back.

2. Put the above sentences in the correct order.
   A. i./ii./iii./iv.
   B. iv./ii./iii./i.
   C. iii./ii./i./iv.
3. Which of these sentences says why the writer wrote the letter?
   A. i.
   B. ii.
   C. iii.
   D. iv.
4. In Model Answer B, the word ***"since"*** means:
   A. After
   B. Because
   C. When

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. ***"Dear Sir"*** (see Model Answer A) is a good way to start any formal letter if you do not know the person you are writing to.
6. Past tense is used in this letter.
7. ***"And"*** is a good way to start a sentence (see Model Answer A).
8. ***"And do you know what happened next?"*** (See Model Answer A) is too informal for this letter and sounds silly.
9. ***"Had to"*** (see both model answers) is the past tense of ***"have to".***
10. ***"Resolution"*** is the noun for ***"resolve"*** (see Model Answer B).

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **C**

   It asks you to write to the rental agency, so the letter is formal. Model Answer B is better.

2. **C**

   The writer explains why he is writing, gives background information and then makes a request. This is a logical way to organize this kind of letter.

3. **C**
4. **B**

   "since" sometimes means ***"after",*** but in this case it means ***"because".***

5. **NO**

   This is not correct because the recipient may be a woman.

6. **YES**

   Past tense is used to explain what happened.

7. **NO**

   You should not start sentences with ***"and"*** in formal, written English. Use ***"in addition"*** or ***"additionally"*** instead.

8. **YES**

   Do not directly ask the recipient questions. It sounds silly.

9. **YES**
10. **YES**

Question 24	Low IELTS Score

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You have just received a letter from an overseas university saying that your IELTS band score of 6 is too low for admission to any of its Master's Courses (you need 6.5)

Write a letter to the admissions officer. In your letter

- **Introduce yourself.**
- **Enquire about any alternative ways of gaining entrance.**

Write at least 150 words.

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear…,

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

Dear Wendy,

Hi, I just got a letter from you saying that I can't enter your university's Master of Marketing Management course in August because my English isn't good enough. You said my IETLS score of 6 was too low and that I would need at least 6.5. I know it's important for overseas candidates to have good English, but I really want to go to your university. Is there any way I could convince you to change your mind? Also, a friend of mine who is now studying at your university told me I might be able to do a two-month, pre-sessional course and then sit a different test (or take IELTS again) before the start of semester because that's what she did. So I wanted to ask for more information about any courses like this or any other way to get in to your Marketing programme. I've written my home and e-mail addresses as well as my phone number at the bottom of the page if you need them. Thank you for your help.

Regards,

Yung, Da Wei

(180 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+
Dear Ms Barlowe,

I am writing with regard to your rejection of my application to begin postgraduate studies in Marketing Management at your university in August. You indicated that my IELTS band score of 6 was insufficient and that I would require a minimum of 6.5 to gain admission. While I recognize the importance of ensuring the English competency of enrolling overseas candidates and fully accept your decision, a friend of mine currently studying at your institution has suggested that it may be possible for me to take a two-month, pre-sessional English course and then either take an internal examination or resit IETLS prior to the beginning of semester as this is what she did. Hence, I was wondering if you could send me further information on any such courses on offer or any other possible means of gaining entrance to your master of Marketing Management programme. I have supplied my home and e-mail addresses along with my mobile phone number for your convenience. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Yung, Da Wei

(177 words)

Model Sentence Structure

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	I am writing about your letter saying that I will not be able to enter your university's Master of Marketing Management course in August.
	IELTS 6	I am writing with regard to your letter rejecting my application to start postgraduate studies in Marketing Management at your university in August.
	IELTS 7+	I am writing with regard to your rejection of my application to begin postgraduate studies in Marketing Management at your university in August.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 6**	You said that my IELTS score of 6 was too low and that I would need at least 6.5 to get in.
	IELTS 7+	You indicated that my IELTS band score of 6 was insufficient and that I would require a minimum of 6.5 to gain admission.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	I know it is important to make sure new overseas candidates have good English and I fully accept your decision. However, a friend of mine who is now studying at your university has told me that I might be able to take a two-month, pre-sessional course and then do a different test or take IELTS again before the start of semester because that's what she did.
	IELTS 6	I recognize that it is important to ensure that new overseas candidates are competent in English and I fully accept your decision; however, a friend of mine who is currently studying at your institution has suggested that I may be able to take a two-month, pre-sessional English course and then take an internal test or resit IELTS again prior to the start of semester because this is what she did.
	IELTS 7+	While I recognize the importance of ensuring the English competency of enrolling overseas candidates and fully accept your decision, a friend of mine currently studying at your institution has suggested that it may be possible for me to take a two-month, pre-sessional English course and then either take an internal examination or resit IELTS prior to the beginning of semester as this is what she did.
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	So I wanted to ask for more information about any courses like this or any other way to get in to your Marketing Programme.
	IELTS 6	Therefore, I wonder if could you send me more information on any courses like this or any other means of getting in to your Master of Marketing Management programme.
	IELTS 7+	Hence, I was wondering if you could send me information on any such courses on offer or any other possible means of gaining entrance to your Master of Marketing Management programme.

Sentence 5	**IELTS 5**	I have written my home and e-mail addresses as well as my phone number at the bottom of the page if you need them.
	IELTS 6	I have provided my home and e-mail addresses as well as my mobile phone number should you required them.
	IETLS 7+	I have supplied my home and e-mail address along with my mobile phone number for your convenience.
Sentence 6	**IELTS 5**	Thank you very much for your help.
	IELTS 6	I appreciate your assistance.
	IETLS 7+	Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic (informal)	Intermediate	Advanced (formal)
	Course (n.)	Programme (n.)
Say (v.)		Indicate (v.)
Score (n.)	Band score	
Get in	Enter (v.)	Gain entrance/ Gain admission
Too low	Insufficient (adj.)	
Need (n./v.)		Require (V.)
	At least	A minimum of
Know (v.)		Recognize (V.)
Now (adv.)		Currently (v.)
	University (n.)	Institution (n.)
		Take IELTS/ Sit IELTS
Test (n.)		Examination (n.)
Before (adv.)		Prior to
Because (conj.)		As (conj.)
So (adv./conj.)		Hence (adv.)

Note: *Americans write* ***"program",*** *whereas the British/Australian spelling of this word is* ***"programme".*** *We all write* ***"program"*** *when we talk about* ***"computer programs"***

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A,B or C

1. Question 24 asks you to write:
   A. A formal letter
   B. An informal letter
   C. A normal letter
2. Which model answer is better?
   A. Model Answer A
   B. Model Answer B
   C. Both equally good
3. **"Ms"** is a title for:
   A. A married woman
   B. An unmarried woman
   C. A married or unmarried woman
4. When the writer uses "**currently**" (see Model Answer B), what verb tense does he use?
   A. Past simple tense (studied)
   B. Present perfect tense (has/have studied)
   C. Present continuous tense (is/are studying)

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. The writer invented the recipient's name.
6. "**Hi**" (see Model Answer A) is too informal for this situation.
7. It is rude to directly ask someone to change their mind in this situation (see Model Answer A)
8. It is rude to ask if there is any other way to enter the course (see both model answers)
9. The phrase "**means of gaining entrance"** (see Model Answer B) is the same as "**way to get in**".
10. "**Yours sincerely**" is a good way to sign off if you know the other person's name but have never met them.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **A**
2. **B**

   Model Answer B is better because it is more formal
3. **C**

   Many women like to use the title "**Ms**" nowadays because they feel that "**Miss"** and "**Mrs**" are sexist. "**Ms**" also sounds more professional.
4. **C**

   The word "**currently**" usually goes with present continuous tense; however, it can sometimes be used with present simple.
5. **YES**
6. **YES**

   You do not need to say hello in a formal letter.
7. **YES**

   It is pushy and rude to ask someone to change their mind, especially when an official decision has been made. In some culture, it is acceptable to push someone to change their mind, but in English speaking countries it is not.
8. **NO**

   It is not rude to ask for information about other ways to get in to university.
9. **YES**

   These two phrase mean the same thing, but **"means of gaining entrance"** is better because it is more formal.
10. **YES**

    You should write this if you know the recipient's name but have never met him/her

Question 25	UNIVERSITY CLUBS

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You have been accepted to study at an overseas university, but feel a little anxious about living and studying in an unfamiliar environment.

Write to the university's student union. In your letter

- ***Introduce yourself***
- ***Explain your interests***
- ***Enquire about any relevant social clubs you might be able to join***

Write at least 150 words.

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear……,

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+

To the student Union,

Hello. I'm an overseas student taking up studies at your university soon. I wanted to ask about any clubs or societies that I might be able to join next semester. I'm a little bit worried about going to a university I don't know in a different country, so I want to make some contacts before I get there. I guess what I really want to know is whether or not there are any clubs for Chinese students. If there are, could you send me some information about their membership fees and how to join, or just give me their phone numbers so I can call them myself? I'm interested in computers and technology, online gaming and basketball so it would be great if you could send me information about any clubs for people who are interested in these things. Thanks very much for your help.

Best wishes,

Johnson Zhang

(153 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

Dear Sir/ Madam,

I am a newly enrolled overseas student soon to take up studies at your university. I am writing with regard to any clubs or societies likely to be open and operating at your university during the coming semester. I am rather nervous about attending an unfamiliar university in a foreign country and would, therefore, like to make some contacts before arriving. I am especially interested to know whether there are any clubs for Chinese students. If so, could you possibly send me some brochures containing information on membership and associated fess, or at least provide me with the contact details of any such clubs so that I can make my own independent enquiries? I would also be grateful for any information you could provide about clubs related to computers and technology, online gaming or basketball, as these are areas of particular interest to me. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Your faithfully,
Johnson Zang

(158 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	I'm an overseas student starting studies at your university soon.
	IELTS 6	I am a newly enrolled overseas student taking up studies at your university soon.
	IELTS 7	***I am a newly enrolled overseas student soon to take up studies at your university.***
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	I wanted to ask about any clubs or societies that I might be able to join next semester.
	IELTS 6	I am writing about any clubs or societies that may be open and running at your university next semester.
	IELTS 7	***I am writing with regard to any clubs or societies likely to open and operating at your university***
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	I'm a little bit worried about going to a university I don't know in a different country, so I want to make some contacts before I get there.
	IELTS 6	I am quite nervous about attending a university I am unfamiliar with in a foreign country. Therefore, I would like to make some contacts before I arrive.
	IELTS 7	***I am rather nervous about attending an unfamiliar university in a foreign country and would, therefore, like to make some contacts before arriving***
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	What I really want to know is whether or not there are any clubs for Chinese students.
	IELTS 6	I am particularly interested to know if there are any clubs for Chinese students.
	IELTS 7	***I am especially interested to know whether there are any clubs for Chinese students.***

Sentence 5	IELTS 5	If there are, could you send me some information about their membership fees and how to join, or just give me their phone numbers so I can call them myself
	IELTS 6	If there are, could you possibly send me some brochures containing information about membership and associated fees, or just give me the phone numbers of any such clubs so that I can enquire independently
	IELTS 7	***If so, could you possibly send me some brochures containing information on membership and associated fees, or at least provide me with the contact details of any such clubs so that I can make my own independent enquiries***
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	I'm interested in computers and technology, online gaming and basketball. So it would be great if you could send me information about any clubs for people who are interested in these things.
	IELTS 6	I would also appreciate any information you could give me about clubs related to computers and technology, online gaming or basketball, because I am particularly interested in these areas
	IELTS 7	***I would also be grateful for any information you could provide about clubs related to computers and technology, online gaming or basketball, as these are areas of particular interest to me***

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic Informal	*Intermediate*	*Advanced Formal*
Ask (v)		Enquire (v)
	A little bit	Rather (adv)
Worried (adj)	Nervous (adj)	
Go to		Attend (v)
Different country	Foreign country	
Get there	Arrive (v)	
Give (v)		Provide (v)
	(be) grateful	Appreciate (v)
Help (n/v)		Assistance (n)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these question by circling A, B or C

1. Question 25 asks you to write:
   A. A formal letter to someone you have probably met
   B. A formal letter to someone you have probably never met
   C. An informal letter to an old friend
2. The purpose of this letter is to:
   A. Say how nervous you feel
   B. Ask for information
   C. Join a club
3. Which of the following is a better way to start a question in a formal letter?

A. Tell me….
B. I want to ask…
C. I wanted to ask…..

4. Which of the following is the best way to finish a formal letter to someone whose name you do not know?
   A. Best wishes
   B. Regards
   C. Your faithfully

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. The writer give some information about himself before asking the recipient for information
6. "**Hello**" (see Model Answer A) is a bad way to start a formal letter.
7. "**I guess**" (see Model Answer A) is too informal to use in this letter
8. The writer puts "**therefore**" (see Model Answer B) at the start of the sentence.
9. Too many sentences in Model Answer B start with "**I am**"

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. **B**
2. **B**

   In this letter, you must ask for information about clubs and societies.
3. **C**

   Past tense is often considered more formal than present tense. For instance**, "could you tell me"** is more formal than **"can you tell me".**
4. **C**

   The other two alternatives are too informal.
5. **YES**

This is polite

6. **YES**

   You do not need to say **"hello"** or **"hi"** In a formal letter

7. **YES**

   "I guess" is quite informal. Use it when speaking, but not in formal writing.

8. **NO**

   In Model Answer B**, "therefore"** comes in the middle of the two-word verb **"would like"**, which becomes **"would, therefore, like".**

9. **YES**

   You should not start every sentence the same way. This is repetitive and boring and the examiner may think you do not know any other way to start a sentence.

Question 26 | UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task

You are thinking of applying to do postgraduate studies at an overseas university or college.

Write to the admissions office. In your letter

- ***Introduce yourself***
- ***Request information about entry requirements, tuition fees and the availability of accommodation on campus***

Write at least 150 words

You do not need to write any addresses

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear……,

Model Answer A: IELTS band 5+

To the Admissions Officer,

I just wanted to ask what academic, professional and English qualifications I would need to get into your MBA programme. At the moment, I've got a Bachelor of International Trade degree from a good Chinese university as well as three year's experience working in the field with a big company that sell computer parts. I haven't taken the IELTS test yet, but I got more that 600 in TOEFL last year. Is this good enough? I'd really appreciate any information you could give me about this. Also, could you send me some brochures about tuition fees and the availability and cost of student accommodation? I've sent copies of my academic transcript as well as work and academic references. If you need any more information about my background or study plans, you can get in touch with me at the address or phone number at the top of this page.

Regards,
Jack Peng

(157 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Bang 7+

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in order to enquire about the academic, professional and/ or English language prerequisites for admission to your Master of Business Administration programme. I currently hold a Bachelor's degree in International Trade from a reputable Chinese university and have three years' relevant experience with a major distributor of computer components. I have not yet taken the IELTS test; however, I did attain a score of over 600 in TOEFL last year. I was wondering if this is likely to be sufficient? I would be most appreciative of any information you could give me in this regard. I also wonder if it would be possible for you to send brochures relating to tuition fees along with the availability and cost of on-campus accommodation. Please find enclosed copies of my academic transcript as well as both academic and work-related references. Should you have any further queries regarding my study plans or background, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address or phone number provided above.

Yours faithfully,
Jack Peng

(172 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	I wanted to ask about the study, work and/or English language requirements to enter your Master of Business Administration course
	IELTS 6	I am writing to enquire about the academic, professional and/or English language requirements for entrance to your Master of Business Administration programme
	IELTS 7	I am writing in order to enquire about the academic, professional and/or English language prerequisites for admission to your Master of Business Administration programme
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	Is this good enough?
	IELTS 6	I was wondering if this will be good enough?
	IELTS 7	I was wondering if this is likely to be sufficient?
Sentence 3	IELTS 5	I would really appreciate any information you could give me about this
	IELTS 6	I would most appreciate any information you could give me on this matter
	IELTS 7	I would be most appreciative of any information you could give me in this regard
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	Could you please also send brochures about tuition fees as well as the availability and cost of accommodation at the university?
	IELTS 6	I also wonder if you could send brochures on tuition fees along with the availability and cost of accommodation on campus

	IELTS 7	I also wonder if it would be possible for you to send brochures relating to tuition fees along with the availability and cost of on-campus accommodation
Sentence 5	IELTS 5	I have included copies of my academic transcript and also both work and academic references
	IELTS 6	I have enclosed copies of my academic transcripts as well as both academic and work-related references
	IELTS 7+	Please find enclosed copies of my academic transcript as well as both academic and work-related references
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	If your have more question about my study plans or background, you can contact me at the address or phone number at the top of the page.
	IELTS 6	Should you have any further questions about my study plans or background, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address or phone number provided above
	IELTS 7+	Should you have any further queries regarding my study plans or background, please do not hesitate to contact me at the address or phone number provided above

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic ***Informal***	***Intermediate***	***Advanced*** ***Formal***
Ask (v)		Enquire (v)
Have (v) Have got		Hold (v)
Computer parts		Computer components
But (adv/conj)	However (adv/conj)	
Get (v)		Attain (v)
Enough (adj)		Sufficient (adj)
About (prep)		Regarding (prep) Relating to
And (conj)	Along with/ As well as	
Get in touch	Contact (v)	
At the top	Above(prep)	

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these question by circling A, B or C

1. Which is the best sentence to use in a formal letter (see both model Answers)?
   A. I was wondering if this is likely to be sufficient?
   B. Is this good enough?
   C. I wonder if this is likely to be sufficient?
2. The word "**should**" (see Model Answer B) means:
   A. Must
   B. A good idea
   C. If
3. Which of the following is only used in spoken English?
   A. Have
   B. Have got
   C. Possess
4. What verb tense does the writer use to talk about his TOEFL score (see both model answers)?
   A. Past simple tense
   B. Present simple tense
   C. Future simple tense
5. Which of the following sentences is grammatically wrong?
   A. I have not yet taken the IELTS test
   B. I have not taken the IELTS test yet
   C. I have yet not taken the IELTS test

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

6. The question asks you to write a formal letter

7. "**To the Admissions Officer**" (see Model Answer A) is a good way to start a formal letter
8. The phrase "**in order to**" (see Model Answer B) is used to explain why the writer is writing the letter
9. The writer says he has put his contact details at the bottom of the page.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. **A**

   Past tense is more formal than present tense and direct question are less formal
2. **C**

   "**Should**" has two meanings. It sometimes means that something is a good idea, and in formal writing sometimes means "**if**"
3. **B**

   "**Have got**" is especially common in Australian and British English and is quite informal. Use it in speaking, but not in writing.
4. **A**

   The writer took the TOEFL test in the past, so he uses past simple tense
5. **C**

   "**Yet**" can go at the end of the sentence or after "**not**"
6. **YES**
7. **NO**

   You can write this on the outside of an envelope or package that you want to send, but not at the start of a letter.
8. **YES**

   This is one of the most useful sentence structures in formal letter writing.
9. **NO**

   The writer says he has put his contact details at the top of the page.

Question 27	MISSED IMMIGRATION INTERVIEW

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task

You missed an appointment for an immigration interview recently because of circumstances out of your control.

Write to the immigration office. In your letter

- ***Introduce yourself***
- ***Apologise for missing your appointment***
- ***Explain what happened***
- ***Request a new appointment***

Write at least 150 words

You do NOT need to write any addresses

Begin your letter as follows

Dear……..,

Model Answer A: IELTS band 5+

Dear Keith,

I just want to explain why I couldn't make it to my immigration interview last Friday and arrange a new appointment. I was actually on my way to your office when I got a call from my daughter's school. Her teacher said she was having a bad asthma attack. Because my wife wasn't free at the time, I had to go to the hospital with my daughter. I tried to call your office to cancel the appointment, but then my mobile ran out of batteries. When I got to the hospital, I was busy taking care of my daughter and talking to the doctor so I just forgot. I'm really sorry for the trouble this probably caused the interviewer and your other staff. Could you please make me a new appointment for me to have the interview within the next two weeks? I'm free before 12pm from Monday to Thursday and after 3pm on Friday. You can reach me at the address or phone number above. Thanks so much for your help.

Regards,
Vincent Lu

(176 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS 7+

Dear Mr Wood,

I am writing in order to explain my absence from the immigration interview I was scheduled to attend last Friday and request a new appointment. I was, in fact, on my way to the interview when I received a call from my daughter's school saying that she was suffering a severe asthma attack. As my wife was not available, it was necessary for me to accompany my daughter to the hospital. I then attempted to contact your office to cancel my appointment; however, my mobile phone ran out of batteries. Once at the hospital, I was busy comforting my daughter and talking to the doctor so I simply forgot. I sincerely apologise for the inconvenience I am sure I caused the interviewer and others at your office. I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a new appointment for sometime during the next two weeks? I am available until 12pm from Monday to Thursday and after 3pm on Friday and can be contacted at the email address or phone number provided. I appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Your sincerely,
Vincent Lu

(187 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	IELTS 5	I just wanted to explain why I couldn't make it to my immigration interview last Friday and ask for a new appointment
	IELTS 6	I am writing to explain why I was absent from the immigration interview I was scheduled to attend last Friday and ask for a new appointment
	IELTS 7+	***I am writing in order to explain why my absence from the immigration interview I was scheduled to attend last Friday and request a new appointment***
Sentence 2	IELTS 5	Because my wife wasn't free at the time, I had to go to the hospital with my daughter
	IELTS 6	As my wife was not free at the time, I needed to accompany my daughter to the hospital
	IELTS 7+	***As my wife was not available, it was necessary for me to accompany my daughter to the hospital.***
Sentence 3	IELTS 6	When I got to the hospital, I was busy taking care of my daughter and talking to the doctor so I just forgot.
	IELTS 7	***Once at the hospital, I was busy comforting my daughter and talking to the doctor so I simply forgot.***
Sentence 4	IELTS 5	I'm really sorry for the trouble this probably caused the interviewer and your other staff.
	IELTS 6	I sincerely apologise for the trouble I am sure I caused the interviewer and others at your office.
	IELTS 7+	I sincerely apologise for the inconvenience I am sure I caused the interviewer and others at your office.

Sentence 5	IELTS 5	Could you please make a new appointment for me to have the interview within the next two weeks?
	IELTS 6	I was wondering if you could arrange a new appointment for sometime within the next two weeks?
	IELTS 7+	***I was wondering if it would be possible to arrange a new appointment for sometime during the next two weeks?***
Sentence 6	IELTS 5	I'm free before 12pm from Monday to Thursday and after 3pm on Friday. You can reach me at the address or phone number above
	IELTS 6	I am free before 12pm from Monday to Thursday and after 3pm on Friday. You can reach me at the e-mail address or phone number provided.
	IELTS 7+	***I am available until 12pm from Monday to Thursday and after 3pm on Friday and can be contacted at the e-mail address or phone number provided.***

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic Informal	*Intermediate*	*Advanced Formal*
Make it		Attend (v)
Actually (adv)	In fact	
Get (v)	Receive (v)	
Have (an illness)		Suffer (an illness)
Because (conj)		As (conj)
	Free (adj)	Available (adj)
Go with	Accompany (v)	
Try (v)		Attempt (n/v)
Call (n/v)	Contact (n/v) Reach (v)	
But (adv/conj)	However (adv/conj)	
Just (adv)		Simply (adv)
Trouble (n/v)	Inconvenience (n/v)	
Before (prep.)	Until (prep)	
Help (n/v)		Assistance (n)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Answer these question by circling A, B or C

Question 1 refers to the following four simplified sentences taken from the model answers

i.	My daughter had a serious asthma attack and my wife was not available at the time
ii.	Could you arrange a new appointment for me sometime during the next two weeks?
iii.	I am writing in order to explain why I missed my immigration interview last Friday
iv.	Hence, I had to go to the hospital with my daughter.

1. Put the above sentence in the correct order
   A. iii./i./iv./ii.
   B. iv./ ii./ iii./ i.
   C. iii./i./ii./iv.
2. Question 27 asks you to:
   A. Apolpgise for being late to an interview, explain what happened and request a new appointment.
   B. Say sorry for missing an interview, explain what happened and ask for a new appointment
   C. Explain why you missed your appointment
3. The writer says he missed his immigration interview because:
   A. His daughter was sick
   B. His wife was busy
   C. Both of the above

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

4. Question 27 asks you to write to a person called Keith Wood.
5. The writer uses present tense to talk about his daughter's asthma attack (see both model answers)

6. This is an informal letter
7. It is better to use a person's surname (family name) when you start a formal letter.
8. You can use the word "**suffer**" (see Model Answer B) to talk about any illness or injury
9. "**I'm sorry"** (see Model Answer A) is less formal than "**I sincerely apologise**" (see Model Answer B)
10. The word "**once**" (see Model Answer B) has two meanings: it sometimes means "**one time**" and sometimes means "**after**".

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1. **A**

   Sentences have a logical order. Your writing must be logical if you want the reader to understand you
2. **B**
3. **C**

   The writer's daughter had an asthma attack and his wife was not available.
4. **NO**

   But you can invent names
5. **NO**

   The writer uses past tense.
6. **NO**

   This is a formal letter
7. **YES**

   If you know a person's surname, use it
8. **YES**

   We often use the word "**suffer**" when we want to talk about a negative experience.
9. **YES**

   " **I sincerely apologise**" is better in a formal letter.
10. **YES**

    "**Once**" can mean "**one time**" or "**after**".

INFORMAL LETTER

Question 28	SAYING GOODBYE

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend 20 minutes on this task

You recently finished studying at a university in another country where you shared a house with a fellow student. Something urgent came up while your housemate was away on a short trip and you had to leave without saying goodbye.

Write to your housemate. In your letter

- ***Apologise for leaving without saying goodbye***
- ***Explain why you have to leave***

Write at least 150 words

You do not need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear……..,

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5^{+} (too formal)

Dear Ms Carruthers,

I am writing with regard to my unexplained early departure, for which I must apologise. Unforeseen and pressing matters arose at home – my grandmother fell ill and was hospitalised. She has since fully discovered though. I trust you had a pleasant holiday and would like to hear more about it if you have time to write. I believe you have my e-mail address, so perhaps in addition you could forward some photographs. I placed some money on the refrigerator as a contribution towards last month's telephone and electricity bills. Please do not hesitate to contact me should this prove insufficient. If you are not otherwise occupied perhaps you could visit me during the winter break. You could make use of our vacant guest room. I would most enjoy showing you the sights of Beijing. Lastly, please allow me to express my gratitude to you for being such a wonderful housemate – your tolerance of my untidiness and frequent bad moods was greatly appreciated. It is my sincere hope that we can maintain contact in the future. Please keep my invitation for the winter holidays in mind.

Yours sincerely,

Rachel Liang

(192 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

Dear Joanne,

Sorry I had to leave in such a hurry without saying goodbye. Something urgent came up at home – my grandmother got sick and had to be taken to hospital. Everything's fine now though. Anyway, I hope you had a nice holiday. Please write and tell me about it if you've got the time. You have my e-mail address, so maybe you could send some photos too. I also hope you found the money for the phone and electricity bills that I left on the fridge – let me know if it's not enough. Actually, I was thinking that if you're not doing anything else, maybe you could come and visit me during the winter break. You could stay in the guest room here – I'd really love to show you the sights of Beijing. Anyway, I just wanted to say how much I've enjoyed being your housemate. I know I can be a bit messy at times, not to mention cranky, so thanks for putting up with me. Well, I'd better be going now. Keep in touch and don't forget my invitation for the winter holidays.

Regards,

Rachel

(191 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	I am writing with regard to my unexplained early departure, for which I must apologise.
	IELTS 6	I am writing to apologise for my unexplained early departure.
	IELTS 7+	Sorry I had to leave in such a hurry without saying goodbye.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	Unforeseen and pressing matters arose at home – my grandmother fell ill and was hospitalised.
	IELTS 6	Something unforeseen and pressing came up at home – my grandmother fell ill and was taken to hospital.
	IELTS 7+	Something urgent came up at home – my grandmother got sick and had to be taken to hospital.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	I trust you had a pleasant holiday and would like to hear more about it if you have time to write
	IELTS 6	I trust you had a nice holiday and would like to hear about it if you have time to write.
	IELTS 7+	I hope you have a nice holiday. Please write and tell me about it if you've got the time.
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	I placed some money on the refrigerator as a contribution towards last month's telephone and electricity bills. Please do not hesitate to contact me should this prove insufficient.
	IELTS 6	I also hope you found the money I placed on the refrigerator as a contribution towards last month's telephone and electricity bills – please do not hesitate to contact me if this is insufficient.
	IELTS 7+	I also hope you found the money for the phone and electricity bills that I left on the fridge – let me know if it's not enough.
Sentence 5	**IELTS 6**	If you are not otherwise occupied perhaps you could visit me during the winter break.
	IELTS 7+	If you're not doing anything else, maybe you could come and visit me during the winter break.
Sentence 6	**IELTS 5**	Lastly, please allow me to express my gratitude to you for being such a wonderful housemate – your tolerance of my untidiness and frequent bad moods was greatly appreciated.
	IELTS 6	Lastly, I just wanted to express my thanks to you for being such a wonderful housemate. I really appreciated the fact that you were so tolerant, because I know I can be quite untidy at times, not to mention bad-tempered.
	IELTS 7+	Anyway, I just wanted to say how much I've enjoyed being your housemate. I know I can be a bit messy at times, not to mention cranky, so thanks for putting up with me.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic (informal)	Intermediate	Advanced (formal)
Leave (v.)		Depart (v.)
		Urgent (adj.) Pressing (adj.)
Come up		Arise (v.)
Get sick		Fall ill
Nice (adj.)		Pleasant (adj.)
Maybe (adv.)		Perhaps (adv.)
Send (v.)		Forward (v.)
Too (adv.)	In addition	
Photo (n.)	Photograph (n./v.)	
Fridge (n.)	Refrigerator (n.)	
Not enough		Insufficient (adj.)
Break (n.)	Holiday (n.)	
Love (v.)	Enjoy (v.)	
Messy (adj.)	Untidy (adj.)	
	Put up with	Tolerate (v.)
	Keep in touch	Maintain contact

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. Question 28 asks you to write a letter to:
   A. Someone you know well
   B. Someone you have met but do not know well
   C. A total stranger
2. So this letter should be written in:
   A. Formal English
   B. Informal English
   C. British English
3. Which of the following sentences is too formal for this letter?
   A. It is my sincere hope that we can maintain contact in the future.
   B. Keep in touch.
   C. Don't be a stranger.
4. The word "***anyway***" (see Model Answer B) is usually used in:
   A. Formal English
   B. Informal English
   C. Both

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. You can use a person's first name in informal letters (see Model Answer B).
6. ***"Actually"*** (see Model Answer B) is a good word t use in this letter because it is informal.
7. You can use contractions like ***"you've"*** and "***it's***" (see Model Answer B) in this kind of informal letter.
8. ***"Keep my invitation... in mind"*** (see Model Answer A) means ***"Don't forget my invitation"*** (see Model Answer B).
9. The word ***"untidiness***" (see Model Answer A) is the adjective for "***untidy"***.
10. In this letter, it is best to sign off with "***Yours sincerely***" because you know the other person's name.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. A
   You probably know your housemate quite well.
2. B
   This is a personal letter to someone you know well, so it is informal.
3. A
   This is a very long and complicated way to say something simple. You only need to use this kind of English in formal letter writing.
4. B
   "Anyway" is commonly used in speaking.
5. YES
   "Dear Joanne" is the best way to start because this is a personal letter. Make up names if you need to.
6. YES
   "Actually" is a great word to use in speaking and informal writing.
7. YES
   You can use contradictions in speaking and informal writing.
8. YES
   "Keep in mind" means **"don't forget".**
9. NO
   "Untidiness" is a noun; **"untidy"** is an adjective.
10. NO
    "Yours sincerely" is too formal here**. "Regards"** is better.

Question 29	In hospital

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You are in hospital as a result of a recent accident. Your co-workers have visited you several times and have given you cards and flowers.

Write to your workmates. In your letter

- ***Tell them about your current condition***
- ***Thank them for their thoughts and support***

Write at least 150 words.

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear ...,

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5+ (too formal)

To whom it may concern,
I am writing in order to express my heartfelt appreciation for all the cards, flowers, phone calls and visits I have received since my accident. The concern you have all shown has been moving. I also wish to inform you that my condition has vastly improved, despite the agony that my daily physiotherapy exercises will cause me. The doctor seems confident that I will be able to return home in the very near future. Were I able to do so, I would check out immediately as I am finding the monotony of daytime television unbearable. Hospitals can be incredibly boring places, particularly when one is confined to bed with one's leg suspended in a sling. Although I frequently express my displeasure at how busy we constantly are with overtime and meetings, I now have a far greater appreciation for my job and am eagerly anticipating my return to work. I trust you are all in good health. Thank you once again for your care and consideration. I look forward to seeing you all soon.

Yours faithfully,
Ivan Tang

(183 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7+

Dear friends,
Thank you all so much for your cards, flowers, phone calls and visits since my accident. Your care and concern mean a lot to me. I'm feeling much better today, although the exercise I have to do are really painful. The doctor says I can probably go home in a few days' time. To tell the truth, I'd check out today if I could – I'm already sick to death of daytime TV. Hospitals can be such boring places, especially when your leg is hanging in a sling and you can't leave your bed. I know I always complain about how busy we are with overtime and meetings and everything, but now I realize how much I actually enjoy my job. I just want to get back on my feet and back to work as soon as I can. Anyway, I hope you are all well. Thanks again and I hope to see you all very soon.

Regards,
Ivan.

(160 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	I am writing in order to express my heartfelt appreciation for all the cards, flowers, phone calls and visits I have received since my accident.
	IELTS 6	I am writing to say thank-you for all the cards, flowers, phone calls and visits I have gotten since my accident.
	IELTS 7+	Thank you all so much for your cards, flowers, phone calls and visits since my accident.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 5**	I also wish to inform you that my condition has vastly improved, although my daily physiotherapy exercises still cause me a lot of pain.
	IELTS 6	I also wanted to tell you that my condition has greatly improved, although my daily physiotherapy exercises still cause me a lot of pain.
	IELTS 7+	I'm feeling much better today, although the exercises I have to do are really painful.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	The doctor seems confident that I will be able to return home in the very near future.
	IELTS 6	The doctor says he is confident that I will be able to go home soon.
	IELTS 7+	The doctor says I can probably go home in a few days' time.
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	Were I able to do so, I would check out immediately as I am finding the monotony of daytime television unbearable.
	IELTS 6	If I could, I would check out immediately as I'm finding daytime television incredibly boring.
	IELTS 7+	I'd check out today if I could – I'm already sick to death of daytime TV.
Sentence 5	**IELTS 6**	Hospitals can be incredibly boring places, particularly when one is confined to bed with one's leg suspended in a sling.
	IELTS 7+	Hospitals can be such boring places, especially when your leg is hanging in a sling and you can't leave your bed.
Sentence 6	**IELTS 5**	Although I frequently express my displeasure at how busy we constantly are with overtime and meetings, I now have a far greater appreciation for my job.
	IELTS 6	Although I often complain about how busy we always are with overtime and meetings, I now have a much greater appreciation for my job.
	IELTS 7+	I know I always complain about how busy we are with overtime and meetings and everything, but now I realize how much I actually enjoy my job.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
	Although (conj)	Despite (prep.)
	Pain (n.)	Agony (n.)
	Painful (adj.)	Agonising (adj.)
Can (aux. v.)		(be) able to
Go home	Return home	
Actually (adv.) To tell the truth		
TV (n.)	Television (n.)	
Boring (adj.)		Monotonous (adj.)
Boredom		Monotony (n.)
		Especially (adv.) Particularly (adv.)
Hanging (adj.)		Suspended (adj.)
*always (adv.)		Constantly (adv.) Frequently (adv.)
Complain (v.)		Express displeasure
Enjoy (v.)		Appreciate (v.)
Enjoyment (n.)		Appreciation (n.)
Look forward to		Eagerly anticipate
Hope (v./n.)		Trust (n./v.)
Soon (adv.)		In the very near future

*Note: sometimes the word **"always"** is used to mean **"frequently"** or **"often"**. This is called exaggeration or hyperbole. For example: **"My football team always wins!"***

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. Question 29 asks you to write:
    a. A formal letter of thanks
    b. An informal letter of thanks
    c. An informal letter of apology
2. In Question 29 the recipients of the letter are your:
    a. Colleagues
    b. Classmates
    c. Friends
3. The word ***"such"*** (see Model Answer B) is followed by:
    a. A noun
    b. An adjective
    c. An adjective and then a noun
4. The writer starts and finishes this letter by saying:
    a. Why he is writing
    b. His name
    c. Thank you

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. "***Dear friends***" (See Model Answer B) is a good way to start a letter to a group of people you know quite well.
6. "***I trust***" (See Model Answer A) is a more formal way to write "***I hope***" (see Model Answer B).
7. The writer uses "***would***" and "***could***" in the phrase "***I'd check out today if I could***" (see Model Answer B) because it is impossible.
8. The writer mainly uses past tense in these letters.
9. "***Get back on my feet***" (see Model Answer B) means ***"walk again".***
10. "***Yours faithfully***" is too formal for this letter.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. B
2. A
   "Colleague" is the same as **"workmate"** or **"co-workers".** Your colleagues may be your friends, but not necessarily.
3. C
   You should know how to change the sentence, "Hospitals are such boring places" into **"Hospitals are so boring".**
4. C
   It is sometimes good to start and finish a letter by saying thank you.
5. YES
6. YES
   "Trust" has two meanings. It sometimes means **"believe"** and sometimes means **"hope".**
7. YES
   "Would" and **"Could"** are often used to talk about impossible or imaginary actions.
8. NO
   The writer uses present tense.
9. NO
   "get back on my feet" means **"get well"** or **"recover".**
10. YES
    "Yours faithfully" is for formal letter writing.

Question 30	Change of Plans

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

An old friend of yours is coming to visit your city. You had planned to meet him at the airport, but something has come up and you will not be able to make it there on time.
Write to your friend. In your letter

- ***Explain the situation***
- ***Offer to make alternate arrangements***

Write at least 150 words.

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear ...,

Model Answer A: IELTS Band 5^{+} (too formal)

Dear Mr. Mason,
This letter concerns your upcoming visit to Beijing. I trust that preparations are progressing without hindrance. Based on past experience, I presume that you have yet to begin packing. I am eagerly anticipating your visit and have already conducted all the preparations necessary for you to make use of my guest room. Unfortunately, though, it will no longer be possible for me to be present for your arrival at 11:45 as I had initially planned since I will be required to attend a meeting that morning. If you have no objection to waiting it may be possible for me to reach the airport by approximately 13:30. If such a delay would be unacceptable to you, however, I will make arrangement for my secretary to meet you at the airport and accompany you to my residence. Kindly provide instructions in this regard prior to your departure and, as always, do not hesitate to contact me at the address and phone number provided should you require any further assistance.

Yours faithfully,
Zhu, Chen Yi

(175 words)

Model Answer B: IELTS Band 7^{+}

Dear Jason,
I hope you're well and preparations for your visit to Beijing are going smoothly. If I know you, you probably haven't even started packing yet. I'm really looking forward to seeing you again and have already prepared the guest room for you. I have some bad news though – I will not be able to meet you at the airport when you arrive at 11:45 as I had originally planned. Unfortunately, I have to go to a meeting on the morning you get there, but if you don't mind waiting I could probably make it by about 13:30. If that doesn't suit you, I could send my secretary to meet you instead. Anyway, please let me know which you prefer sometime before you leave. Well, I guess that's about all I needed to say. You've got my number, so give me a call if there's anything else you need to know. Take care of yourself, and I'll see you when you get here.

Kind regards,
Chen Yi

(168 words)

MODEL SENTENCE STRUCTURES

Sentence 1	**IELTS 5**	This letter concerns your upcoming visit to Beijing.
	IELTS 6	This letter is about your approaching visit to Beijing.
	IELTS 7+	I'm writing about your visit to Beijing.
Sentence 2	**IELTS 6**	I trust that you are well and that preparations are progressing without hindrance.
	IELTS 7+	I hope you're well and preparations for your visit to Beijing are going smoothly.
Sentence 3	**IELTS 5**	Based on past experience, I presume you have yet to begin packing.
	IELTS 6	Based on past experience, I presume you have not begun packing yet.
	IELTS 7+	If I know you, you probably haven't even started packing yet.
Sentence 4	**IELTS 5**	I am eagerly anticipating your visit and have already conducted all the preparations necessary for you to make use of my guest room.
	IELTS 6	I am really looking forward to your visit and have already made all the preparations necessary for you to use to guest room.
	IELTS 7+	I'm really looking forward to seeing you again and have already prepared the guest room for you.
Sentence 5	**IELTS 5**	Unfortunately, though, it will no longer be available for me to be present for your arrival at 11:45 as I had initially planned since I will be required to attend a meeting that morning.
	IELTS 6	Unfortunately, though, I will not be able to be there at the airport for your arrival at 11:45 as I had originally planned because I have to attend a meeting that morning.
	IELTS 7+	I have some bad news though – I will not be able to meet you at the airport when you arrive at 11:45 as I had originally planned. Unfortunately, I have to go to a meeting on the morning you get here.
Sentence 6	**IELTS 5**	Kindly provide instructions in this regard prior to your departure.
	IELTS 6	Kindly give me instructions in this regard before your departure.
	IELTS 7+	Anyway, please let me know which you prefer sometime before you leave.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

Basic	Intermediate	Advanced
Hope (n./v.)		Trust (n./v.)
	Smoothly (adv.)	Without hindrance
Look forward to		Eagerly anticipate
	Prepare (v.)	Conduct preparations
	Originally (adv.)	Initially (adv.)
Have to		(be) required to
Go to		Attend (v.)
Don't mind		Have no objection
Make it		Reach (v.)
About (adv.)		Approximately (adv.)
Please (adv.)		Kindly (adv.)
Let me know		Provide instructions
Before (prep.)		Prior to
Leave		Depart
Need		Require (v.)

TEST YOUR COMPREHENSION

Answer these questions by circling A, B or C

1. Question 30 asks you to write:
    a. A formal letter explaining a change of plans
    b. An informal letter of apology
    c. An informal letter explaining a change of plans
2. In this letter, you should greet the recipient using his/her:
    a. Nickname
    b. Surname
    c. First name
3. A '***hindrance***' (see Model Answer A) is something that:
    a. Helps you
    b. Stops you or slows you down
    c. Makes you sick
4. "***Will not be able to***" (see Model Answer A) is the future tense of:
    a. Would not
    b. Must not
    c. Can not

Answer these questions by writing YES or NO

5. Model Answer A is better than Model Answer B because it is longer.
6. You can use a dash (--) to join two sentences if the second sentence explains something about the first one (see Model Answer B).
7. "***Such a delay***" (see Model Answer A) means "***this kind of delay***".
8. "***Though***" (see Model Answer A) can mean ***"however"***.
9. "***Kind regards***" is a good way to sign off on an informal letter.

CHECK YOUR ANSWER

1. C
2. C
3. B
   A **"hindrance"** is a **"barrier"** or **"obstacle".**
4. C

The past tense is **"could not**"; the present tense is **"cannot";** and the future tense is **"will not be able to".**

5. NO
   Model Answer B is better even though it is shorter, because it uses the right level of English (the correct register).
6. YES
   Punctuation is an important part of good writing. You should try not to always use the same punctuation – learn some different ways to punctuate a sentence.
7. YES
8. YES
   "Though" can replace **"however"** in the middle of a sentence or at the end, but not at the beginning.
9. YES
   You can use **"kind regards"** if you know the other person quite well, but you are not very close. You would probably not write it to your best friend.

A few final tips

How to approach IELTS

In order to succeed in IELTS writing, it is vital that you think about your own attitude very carefully, because attitude is something that prevents many candidates from getting the score that they need. However, if you think about IELTS the right way, you will be one of the candidates who learns quickly and gets a higher score. Remember…

1. Be realistic!
   Learning a language is hard work. Anyone who thinks they can improve their English from "***Hello, my name is Jack!***" to postgraduate university level in one or two months is dreaming. There is no magic formula that can give you really good English overnight. Give yourself enough time to prepare.
2. Do not give up too easily!
   You may be quite optimistic when you start preparing for IELTS, then feel disappointed and let down when you find out how difficult it really is. Do not quit! It is just a matter of time and effort. You can do it if you set your mind to it.
3. Do not be scared to make mistakes.
   You may be scared to speak or write because you do not want people to laugh at you when you make mistakes. But in language learning mistakes are actually good because they are opportunities to improve. If you want to learn, you need to be brave and take risks. Speak up in class and do not be scared to start a conversation with an English speaker.
4. Ask the right questions
   There is an old saying in English: if you ask a silly question, you get a silly answer. Many candidates ask their teacher silly questions that have no answer. If you ask **"How can I get a better score in IELTS?"** you will get a very vague answer that will not help you at all. But if you ask **"How can I write an introduction to an essay about a pie chart?"** the answer you get may be very useful indeed.
5. Use the same material several times.
   It is good to review the same IELTS material more than once to make sure that you have really learnt it. Do not always look for new material when you have not learnt everything you can from the old material yet. Your score does not depend on how many IELTS books you read (or how many classes you go to). Quality is more important than quantity.

6. Do not just memorise lots of vocabulary.

   Yes, vocabulary is important, but when you learn a word you should make sure you know it well. You must know how to spell it, you must know other forms of the word (e.g. **"high"** and **"height");** and you must know whether the word is used in spoken English or in writing (e.g. "get" and "gain"). It will help you more if you learn a few words really well and then learn different sentences and language patterns that you can use them in. Look at this example:

   Regular exercise offers tremendous health benefits.

   Many candidates would look at this sentence and decide to learn to word "***tremendous***". However, I think it is much more important for you to learn that **"offer benefits"** is a common phrase in English and that we often use **"tremendous"** together with **"benefits".**

Improve Your Spelling

The list below contains words that Chinese IELTS candidates often spell wrongly. Make sure you can spell these words correctly first, then keep a record of any other spelling mistakes you make as you prepare for the exam and review it regularly so that you do not repeat the same ones again. The secret to improving your spelling is to make sure that every mistake you make is a new mistake. Obviously, you will need a teacher to help check your writing for spelling errors. DO NOT write practice essays on a computer using a spell checker! Use a pen and paper.

Wrong!	**Right!**
Affection	Affect (v.)/effect (n.)
althought	Although
arguement	Argument
Chiness	Chinese
Convinence	Convenience
Convient	Convenient
Crimer	Criminal
destory	Destroy
Droped	Dropped (past tense of **"drop")**
goverment	Government
Endangerous species	Endangered species
Eniverment	Environment
Flucturate	Fluctuate
Forign	Foreign
Graphy	Graph
Materil	Material
Morden	Modern
nagative	Negative
Unclear energy	Nuclear energy
Opion	Opinion
precentage	Percentage
perhapes	Perhaps
Propotion	Proportion
sitution	Situation
Slove	Solve
Tranditional	Traditional
Undergroung	Underground
Unempolyed	Unemployed
Varity	Variety
Verdal axis	Vertical axis
Worldwild	Worldwide