

TASK 1 An Informal Letter

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

A man called Pete, who is a friend of a friend, is planning to visit your town.

Write a letter to Pete. In your letter

- ***introduce yourself***
- ***suggest some things to do and see in your town***
- ***mention one thing you would not recommend***

Write at least 150 words.

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

Begin your letter:

Hi Pete

TASK 1 A Semi-formal Letter (1)

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You are having some problems in the accommodation that you rent.

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

- ***introduce yourself***
- ***explain what the problems are***
- ***say what you would like the manager to do about the problems***

Write at least 150 words.

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter:

To The Manager

TASK 1 A Semi-formal Letter (2)

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

Your local newspaper is asking for feedback on a plan to improve your suburb.

Write a letter to the newspaper. In your letter

- ***introduce yourself***
- ***explain why you support some parts of the plan (e.g. improvements to parks, transport, recreational facilities etc.)***
- ***give reasons why you do not support one part of the plan***

Write at least 150 words.

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

Begin your letter:

To the Editor

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In many cities around the world, people face the problem of serious air pollution. This can have a negative effect on their health and quality of life.

What do you think are the causes of this problem and how should it be solved?

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

Write at least 250 words.

TASK 2 An Advantages/Disadvantages Essay

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

In the past, school children usually learnt by listening to their teacher and by studying their books. Nowadays, many school children learn by using technology in the classroom instead.

What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of this development?

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

Write at least 250 words.

IELTS PRACTICE TASK

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some people believe that old buildings should be replaced with more modern ones. Other people argue that we should protect old buildings because they have a special value.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Write at least 250 words.

SAMPLE WRITING ANSWERS

TASK 1 An Informal Letter

Sample answer Band Score 8

Hi Pete

We have a mutual friend, Sally, who's given me your details because you're coming to visit my hometown of Hamilton next month. That's great news and I'm sure you'll have a fabulous time here!

One thing I'd definitely recommend is a wander through the Jewellery Quarter. As you may know, Hamilton's been a leading centre in this craft for centuries, and the Jewellery Quarter is a beautiful area of old workshops, many of which are open to the public. If you need a bite to eat, have a look down by the riverside, where there's a great range of cafes and restaurants. And for some night life, don't miss Lygon Street – that's where it's all happening – especially the Jazz Club, where there's a gig most evenings!

But if I were you I'd definitely give Bligh's Shopping Centre a miss!

Please feel free to contact me at the number below while you're in town.

Cheers

Melanie

(154 words)

Task Achievement: 7 The answer covers the requirements of the task. A clear purpose is presented and the tone is consistent. The key bullet points are addressed although some details could be more fully extended.

Coherence and Cohesion: 9 The writer uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention.

Lexical Resource: 8 The writer uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meaning and skilfully uses uncommon lexical items.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy: 9 The answer is characterised by the use of a wide range of structures with full flexibility and accuracy.

TASK 1 A Semi-formal Letter (1)

Sample answer Band Score 8

To the Manager

I am currently renting a property through your agency. The address is 28 Roberts Avenue, Barnley. I live in the upstairs flat with the co-tenant Sarah Walker.

I am writing to you because there are a couple of problems in the flat that need some attention. Firstly, I think there must be a problem with the hot water system because sometimes we cannot get hot water from the shower or in the kitchen. This has happened for the last two weeks, and you can imagine how inconvenient is this. We also have a problem with the front door. It can be very difficult to push open and we do not want to force it.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for us a plumber to come and deal with the hot water system as soon as possible. We will also need a tradesperson to come and sort out the door. Please let me know when we can expect them.

Regards

Emma Watts

(162 words)

SAMPLE WRITING ANSWERS

Task Achievement: 9 The answer fully satisfies all requirements of the task.

Coherence and Cohesion: 8 Information and ideas are logically sequenced. Paragraphing is appropriate.

Lexical Resource: 8 A wide range of vocabulary is flexibly used so that precise meaning is clearly conveyed. There are a couple of minor spelling mistakes.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy: 7 A variety of complex structures are used and there is generally good control of grammar and punctuation. A few errors are present but do not impede communication.

TASK 1 A Semi-formal Letter (2)

Sample answer Band Score 8

To the Editor

I have lived Summertown for nearly twenty years so I have a good understanding of our suburb. Overall, I am really impressive with the plan to improve the area and think there are some great initiatives for all residents.

In particular, the upgrade to Myers Park will be a benefit for the community. At the moment it is a run down place in the heart of our community but putting in a new playground, seating and lighting will be a fantastic idea. I also think combined bus and train station will make travelling to and from the city more effective and hopefully lead to less congestion streets. Another important development is to make High Street a pedestrian precinct as it should help to bring shopper back into the central area. However, I'm opposed to demolishing the public swimming pool because this is a vital public resource that should be preserved.

Thank you for inviting this feedback on the very interesting plan.

Best wishes

Helmut Scrivener

(163 words)

Task Achievement: 9 The answer fully satisfies all the requirements of the task by clearly presenting a fully developed response.

Coherence and Cohesion: 8 Information and ideas are sequenced logically. The writer manages all aspects of cohesion well and uses paragraphing appropriately.

Lexical Resource: 8 The writer uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meaning. There are occasional errors in word choice or word formation.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy: 7 A variety of complex structures has been used. The writer has good control of grammar and punctuation although there are a few errors.

TASK 2 A Problem/Solution Essay

Sample answer Band Score 8

One of the world's most challenging problems today is air pollution. In some cities it has become so bad that local authorities have to advise people to stay indoors. Even when levels of air pollution are reasonable, residents and commuters still need to wear masks so they do not inhale pollutants. At the end of a day, their skin, hair and clothes have become dirty. This is no way to live.

What are the main causes of this situation? Speaking from experience, I can say that in my city, we always wake up with thick smog – a mixture of carbon dioxide and other gases. This smog is produced by the factories on the borders of the city. So, in my opinion, industry can certainly be blamed for a high proportion of the air pollution in cities. The only way to reduce these emissions is through advances in engineering. Governments must invest in technologies that reduce the pollution from factories and make our air cleaner.

Another important cause of air pollution is the high number of private cars on the roads. These days, everyone wants to use his own vehicle and not use public transport. But what is more important – your personal comfort in the short term or your health in the long term? And the more our population will grow, the more cars there will be on the streets. To my knowledge, our government is thinking about introducing some pedestrian-only areas in the inner city. I think this is an idea that all people should follow.

In conclusion, air pollution is not a simple issue to solve. However, we owe it to future generations to try. (276 words)

Task Response: 9 The answer fully addresses all parts of the task. The writer's position is made clear with fully extended and well supported ideas.

Coherence and Cohesion: 8 All aspects of cohesion are managed well.

Lexical Resource: 8 A wide range of vocabulary is used to convey exact meaning, and uncommon lexical items are also skilfully employed for this topic. There are occasional inaccuracies in word choice.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy: 7 A variety of complex structures are used and there is generally good control of grammar and punctuation. A few errors are present but do not impede communication.

TASK 2 An Advantages/Disadvantages Essay

Sample answer Band Score 8

For many centuries, the traditional way of learning was 'the teacher speaks and the students listen'. This was the reality in every culture, in every country of the world. Later on, when printing has happened, children also had access to books. These provided more information and illustrations that helped a child's education. However, in the last few decades, technology has become an increasingly powerful tool in the classroom. In this essay, I will discuss the benefits and potential problems of this development.

The big advantage of using devices that connect to the internet is that children can get all the latest information and data about the topic they study. They can investigate different sources and find different opinions on the same subject. They don't have to rely on books that are out of date. Another reason in favour of using technology in the classroom is that it can hold children's attention easily. Children can learn in an interactive way instead of listening to a teacher, which is only passive.

On the other hand, there are some aspects of using technology that we must be concerned about. I have read some articles that describe the effect of computer learning on a young person's brain. If a child or teenager depends too much on reading short online texts, they might not be able to concentrate on longer, detailed texts. Furthermore, some people tend to believe everything they read on the internet and don't think whether it is true or not.

In summary, I would say that teachers should use technology in moderation. Traditional methods worked very well, so we should not just give them up. (274 words)

Task Response: 8 The answer sufficiently addresses all parts of the task. There are some relevant and supported ideas included.

Coherence and Cohesion: 8 Ideas and information are presented in logical order. Paragraphing is used appropriately.

Lexical Resource: 7 A sufficient range of vocabulary is used which allows some precision and flexibility. There are some less common lexical items and some awareness of style and collocation.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy: 8 There is a wide range of structures and the majority of sentences are error-free.

TASK 2 A Discussion/Opinion Essay

Sample answer Band Score 8

As cities grow and become more crowded, there is often a debate about exactly what sort of construction is best in urban centres. Should we build modern towers out of glass and steel, or should we conserve the more traditional architecture built by earlier generations? There are good arguments in support of both sides.

Contemporary designs are much safer in disasters like earthquakes and fires, and this has been shown by experience in Japan and elsewhere. Also, they are more environmentally friendly, as they are built with modern materials and air conditioning systems that regulate temperature more efficiently. And also, the needs of today's businesses in terms of the way space is used and communications are better met by the most up to date buildings.

But there are also aesthetic and cultural considerations. Architecture is part of a city's creative heritage and should be preserved like any other artwork – we would not destroy old paintings or sculptures and replace them with 'new' ones. Also, using local techniques and materials gives each city a unique identity, which is being lost as newer cities tend to often look similar. Lastly, in my home town there have been problems with new buildings being leaky and badly built, whereas traditional architecture was better quality.

To sum up, cities need to find a balance between the old and the new. Dangerously outdated buildings should be replaced, and some modern creativity must always be encouraged. But this cannot be at the expense of historical structures, which give our cities a sense of continuity. (257 words)

Task Response: 8 The writer presents a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.

Coherence and Cohesion: 7 Information and ideas are logically organised and there is a clear progression throughout the answer. There is a clear central topic within each paragraph, although there is an over-use of some cohesive devices.

Lexical Resource: 9 The writer uses a wide range of vocabulary with a very natural and sophisticated control of lexical features.

Grammatical Range and Accuracy: 8 A wide range of structures is evident and the majority of sentences are error-free. The writer makes occasional errors or inappropriacies.