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General Training Writing Practice Tests

with answer key: sample answers at Bands 5, 6, 7 and 8

Two full practice tests written by joinIELTS. Each has Task 1 (a letter) and Task 2 (an essay). The answer key gives sample answers at four band levels, with comments and corrections, so that you can see where your own writing fits.

The real test

- **60 minutes** in total, with two tasks.
- **Task 1**: a letter, at least **150 words**. Spend about **20 minutes**.
- **Task 2**: an essay, at least **250 words**. Spend about **40 minutes**. Task 2 counts for twice as many marks as Task 1.
- Write in full sentences. Notes or bullet points are not accepted.

How to practise

1. Set a timer and write both tasks of one test by hand on the lined pages, without a dictionary.
2. Count your words. Then mark yourself with the guide on page 6.
3. Open the answer key (from page 7). Read the samples from Band 5 upwards and decide which one is closest to your own answer. Then read the corrections.
4. Do not copy the samples: examiners expect your own ideas.

Check your level, then keep practising
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PRACTICE TEST A · WRITING TASK 1 (about 20 minutes)

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

You recently bought a pair of headphones from an online shop, but they stopped working after one week.

Write a letter. In your letter,

- describe the problem
- explain what you have already tried
- say what you would like the company to do

Write **at least 150 words**. You do not need to write any addresses. Begin your letter as follows:

Dear Sir or Madam,

Words written: _____

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PRACTICE TEST A · WRITING TASK 2 (about 40 minutes)

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task. Write about the following topic.

Some people think that children should start learning a foreign language at primary school. Others believe that it is better to wait until they are older.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

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

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Words written: _____

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PRACTICE TEST B · WRITING TASK 1 (about 20 minutes)

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

A friend from another country is planning to visit you and your town for a week next summer.

Write a letter. In your letter,

- say how you feel about the visit
- suggest some places that you could visit together
- tell your friend about the weather and what to bring

Write **at least 150 words**. You do not need to write any addresses. Begin your letter as follows:
Dear ...,

Words written: _____

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PRACTICE TEST B · WRITING TASK 2 (about 40 minutes)

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task. Write about the following topic.

Nowadays a growing number of people work from home instead of travelling to an office.

Do the advantages of this development outweigh the disadvantages?

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

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Words written: _____

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Self-marking guide

Examiners give a band score for each of these four areas. Be honest: ask a teacher to check your work as well.

Area	Ask yourself
Task 1: Task Achievement	Did you cover all three bullet points clearly, with enough detail, in the right tone and with at least 150 words?
Task 2: Task Response	Did you answer every part of the question, give a clear opinion and support your ideas with reasons and examples, in at least 250 words?
Coherence and Cohesion	Is your writing in clear paragraphs? Do you link ideas with a range of linking words, not only 'firstly' and 'secondly'?
Lexical Resource	Do you use a range of precise words and collocations, with few spelling mistakes? Have you avoided repeating the same words?
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Do you use a mix of simple and complex sentences? Are verb tenses, articles and punctuation correct?

How to begin and end a letter

Type of letter	Opening	Closing
Formal (you do not know the person)	Dear Sir or Madam,	Yours faithfully,
Formal / semi-formal (you know the name)	Dear Mr Smith, / Dear Ms Jones,	Yours sincerely,
Informal (a friend or relative)	Dear Anna, / Hi Anna,	Best wishes, / Love, / Write soon,

Use **Yours faithfully** after *Dear Sir or Madam*, and **Yours sincerely** after a name. Sign with your full name for formal letters and your first name for informal ones.

Checklist before you stop writing

[ ] I read the instructions twice and covered every bullet point or part of the question.

[ ] My letter starts and ends in the correct way for the person I am writing to.

[ ] Task 1: at least 150 words. Task 2: at least 250 words.

[ ] Task 2 has an introduction, two or three body paragraphs and a conclusion.

[ ] Every paragraph has one main idea, and I gave a reason or example for each idea.

[ ] I used linking words such as however, in addition, as a result, for example.

[ ] I left three minutes to check spelling, tenses, articles (a/an/the) and plural -s.

[ ] I did not copy words from the question and I did not write a memorised answer.

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Answer key: sample answers at Band 5, 6, 7 and 8

Please read first

• Writing has no single right answer, so this key shows **sample answers** for each task, one at each of four band levels. Find the sample that is closest to your own writing.
• The samples were written by joinIELTS for teaching. The band labels are our own estimates, based on the public IELTS band descriptors. They are **not** official IELTS marks, and a real examiner may score a similar answer half a band higher or lower.
• The Band 5, 6 and 7 answers sometimes contain mistakes **on purpose**, to show what examiners see at each level. The corrections are listed under each one. Do not copy their phrases.
• The Band 8 answers are the model answers. Notice the paragraphs, the tone, the linking words and the precise vocabulary.

What changes from band to band

Band	In short
5	Covers the task but with little detail. Simple, repeated language. Frequent errors that sometimes make the reader work hard.
6	Covers the task adequately. Clear organisation. Some complex sentences. Noticeable errors, but the meaning is clear.
7	Covers the task well, with developed ideas. Good range of linking and vocabulary. Many error-free sentences.
8	Fully developed, natural and precise. Wide range of language with very few errors.

Where to find the samples

Task	Band 5	Band 6	Band 7	Band 8
Practice Test A · Task 1	page 8	page 9	page 10	page 11
Practice Test A · Task 2	page 12	page 13	page 14	page 15
Practice Test B · Task 1	page 16	page 17	page 18	page 19
Practice Test B · Task 2	page 20	page 21	page 22	page 23

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PRACTICE TEST A · Task 1 (letter) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 5

Dear Sir or Madam,

I bought a headphones from your website on 3 October and I am very disappointed with it. I pay for them 45 pounds and after one week they are not working. I think you sell bad things to people and this is not acceptable.

The problem is the sound. In left side there is no sound at all and in the right side it make big noise when I put the volume up. I tried to charge the headphones and I tried it with my phone also. I read the manual but I didn't understand it very well.

I want you to send me new headphones, or you can give me my money back. I need them quick because I use them every day for my work and now I can't listen to music in the bus. Please answer me soon, I am waiting for your answer.

Thank you for your help.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Moore

About 152 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 5

Task Achievement	All three bullet points are mentioned, but with little detail. The tone slips ('I think you sell bad things'), and there is no order number.
Coherence and Cohesion	Paragraphs exist, but ideas are linked only by 'and' and 'because'. Some repetition ('I am waiting for your answer').
Lexical Resource	Simple, repeated vocabulary ('bad', 'big noise'). Some word-choice errors ('in the bus').
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Mostly simple sentences. Frequent errors that sometimes make reading harder.

Main errors and corrections

In the sample	Better
a headphones	a pair of headphones
I pay for them 45 pounds	I paid 45 pounds for them
they are not working	they stopped working
In left side	On the left side / In the left speaker
it make big noise	it makes a loud noise
in the bus	on the bus
answer me soon	reply to me soon

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PRACTICE TEST A · Task 1 (letter) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 6

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to complain about a pair of headphones that I bought from your website on 3 October. Unfortunately they stopped working after only one week.

The problem is that no sound comes from the left speaker, and the right speaker makes a loud noise when I turn the volume up. I have tried to solve the problem by charging the headphones completely and by connecting them to my phone and my laptop, but nothing has changed.

I would like you to send me a new pair, or if this is impossible, to give me a refund. I paid 45 pounds for them, so I think this is a reasonable request. I can send the headphones back to you if it is necessary.

The order number is 48213. I hope that you will solve quickly this problem, because I need the headphones for my work, and I would be grateful for a reply within the next week.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Moore

About 158 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 6

Task Achievement	All three bullet points are covered clearly and the tone is correct. Detail is adequate but general (the noise is not described, and the request is not explained).
Coherence and Cohesion	Clear paragraphs and logical order. Linking is simple ('but', 'so', 'because').
Lexical Resource	Adequate and mostly accurate, with some repetition ('problem' is used three times).
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A mix of simple and some complex sentences. A few errors, but the meaning is always clear.

Main errors and corrections

In the sample	Better
I hope that you will solve quickly this problem	I hope that you will solve this problem quickly
if it is necessary	if necessary

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PRACTICE TEST A · Task 1 (letter) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 7

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to complain about a pair of wireless headphones (model SX20) that I ordered from your website on 3 October, order number 48213. I am afraid that they stopped working only a week after delivery.

The left speaker no longer produces any sound, while the right one makes a loud crackling noise whenever I increase the volume. Before contacting you, I charged the headphones fully, reset them according to the manual and tried them with three different devices. As none of these steps solved the problem, I am convinced that the headphones are faulty.

I would therefore like you to send me a replacement as soon as possible. Alternatively, I would accept a full refund. I would be glad to return the faulty pair, provided that you cover the postage.

I have kept the original box and I can send you photographs of the damage if you ask for them. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Moore

About 159 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 7

Task Achievement	All bullet points are covered with relevant detail (model, order number, three devices). The formal tone is consistent.
Coherence and Cohesion	Ideas flow logically, and a range of linking devices is used ('while', 'as', 'therefore', 'alternatively').
Lexical Resource	Good range and precise choices ('faulty', 'replacement', 'cover the postage'). Rare slips.
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A variety of complex structures, and most sentences are error-free.

Main errors and corrections

In the sample	Better
I am afraid that they stopped working	natural, but it can sound too soft in a complaint; 'unfortunately' or 'I am disappointed that' is stronger
hearing from you	'I look forward to your reply' is also correct

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PRACTICE TEST A · Task 1 (letter) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 8

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to complain about a pair of wireless headphones, model SX20, which I bought from your website on 3 October (order number 48213).

Unfortunately, the headphones stopped working only a week after they arrived. The left speaker produces no sound at all, and the right one makes a loud crackling noise whenever I turn up the volume.

Before contacting you, I tried several ways of solving the problem. I charged the headphones fully, reset them by following the instructions in the manual and connected them to three different devices. None of these steps made any difference, so I believe that the fault is in the headphones themselves.

I would like you to send me a replacement pair as soon as possible. If that is not possible, I would prefer a full refund. I am happy to return the faulty headphones at your expense, and I can send photographs if you need them.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

Daniel Moore

About 162 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 8

Task Achievement	All bullet points are fully developed, with precise facts and a clear request. The tone is formal throughout.
Coherence and Cohesion	Skilful paragraphing. Each paragraph has one purpose, and the information is in a natural order.
Lexical Resource	Wide range, natural and precise ('produces no sound', 'at your expense', 'faulty').
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A wide range of structures with almost no errors.

This is the model answer for the task. Compare it with the Band 7 sample: the difference is mostly precision, naturalness and fewer errors, not longer sentences.

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PRACTICE TEST A · Task 2 (essay) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 5

Nowadays learning a foreign language is very important and many people has different opinion about when children should start. In this essay I will discuss both views and give my opinion.

Some people think that primary school is the best time. The first reason is children are young so their brain is like a sponge and they learn quickly. Also they are not afraid to make mistakes, but when they are adult they feel shy. Second, if they start early they will speak the language more better when they finish school and it can help them to find a good job in the future.

But other people thinks that it is better to wait. Primary school children is too small and they must learn there own language first, for example reading and mathematics. If they learn two language at the same time they can be confused. Another problem is that many schools doesn't have good teachers for foreign language so the children learn nothing.

In my opinion, I think that children should start early because it have more advantages. When I was a child I started English at age of ten and I think it was too late for me. Now I have still a problem with my pronunciation and I feel embarrassed when I speak with foreign people. If I started when I was six, I think it will be much easier for me.

To conclude, there are advantages and disadvantages, but I agree with the first opinion. Children should learn a foreign language in primary school.

About 258 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 5

Task Response	Both views are discussed and an opinion is given, but ideas are general and the examples are thin. The opinion in the introduction is not clear.
Coherence and Cohesion	Clear paragraphs, but the linking is mechanical ('First', 'Second', 'But'). The introduction repeats the question.
Lexical Resource	Limited range and repetition ('children', 'learn', 'think'). Errors in word form ('more better').
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Mostly simple sentences, with frequent errors in agreement and word order.

Main errors and corrections

In the sample	Better
many people has different opinion	many people have different opinions
more better	better
other people thinks	other people think
Primary school children is too small	Primary school children are too young
there own language	their own language
two language	two languages
doesn't have	don't have
it have more advantages	it has more advantages
Now I have still a problem	Now I still have a problem
at age of ten	at the age of ten
I think it will be much easier	I think it would have been much easier

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PRACTICE TEST A · Task 2 (essay) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 6

These days many parents and teachers discuss whether children should begin to learn a foreign language at primary school or when they are older. In this essay I will look at both sides and explain why I think an early start is better.

On the one hand, some people believe that it is better to wait. Young children are still learning to read and write in their own language, and a second language may make this more difficult for them. Moreover, primary schools often do not have enough qualified language teachers, so the lessons are not always good.

On the other hand, there are several advantages of starting early. First of all, young children learn pronunciation more easily than adults, and they are usually not shy when they speak. In addition, if they start at six, they have more years to practise, so they can reach a higher level before they finish school. Learning a language can be also fun for small children because teachers use games and songs. For example, my young cousin sings English songs every day and already knows many words.

In my opinion, the advantages are bigger than the disadvantages. I started learning English when I was eleven, and I found grammar very difficult because I was not used to the sounds of the language. I think I would have been more confident if I had started earlier.

In conclusion, although there are some problems, I believe that children should start a foreign language at primary school, as long as the lessons are suitable for their age.

About 261 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 6

Task Response	Both views are discussed and the opinion is clear. Ideas are relevant but not fully developed, and the personal example is general.
Coherence and Cohesion	Clear organisation with a range of linkers ('On the one hand', 'Moreover', 'In addition'), though some are used mechanically.
Lexical Resource	Adequate range, with some repetition ('difficult', 'learn') and a few errors.
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A mix of simple and complex sentences. Errors are noticeable but rarely stop the reader.

Main errors and corrections

In the sample	Better
can be also fun	can also be fun
the advantages are bigger than the disadvantages	the advantages outweigh the disadvantages

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PRACTICE TEST A · Task 2 (essay) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 7

Opinions differ on whether children should begin a foreign language at primary school or wait until they are older. Although there are some valid concerns about starting early, I believe that the benefits are more significant.

Those who prefer a later start argue that young children have enough to learn already. They need to develop strong reading and writing skills in their first language, and an extra subject could leave them confused or overloaded. A further concern is quality: many primary schools lack trained language teachers, so pupils may learn very little.

Nevertheless, there are compelling reasons to begin early. Young children tend to imitate sounds accurately, which helps them to develop good pronunciation, and they are less afraid of making mistakes than teenagers. Starting early also gives them many more years of practice, so they are likely to reach a much higher level by the time they leave school. Moreover, lessons for this age group are usually based on games and songs, which keeps children motivated. A child who hears a second language regularly also tends to find the sounds of other languages easier to recognise later in life.

From my own experience, I only began studying English at the age of eleven, and I still find it difficult to sound natural. I am convinced that I would have progressed faster if I had started earlier.

In conclusion, I believe that primary school is the right time to begin a foreign language, as long as lessons are playful and taught by qualified teachers. Both concerns can be solved by good planning, whereas a late start cannot be undone.

About 269 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 7

Task Response	Both views are covered, the opinion is clear from the introduction to the end, and the ideas are supported well.
Coherence and Cohesion	Logical progression with a good range of linking ('Nevertheless', 'Moreover', 'whereas').
Lexical Resource	A good range, with some less common words ('compelling', 'overloaded'). A few over-used phrases.
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Frequent error-free sentences and a good range of structures.

Main errors and corrections

In the sample	Better
Both concerns can be solved by good planning	correct, but 'resolved' or 'overcome' is more natural

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PRACTICE TEST A · Task 2 (essay) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 8

Whether children should begin learning a foreign language at primary school or later is a question that divides parents and teachers. In my opinion, an early start is usually the better choice, although it must be done sensibly.

Those who support starting later argue that young children already have a great deal to learn. They need to become confident readers and writers in their own language first, and extra lessons may leave them tired or confused. Some people also point out that many primary schools cannot afford well-trained language teachers, so the lessons may be of poor quality.

However, there are strong reasons for starting early. Young children usually copy sounds easily, so they are more likely to develop a natural accent and to feel relaxed when speaking. They also have more time: a child who begins at six will have several more years of practice than one who begins at twelve. In addition, lessons at this age are often based on songs, games and stories, which makes learning enjoyable rather than stressful.

From my own experience, I remember learning my first English words through songs at the age of seven, and I never felt that it was a burden. Years later, this early contact made grammar lessons much easier to understand.

In conclusion, I believe that children benefit from starting a foreign language at primary school, provided that the lessons are short, playful and taught by qualified teachers. Learning in this way builds confidence and curiosity, and these are the qualities that help people to keep learning throughout their lives, whatever languages they choose to study later.

About 268 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 8

Task Response	Fully developed position with relevant reasons and a personal example, and a conclusion that adds a final thought.
Coherence and Cohesion	Skilful paragraphing and seamless progression.
Lexical Resource	Wide, natural and precise vocabulary.
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A wide range of structures, with rare errors.

This is the model answer for the task. Compare it with the Band 7 sample: the difference is mostly precision, naturalness and fewer errors, not longer sentences.

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PRACTICE TEST B · Task 1 (letter) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 5

Dear Marco,

I am very happy that you come to visit me next summer. I am so excited because we didn't see us for long time. I hope you will like my town and we will have a good time together.

In my town there is many places to visit. We can go to the castle and also there is a harbour, it is very beautiful place. We can go to the market and eat some food there. I think you will like it. Also we can go to the beach and swim if you like swimming.

About the weather, in July is very hot. Sometime it rain in the evening. You must to bring light clothes and a hat for the sun, and also some shoes for walk. Don't forget to bring your passport!

Please tell me when you arrive and I wait for you in the airport. I can't wait to see you and to speak about everything.

Best wishes,

Elena

About 158 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 5

Task Achievement	All three bullet points are covered, but with little detail. The informal tone is suitable. The places and the weather are only listed.
Coherence and Cohesion	Paragraphs match the bullet points, but ideas are joined only with 'and', 'also' and 'because'.
Lexical Resource	Simple, repeated vocabulary ('place', 'beautiful', 'go'). Some wrong word choices.
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Mostly simple sentences. Frequent errors in tenses, articles and prepositions.

Main errors and corrections

In the sample	Better
we didn't see us for long time	we haven't seen each other for a long time
there is many places	there are many places
it is very beautiful place	it is a very beautiful place
in July is very hot	in July it is very hot
Sometime it rain	Sometimes it rains
You must to bring	You must bring
shoes for walk	shoes for walking
I wait for you in the airport	I will wait for you at the airport

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PRACTICE TEST B · Task 1 (letter) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 6

Dear Marco,

I was really pleased to hear that you are coming to visit me next summer. We haven't seen each other for two years, so I am very excited about spending a whole week together.

There are lots of interesting places that we can visit. For example, we could go to the old castle, which has a great view of the sea, and walk around the harbour. On Saturday there is a big market where you can try local food. If you will like swimming, we can also go to the beach one day.

The weather in July is usually hot and sunny, but sometimes it rains in the evening. You should bring light clothes, sunglasses and a swimsuit. A jacket is also useful, and don't forget comfortable shoes because we will do a lot of walking.

Please send me your flight details soon so I can pick you up at the airport. I am looking forward to seeing you!

Best wishes,

Elena

About 159 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 6

Task Achievement	All three bullet points are covered clearly in a friendly tone. Some detail is given, but the ideas are not developed much.
Coherence and Cohesion	Clear paragraphs and a sensible order. Linking is basic ('so', 'but', 'because').
Lexical Resource	Adequate and mostly accurate; some repetition ('interesting', 'go').
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A mix of simple and complex sentences. A few errors, but the meaning is always clear.

Main errors and corrections

In the sample	Better
If you will like swimming	If you like swimming
we will do a lot of walking	natural, but 'we will be doing a lot of walking' is more fluent

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PRACTICE TEST B · Task 1 (letter) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 7

Dear Marco,

I was delighted to hear that you are coming to visit me next summer! It has been two years since we last met, so I am thrilled that we will finally spend a whole week together, and I cannot wait to show you around my town.

There is plenty to do here. In the mornings we could walk along the old harbour and climb up to the castle, which has stunning views over the sea. On Saturday there is a lively market where you can taste local food, and if you enjoy swimming, we could spend an afternoon at the beach.

As for the weather, July is usually hot and sunny, although it can rain suddenly in the evening. Please bring light clothes, a swimsuit and sunglasses, but pack a thin jacket and comfortable shoes as well, because we will be doing a lot of walking.

Let me know your flight times as soon as you can, and I will meet you at the airport. Take care, and see you soon!

Elena

About 171 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 7

Task Achievement	All bullet points are developed with specific, relevant detail (mornings, Saturday market, thin jacket). The tone is warm and consistent.
Coherence and Cohesion	Ideas flow logically, and linking is varied ('As for', 'although', 'but ... as well').
Lexical Resource	Good range with some natural informal phrases ('thrilled', 'show you around').
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A variety of structures and almost no errors.

Very few errors. The difference from Band 8 is mainly that the Band 8 letter is a little more natural and personal, for example 'It will be lovely to catch up properly'.

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PRACTICE TEST B · Task 1 (letter) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 8

Dear Marco,

It was great to hear that you are coming to visit me next summer! I am so happy that we will finally spend a whole week together, and I cannot wait to show you around my town.

There is plenty to do here. In the mornings we could walk along the old harbour and visit the castle, which has wonderful views over the sea. The market on Saturday is also worth seeing, and there are lots of small cafés where we can try the local food. If you like swimming, we can go to the beach one afternoon.

As for the weather, it is usually hot and sunny in July, but it can rain suddenly in the evening. Please bring light clothes, a swimsuit and sunglasses, but pack a thin jacket and comfortable shoes for walking as well.

Let me know your flight times as soon as you can, and I will meet you at the airport. It will be lovely to catch up properly after such a long time.

Write soon,

Elena

About 170 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 8

Task Achievement	All bullet points are fully developed, with precise facts and a clear request. The tone is formal throughout.
Coherence and Cohesion	Skilful paragraphing. Each paragraph has one purpose, and the information is in a natural order.
Lexical Resource	Wide range, natural and precise ('produces no sound', 'at your expense', 'faulty').
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A wide range of structures with almost no errors.

This is the model answer for the task. Compare it with the Band 7 sample: the difference is mostly precision, naturalness and fewer errors, not longer sentences.

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PRACTICE TEST B · Task 2 (essay) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 5

Nowadays many people works from home and it is becoming more popular. I think that the advantages is more than the disadvantages and I will explain why in this essay.

First advantage is that people save time and money. They don't need to go to the office every day so they don't spend money for the bus or petrol. Also they can sleep more in the morning and have more time for family. Second, many companies is happy because they don't need to pay for a big office and the workers can work more comfortable at home.

But there is also some disadvantages. Some people feels lonely when they work at home alone because they don't see there colleagues. Also it is difficult to work when children is at home or when you have television in the same room. Another problem is that the boss can not see what the workers are doing so some people don't work hard.

In my opinion, working from home have more advantages than disadvantages. I work at home two days in a week and I am more happy because I have more free time and I am less tired. However, I think it is better to go to the office some days to meet other people. My friend also works at home and she says that she is very happy and she does not want to go back to the office.

In conclusion, working from home have advantages and disadvantages but I think advantages is more important than disadvantages for most of people.

About 259 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 5

Task Response	The question is answered and the opinion is clear, but ideas are basic and the examples are general.
Coherence and Cohesion	Clear paragraphs, but mechanical linking ('First', 'Second', 'But'). The introduction repeats the question.
Lexical Resource	Limited range with a lot of repetition ('advantages', 'disadvantages', 'people'). Some word-form errors.
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Mostly simple sentences, with frequent errors in agreement and word order.

Main errors and corrections

In the sample	Better
many people works	many people work
the advantages is more than the disadvantages	the advantages outweigh the disadvantages
First advantage	The first advantage
many companies is happy	many companies are happy
work more comfortable	work more comfortably
there is also some disadvantages	there are also some disadvantages
Some people feels	Some people feel
see there colleagues	see their colleagues
children is at home	children are at home
working from home have	working from home has
I am more happy	I am happier
for most of people	for most people

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PRACTICE TEST B · Task 2 (essay) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 6

These days more and more employees work from home instead of going to an office. Although this has some disadvantages, I think that the advantages are greater.

The main advantage is that people save time and money. Workers do not have to travel every day, so they spend less on tickets or petrol and they have more time to relax or to be with their family. Companies also benefit because they do not need such big offices, and many managers say that their staff are more productive at home. For example, my brother used to spend an hour on the train every morning, but now he starts work as soon as he wakes up and finishes earlier.

However, there are also some disadvantages. Firstly, some people feel lonely when they do not see colleagues every day. Secondly, it can be difficult to concentrate at home, for example when there are children or a noisy neighbours. In addition, new employees may find it hard to learn their job if nobody is next to them.

In my opinion, these problems are not so serious. Many companies have online meetings, and some workers go to the office one or two days a week. I have worked at home for a year and I feel more relaxed, because I do not lose two hours in traffic every day. Companies can also organise meetings every week so that nobody feels alone.

To sum up, I believe that working from home is mostly positive, but people should keep contact with their colleagues.

About 256 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 6

Task Response	All parts of the question are addressed and the opinion is clear. Ideas are relevant but not fully developed.
Coherence and Cohesion	Clear organisation with a range of linking words ('However', 'Firstly', 'In addition').
Lexical Resource	Adequate range with some repetition ('difficult', 'people') and a few errors.
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A mix of simple and complex sentences. Errors are noticeable but rarely stop the reader.

Main errors and corrections

In the sample	Better
a noisy neighbours	noisy neighbours
keep contact with their colleagues	keep in contact with / stay in touch with their colleagues

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PRACTICE TEST B · Task 2 (essay) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 7

Remote working has become increasingly common in recent years. Although it has certain drawbacks, I believe that the benefits outweigh them, both for employees and for employers.

The most obvious advantage is the time and money saved on travel. A worker who spends two hours a day commuting can use that time to rest, exercise or be with family. Employers benefit too, since they need smaller offices and often find that staff are more productive without constant interruptions. Furthermore, companies can recruit talented people who live far from the workplace. A parent, for example, can start work earlier and still finish in time to collect the children from school.

On the other hand, working from home is not without problems. Some people feel isolated without daily contact with colleagues, and it can be hard to separate work from private life when the office is also the living room. In addition, newcomers may find it difficult to learn from more experienced colleagues, and creative ideas often come from informal conversations that are harder to have online.

Nevertheless, most of these problems can be reduced. Many firms arrange regular video meetings, and employees can choose to spend a few days a week in the office. A fixed daily routine and a separate working space also help people to switch off. This mixed approach combines flexibility with the human contact that most people need.

In conclusion, I believe that the benefits of home working, particularly the savings in time and money, outweigh the drawbacks, provided that staff stay in regular contact.

About 258 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 7

Task Response	Both sides are covered, the position is clear from the first paragraph and the ideas are well supported.
Coherence and Cohesion	Logical progression with a good range of linking ('Furthermore', 'On the other hand', 'Nevertheless').
Lexical Resource	Good range with some less common words ('drawbacks', 'commuting', 'switch off').
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	Frequent error-free sentences and a good range of structures.

Very few errors. The difference from Band 8 is mostly precision and naturalness, and the lack of a personal example.

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PRACTICE TEST B · Task 2 (essay) · SAMPLE ANSWER · BAND 8

More and more employees now do their jobs from home, and this trend has grown quickly in recent years. Although working from home has some drawbacks, I believe that the advantages are greater, for both workers and employers.

The most obvious benefit is the time and money that people save by not travelling. A worker who spends two hours a day on buses or trains can use that time to rest, exercise or be with family. Employers also gain, because they need smaller offices and often find that staff are more productive when they can work without interruptions. In addition, home working allows companies to hire talented people who live far away.

On the other hand, there are real disadvantages. Some people feel lonely when they no longer meet colleagues every day, and it can be hard to separate work from private life when the office is also the living room. New employees may find it difficult to learn from others, and creative ideas often come from informal conversations that are harder to have online.

Nevertheless, most of these problems can be reduced. Companies can arrange regular meetings, and many workers choose to spend two or three days a week in the office. Employees can also create a separate working space and fixed working hours at home.

In conclusion, I think that the benefits of working from home, especially the savings in time and money and the greater flexibility, outweigh the disadvantages, provided that people stay in regular contact with their colleagues and keep a clear line between work and rest.

About 261 words in the body of the text.

Why this is around Band 8

Task Response	Fully developed position with relevant reasons and a personal example, and a conclusion that adds a final thought.
Coherence and Cohesion	Skilful paragraphing and seamless progression.
Lexical Resource	Wide, natural and precise vocabulary.
Grammatical Range and Accuracy	A wide range of structures, with rare errors.

This is the model answer for the task. Compare it with the Band 7 sample: the difference is mostly precision, naturalness and fewer errors, not longer sentences.

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