

IELTS™

IELTS USA

Sample Academic Writing Test



Practice Test

IELTS USA

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Los Angeles, CA 90041

**Academic Writing****1 Hour****INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.

Write your name and candidate number in the spaces at the top of this page.

Read the instructions for each task carefully.

Answer both of the tasks.

Write at least 150 words for Task 1.

Write at least 250 words for Task 2.

Write your answers in the answer booklet.

Write clearly in pen or pencil. You may make alterations, but make sure your work is easy to read.

At the end of the test, hand in both this question paper and your answer booklet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

There are two tasks on this question paper.

Task 2 contributes twice as much as Task 1 to the Writing score.

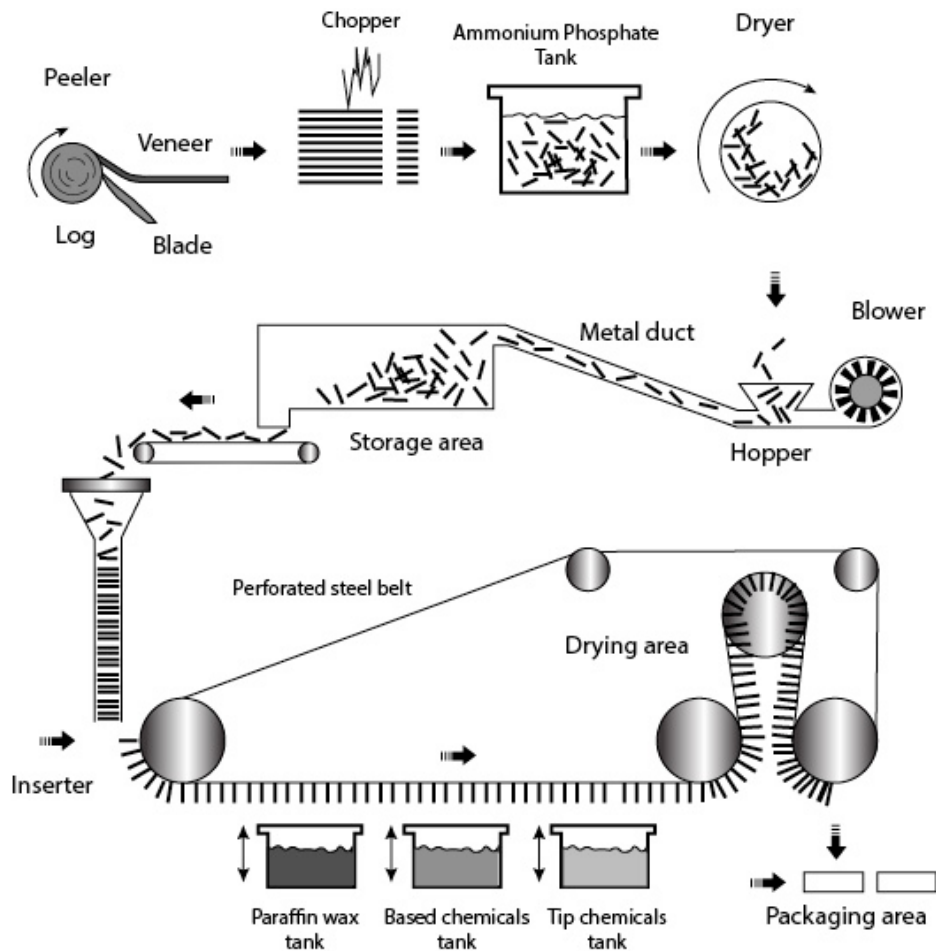


WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The diagram below shows the stages and equipment used in the process of making matches. Summarize the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Making matches



Write at least 150 words.



WRITING TASK 1

MODEL RESPONSE

The diagram shows that the process of manufacturing matches has several stages. The matchsticks are first cut, prepared, dried and moved to a storage area. After that, they are dipped into several chemicals and dried before being packaged.

In the first phase, a log of wood is placed in a peeler and rotated, while a flat blade peels a long, thin sheet of wood, called veneer, from the outer surface of the log. The veneer proceeds to the chopper, which cuts it into small sticks. These are then soaked in a vat of ammonium phosphate. Afterwards, they are placed in a large, rotating drum. From there, the matches are dumped into a hopper and blown through a metal duct to the storage area.

In the next stage, the sticks are moved from the storage area and they fall into a funnel-shaped device which lines them up to be inserted into holes on a long, continuous, perforated steel belt. As the belt moves along, the tips of the matches are dipped in a series of three tanks holding firstly paraffin wax, then base chemicals and finally tip chemicals. Next, the belt loops up and down through a drying area. In the final step of the process, the matches are packaged.

205 words

MODEL RESPONSE FEEDBACK

IELTS examiners rate the IELTS Writing Task 1 using 4 assessment criteria - Task Achievement, Coherence and Cohesion, Lexical Resource and Grammatical Range and Accuracy. Below you'll find feedback on this sample model response.

1. **Task Achievement:** What are the main stages of making matches? Is there a summary of these stages anywhere in the response?

The first paragraph gives a general summary of the stages, which are then described in detail in the next two paragraphs.

2. **Coherence and Cohesion:** Is the response easy to follow because of paragraphing and cohesive devices?

There are three paragraphs here, the second two introduced by clear transitions: "In the first phase", "In the next stage".

The paragraphs correspond to the main stages presented in the diagram and there are a variety of transitions within the paragraphs. "These" "Afterwards, they" "From there",

The response is easy to follow.

3. **Lexical Resource:** Is there a variety of vocabulary, some from the prompt, but other vocabulary not from the prompt? Are words spelled correctly and used correctly?

Words from the prompt are integrated well into the response and there are no spelling errors. Some words not from the prompt: "manufacturing", "matchsticks", "first phase", "vat".

Vocabulary is used with precision and there is a wide range.

4. **Grammatical Range and Accuracy:** Are there a variety of sentence structures and are they accurate? Is punctuation accurate? "The matches are first cut", "...proceeds to the chopper, which cuts it...", "the sticks are moved..."

There are a variety of sentence structures, and there are no errors. Punctuation is accurate.



WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Lack of fresh water is becoming a global issue of increasing importance.

What problems does this shortage cause?

What measures could be taken to overcome these problems?

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

Write at least 250 words.



WRITING TASK 2

MODEL RESPONSE

Water scarcity is becoming a significant global problem with far-reaching effects. Long-term solutions require extensive government intervention in programmes, including research and climate mitigation measures, but individuals also need to become aware of the need for water conservation.

A major problem for all countries is the huge amount of water necessary for agriculture and industry. When there is insufficient water, crops fail, animals die and people go hungry. Without an adequate water supply, manufacturers, food producers, mining operations and businesses cannot succeed. Ultimately, water is the key to economic prosperity.

Water shortages create particular difficulties in developing countries. Firstly, many women and children in these countries have to spend the whole day walking to and from a remote water source to fetch water. Consequently, these children miss school and often do not receive an adequate education. Secondly, the water that is available for daily use may be contaminated, and this can lead to illness and even death.

One of the most important long-term solutions to this problem is to work towards reducing global warming and climate change, as dry regions are becoming drier across the planet. Additionally, pollution of waterways needs to be addressed, as we take steps to clean up our existing supplies of this precious resource. Many old-fashioned irrigation schemes are generally very wasteful, so funds need to be available for research into water conservation and new irrigation technologies. These technologies could then be transferred to developing nations. At an individual level, we need to become aware of wasteful water-use habits, such as watering lawns in the summer, or pouring our grey water down the drain. In conclusion, the inadequate supply of fresh water is one of the most crucial environmental problems facing our planet, and we need to work to preserve this precious resource.

297 words



MODEL RESPONSE FEEDBACK

IELTS examiners rate the IELTS Writing Task 1 using 4 assessment criteria - Task Response, Coherence and Cohesion, Lexical Resource and Grammatical Range and Accuracy. Below you'll find feedback on this sample model response.

1. **Task Response:** Are all parts of the prompt addressed, a position taken and supported and is the response in an essay format?

All parts of the prompt are addressed and appropriate examples given. Problems described in the second paragraph are related to economic prosperity in general, while in the third paragraph the problems described are related more directly to developing countries.

Solutions are suggested in the third paragraph and a succinct conclusion is given at the end.

This is in an appropriate essay format.

2. **Coherence and Cohesion:** Is the response easy to follow because of appropriate paragraphing, range and accuracy of cohesive devices, and referencing?

There are five paragraphs here. The first serves as an introduction, the second, third, and fourth as body paragraphs, and the last as a conclusion.

The introduction presents the idea of water scarcity, effects, and the idea of long-term solutions requiring both government and individual action. Each body paragraph is well-organized and ideas can easily be followed. The second paragraph begins, "A major problem", then "When there is insufficient water", then "Without an adequate water supply", then "Ultimately..."

The fourth paragraph, which covers solutions is easy to follow. "One of the most important ...", "Additionally", "as we take steps...", "These technologies could then...", "At an individual level..."

Both overall organization of paragraphs and internal organization is clear and a range of discourse markers is used accurately.

3. **Lexical Resource:** How wide a range of vocabulary is used and how accurate is usage and spelling? There is a wide range of vocabulary here with no error. Less common items are used quite skillfully.

Examples: "Water scarcity", "far-reaching effects", "extensive government intervention", "climate mitigation".

4. **Grammatical Range and Accuracy:** How wide is the range of grammatical structures and how frequent are errors? Is punctuation accurate?

There is a wide range of grammatical structures here with no error. Punctuation is accurate.

Examples: "Long-term solutions require extensive government intervention in programmes, including research and climate mitigation measures, but individuals also need to become aware of the need for water conservation.", "...spend the whole day walking to and from a remote water source to fetch water.", "...the water that is available for daily use may be contaminated, and this can lead to illness and even death."