

IELTS™

IELTS USA

Sample General Training Writing Test



Practice Test

IELTS USA

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**General Training 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.

Write at least 150 words.

You have seen a job advertised in the newspaper. You want to apply for the job.

Write a letter to the manager of the company. In your letter

- **provide information about yourself**
- **give details of your previous work experience**
- **say why the company should consider you for the job**

You do NOT need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear ...,

**WRITING TASK 1****MODEL RESPONSE**

Dear Sir or Madam,

I would like to apply for the position of office administrator that was advertised in The Times newspaper on Wednesday 8th August. I have over ten years' office experience. I have recently moved here from England to be closer to my parents and I am looking for a chance to further develop my career in this country.

My previous experience includes five years with ABC Company in their head office, and another five years at the main branch of Sigma Securities where I was responsible for the day-to-day activities related to financial planning, billing and recordkeeping. At ABC Company, I was involved in personnel recruitment, as part of the human resources team, and I had overall responsibility for physical distribution and logistics. My Curriculum Vitae and application form are attached.

One of my main strengths is flexibility, and this is a key asset in a rapidly changing work environment. I have good communication skills, and enjoy sharing ideas and cooperating as part of a dynamic team. I am a reliable and hardworking team player and I feel I would be an asset to your workplace.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours faithfully,

193 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:** Is the response in a letter format and does it address all three of the bullet points in the prompt?

The response is in a letter format, including "Dear Sir or Madam" at the beginning and an appropriate closing, "Yours faithfully."

The first paragraph addresses the first bullet point, giving information about the writer and why he is applying for the job. The second paragraph addresses the second bullet point, giving details about previous work experience, and the third tells why the company should consider the person for the job. All three points are covered with details given.

2. **Coherence and Cohesion:** Is information arranged logically and is it easy to follow? Are cohesive devices and paragraphing used well?

There are three paragraphs, each of which addresses a bullet point. The bullet points are addressed in order and there is a wide range of cohesive devices, including referencing; "another five years", "where I was responsible for", "One of my main strengths is flexibility and this is a key asset".

3. **Lexical Resource:** How wide is the range of vocabulary used and are there spelling errors?

There is a wide range of vocabulary here with no error. There is precise usage of less common vocabulary. "to further develop my career", "main strengths is flexibility", "a rapidly changing work environment".

4. **Grammatical Range and Accuracy:** How wide is the range of sentence structures and how much error is there? Is punctuation accurate?

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

"the position of office administrator that was advertised...", "Sigma Securities where I was responsible for the day-to-day activities related to."



WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Some film companies spend millions of dollars on the production of a single movie.

Is it necessary to spend a lot of money to make a good movie?

What factors contribute to the success of a movie?

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

Hollywood blockbusters are successful, big-budget productions, but it is possible to make good movies on a shoestring budget and they can be profitable as well. I believe most successful films have certain elements in common.

Firstly, for a film to be a commercial success, it needs to engage the audience; in other words, it has to connect with their fears, aspirations or beliefs in some way. Secondly, the storyline should involve a conflict or search entailing a certain amount of risk for the central character and it needs to move forward with the idea of eventual triumph or escape from danger. In general, the protagonist must be either an exceptional person or an ordinary person in unusual circumstances. Think of Forrest Gump, for instance.

If famous actors take the key roles, fans will watch the movie just to see them in action; however, cinematography is important, too, and with today's technology, amazing imagery is possible. With aggressive advertising and extensive publicity, especially an award or an Oscar nomination, the film is sure to be a hit. Nevertheless, even if all the above criteria are fulfilled, there is no absolute guarantee of success.

Movies made with minimal financial backing can be both critically and commercially successful, for example *The Blair Witch Project*. Because there are fewer high-cost special effects to distract the audience, an intriguing story and well-written characters are essential. A limited number of characters and settings keep costs down, but the script really does need to be thrilling. In fact, the most successful genre for micro-budget films is horror or horror-thriller. Star-power is not necessary in this case because people come to be scared and thrilled rather than to watch a celebrity. Expensive camera equipment is not crucial but good sound and production design – sourcing good quality props and materials and a good location – are very important.

In summary, independent filmmakers can make low-cost but critically acclaimed films if the plot and characterization are exceptional. Nevertheless, major film studios often rely on star power and special effects to achieve commercial success and this recipe has more often than not led to acclaim within the industry and financial rewards.

358 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 fully, a clear position taken, and is the response in an essay format?

The response begins with the statement of the author's position. "Hollywood blockbusters are successful, big-budget productions, but it is possible to make good movies on a shoestring budget and they can be profitable as well."

What follows are two paragraphs describing the factors that make a movie successful: engaging the audience, a good storyline involving conflict, an exceptional protagonist, famous actors, cinematography, advertising and publicity.

The fourth paragraph addresses how successful movies can be made with minimal financial backing. The last paragraph is a conclusion, which restates the position in the introduction that it is possible to make successful films on a limited budget, but often expensive stars and special effects are used to ensure a successful film.

All parts of the prompt are addressed, specific examples given for support, a clear position is taken, and an essay format is used.

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

There are five paragraphs here. The first is an introduction, followed by three body paragraphs. The first two paragraphs describe the factors that make a film successful, while the third paragraph describes how a film can be made on a minimal budget. The response ends with a conclusion, which re-states the author's position.

The overall progression of paragraphs is clear and there is a range of discourse markers used. "Firstly", "in other words, it...", "In general".

Organization is logical, paragraphing is used skillfully, and a wide range of discourse markers, including reference and substitution are used within and between paragraphs.

3. **Lexical Resource:** There is a wide range of vocabulary here with no error. Less common items are used quite skillfully.

Examples: "Hollywood blockbusters", "big-budget productions", "a shoestring budget".

4. **Grammatical Range and Accuracy:** There are a wide range of grammatical structures that are used accurately. There are no errors and punctuation is accurate.

Examples: "Firstly, for a film to be a commercial success, it needs to engage the audience; in other words, it has to connect with their fears, aspirations or beliefs in some way.", "...the storyline should involve a conflict...", "...the protagonist must be either an exceptional person or...".