

# IELTS Academic Writing Sample Tasks

The IELTS Academic Writing test includes a variety of tasks.

In Task 1, test takers are asked to describe some visual information (graph/table/chart/diagram) in their own words. They need to write 150 words in about 20 minutes.

In Task 2, they respond to a point of view or argument or problem. They need to write 250 words in about 40 minutes.

Read the details of each task type on our <u>Test format page</u>.





# Contents

| Academic Writing Sample Task – 1A | 3 |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Academic Writing Sample Task – 1B | 4 |
| Academic Writing Sample Task – 1C | 5 |
| Academic Writing Sample Task – 2A | 6 |
| Academic Writing Sample Task – 2B | 7 |

# Academic Writing Sample Task - 1A

## WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below shows the number of men and women in further education in Britain in three periods and whether they were studying full-time or part-time.

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

Write at least 150 words.



# Academic Writing Sample Task - 1B

# WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The graph below shows radio and television audiences throughout the day in 1992.

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

Write at least 150 words.

# Radio and television audiences in UK, October – December 1992



# Academic Writing Sample Task - 1C

# WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The diagram below shows the process by which bricks are manufactured for the building industry.

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

Write at least 150 words.



Brick Manufacturing

\*Clay: type of sticky earth that is used for making bricks, pots, etc.

# Academic Writing Sample Task - 2A

### WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

Children who are brought up in families that do not have large amounts of money are better prepared to deal with the problems of adult life than children brought up by wealthy parents.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

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

Write at least 250 words.

# Academic Writing Sample Task - 2B

### WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

International tourism has brought enormous benefit to many places. At the same time, there is concern about its impact on local inhabitants and the environment.

Do the disadvantages of international tourism outweigh the advantages?

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

Write at least 250 words.

# Sample Candidate Writing Scripts and Examiner Comments

Both the Academic and General Training Writing Modules consist of two tasks, Task 1 and Task 2. Each task is assessed independently. The assessment of Task 2 carries more weight in marking than Task 1.

Detailed performance descriptors have been developed which describe written performance at the 9 IELTS bands. These descriptors apply to both the Academic and General Training Modules.

Task 1 responses are assessed on the following criteria:

- Task Achievement
- Coherence and Cohesion
- Lexical Resource
- · Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Task 2 responses are assessed on the following criteria:

- Task Response
- · Coherence and Cohesion
- · Lexical Resource
- · Grammatical Range and Accuracy

Candidates should note that responses will be penalised if they are a) partly or wholly plagiarised, b) not written as full, connected text (e.g. using bullet points in any part of the response, or note form, is not appropriate).

#### Task 1

#### Task Achievement

This criterion assesses how fully, appropriately, accurately and relevantly the response fulfils the requirements set out in the task, using the minimum of 150 words.

Task 1 Academic is a writing task which has a defined input and a largely predictable output. It is basically an information-transfer task, which relates narrowly to the factual content of a diagram, graph, table, chart, map or other visual input, not to speculative explanations that lie outside the given data.

#### Coherence and Cohesion

This criterion is concerned with the overall organisation and logical development of the message: how the response organises and links information, ideas and language. Coherence refers to the linking of ideas through logical sequencing, while cohesion refers to the varied and appropriate use of cohesive devices (e.g. logical connectors, conjunctions and pronouns) to assist in making clear the relationships between and within sentences.

#### Lexical Resource

This criterion refers to the range of vocabulary the candidate has used and the accuracy and appropriacy of that use in terms of the specific task.

#### Grammatical Range and Accuracy

This criterion refers to the range and accurate use of the candidate's grammatical resource within the candidate's writing at sentence level.

#### Task 2

#### Task Response

Both the Academic and General Training Writing Task 2 require the candidates to formulate and develop a position in relation to a given prompt in the form of a question or statement, using a minimum of 250 words. Ideas should be supported by evidence, and examples may be drawn from a candidate's own experience.

The other criteria for Task 2 are the same as for Task 1 (*Coherence and Cohesion, Lexical Resource, Grammatical Range and Accuracy*).

Writing responses are marked by trained and certificated IELTS examiners. Scores may be reported as whole bands or half-bands.

On the next 17 pages you will find candidates' answers to five sample Writing tasks. There are answers for each Writing task. Each answer has been awarded a band score and is accompanied by an examiner comment on the candidate's performance for that task.

The examiners' guidelines for marking the Writing scripts are very detailed. There are many different ways a candidate may achieve a particular band score. The candidates' answers that follow should not be regarded as definitive examples of any particular band score.

Please refer to the publicly available IELTS Writing Key Criteria on our website.

# Academic Writing Sample Task – 1A – Sample Script A

This is a bar chart of the number of men and women in further education In 1970, Most of Men were studying cart-time in Britain in three periods. but from 1980, Studying part-time was decreased studying in 1970. in 1990 twice as many students as was increased it was and Women studying Full-time were On the other hand Increr nart-time also were not only -time In 1970 inas three times as many Studying as you see 1 Women ull-time or part studying more than women Women part-time more were studying from 1980 900 same number than Men and full-time WAS Studying education now Women has D high It shows YOU

### Examiner comment

#### Band 5

There is a good attempt to describe the overall trends but the content would have been greatly improved if the candidate had included some reference to the figures given on the graph. Without these, the reader is lacking some important information. The answer is quite difficult to follow and there are some punctuation errors that cause confusion. The structures are fairly simple and efforts to produce more complex sentences are not successful.

Academic Writing Sample Task – 1A – Sample Script B

lanther 1. the graph, the number of mon and woman According Ttern 850 1000 The proportion period From thousands In 1970 raie 1990 00 6 aurp 1980/81 and 990/01

#### **Examiner comment**

### Band 6

The candidate has made a good attempt to describe the graphs looking at global trends and more detailed figures. There is, however, some information missing and the information is inaccurate in minor areas. The answer flows quite smoothly although connectives are overused or inappropriate, and some of the points do not link up well. The grammatical accuracy is quite good and the language used to describe the trends is well-handled. However, there are problems with expression and the appropriate choice of words and whilst there is good structural control, the complexity and variation in the sentences are limited.

Academic Writing Sample Task – 1B – Sample Script A

gruph shows The pacentage of undiences over 4ysold thoughout lows valia ober - Dee the 1992 8:0 00 00 18 a anu 10. CO Y 89 0 .00 nen Th 4-80 2

#### **Examiner comment**

#### Band 6

The answer has an appropriate introduction which the candidate has attempted to express in their own words. There is good coverage of the data and a brief reference to contrasting trends. The answer can be followed although it is rather repetitive and cohesive devices are overused. In order to gain a higher mark for content, the candidate would be expected to summarise the most important features of the graph in an overview, for example, 'audiences for radio peak in the morning, and for TV, in the evening'. There is some flexibility and precision in the range of vocabulary used. Sentences are long but do lack complexity. To score more highly there would be fewer errors in tense, verb form and spelling which interfere slightly with the flow of the answer.

# Academic Writing Sample Task – 1B – Sample Script B

graph shows the felevision audiences throughout The bold that the shows the percentage early omorning 8:00 am and percent at There the mandams Same 100 200 slight percentage In 14 nises chann next two hows 5 mises very att ORak Jast and about Orly ills down oo an graph Unl the radio percentage One about 30 percent 8:00 which am it 15 and connospond two evision. one pm with incuase Small percentage of 4:30 00 14 Lour Am down These delevision progr

#### **Examiner comment**

#### Band 7

The answer deals well with both the individual media trends and the overall comparison of these trends. The opening could be more fully developed with the inclusion of information relating to the groups studied and the period of time during which the study took place. There is a good variety of cohesive devices and the message can be followed quite easily although the expression is sometimes a little clumsy. Structures are complex and vocabulary is varied but there are errors in word forms, tense and voice though these do not impede communication.

# Academic Writing Sample Task – 1C – Sample Script A

Bricks are small shaped figures which are used for building.

digger dig the ground untill the Clau level Next the type of sticus earth used for making brices are did bits bits loten wit no of clay and threw them macial parts selected the coller. Johen in the manufacturing no sand + usaler are filled in. The sand aives texture for bricks. After that the solid usive cutter ready to go through 06 makers shapes of the process This inuxes had be got their shape the When drying in the End De avo 24-48 stanod 00 hours. The tempret 9800 moderale between 200°C and between 870° high and GOC 90 JIRODUE these the 00 items 4 cold From and nours the manu and aging consum

### **Examiner comment**

### Band 5

Although the basic process is accurately described, this script fails to present an overview and some of the key features are not adequately covered. The first sentence may have been an attempt at an overview but it simply causes confusion and detracts from the answer. Despite this, the overall progression is clear and there is effective, though mechanical, use of linkers and sequencers. There are also examples of substitution and referencing, although sentences are not always well linked. The vocabulary is minimally adequate for the task. Spelling is generally accurate but there are inappropriate word choices, omissions and errors in word form. Some attempts at subordination and complex nominalisations are made, but generally the structures are limited and there are frequent errors. Overall this is a good example of a Band 5 performance.

# Academic Writing Sample Task – 1C – Sample Script B

Pear Sire, I am writing a report about brick monufacturing. The Following on as follows Brick monufacturing storts with choosing good quality day. A large digger similar to a crane digs the clay. The process takes about half a day after which it is put on metal grid to separate unwanted silt and impurifies. The strained clay is then put in a large machine roller where it is mixed with sand and water to be moulded lake to Form the base of the brick. While it is still soft, wire cutters are used to perfectly but the bricks, removing the rough edges. The soft, bricks are then put in a drying oven where it stays From 24 - 48 hours. After the pre-set drying time, the bricks are then put in large kilns where it is baked at moderate heat of about 200 - 980°C. The bruke on first put in modulate heat to avoid cracking, After about few mininks, the bricke on then fired to a high 870- 1,300° heat. This is the Final heating or cooking stage so to speak for the bricks . Just buide the Kiln is the cooling chamber which is made up of large steel where the bricks will stay For about 48-72 hours. The brick Are then ready For packaging where the brick Warkers carefully pack the bricks In large contained vans for deluwy. The whole process is Fankly an easy one because there are no Diphisticated machines used. The only thing that bothered me was during the heating process because as the manager told me, I have to stay and observe while the clay is being 'cooked' because some of the days do tend to crack easily because of the wrong sand and water mixture From the start IF this happen, the process has to be repeated again which can be guite lengthy

### **Examiner comment**

#### Band 7

This test taker uses an inappropriate format at times (e.g. the letter-style opening and personal comments) and this limits the band for Task Achievement. The process itself is adequately described, although some irrelevant information is included and there is no clear overview. Information is logically organised and there is a clear progression throughout the response. A range of cohesive devices is used appropriately, although there are occasional errors in referencing and linking, and paragraphing would have helped convey a clearer description of the stages. A wide range of sophisticated lexis is used to convey meaning with precision, but there are also occasional flaws in word choice that lead to some slightly awkward expressions. A wide range of structures is also used fluently with only occasional slight error and the majority of sentences are error-free. In spite of the high level of language proficiency, the flaws in format and organisation limit the rating for this response to Band 7.

# Academic Writing Sample Task – 1C – Sample Script C

Brick Monifacturing The process by which bricks are manufactured for the building industry can be outlined to in seven consecutive steps. First the row material, day, which his just below the surface of soil in certain clay-rich areas has to be dua, up by a digger. Then the limps of day are placed on a metal gride, in order to break up the big pice churchs of clay into much smaller ones, which fall through the metal and onto a roller, whose motion further segregates the bits of day. Sord and water are added to make a homogenous mixture, which is then after primed in moulds or cut into brick-shaped pieces by means of whe cutter. Those fresh brides are then hept in a daying over for at least 24 and a maximum of 48 hours, several dozens if not hundreds of bricks at a time. The dried bricks are then transferred to a so-called kill another type of high temperature over. First they are kept at a moderate temperature of 200°C - 980°C, then at a high temperature of 870°C - 1300°C. This process is followed by cooling down the finished brides for 48 to 72 hours in a cooling chamber. Once the bricks have bee cooled down and have become hard they get packaged and findly delivered to their final destination, by men for example by means of trades be it a building site or storage.

# **Examiner comment**

### Band 8.5

This response fully satisfies the requirements of the task. All key features of each stage of the process are appropriately and accurately presented. There is an overview in the first paragraph indicating that there are 'seven consecutive steps' however for the highest score, a fuller overview would be needed, to summarise those key stages, for example; extracting the clay, then shaping, drying and delivering the bricks. The message is very easy to read with seamless cohesion. Paragraphing, linking and referencing are all skilfully managed. The language used is very fluent and sophisticated. A wide range of vocabulary and structures are used with full flexibility and accuracy within the scope of this task. Only rare minor errors can be found and these do not detract from communication or the high rating. This item is a good example of a very high-level response.

# Academic Writing Sample Task – 2A – Sample Script A

I disagree that point about children brought up in families. because. I show that situation arounds me at our country porents. They want they had everything give to their children. but, their behavior is not good effect to them On the other hands, children brought up by wealthy parents. they are strong, that means they can do prepare to deal with the problems of adult life In my case, I start work from 20 ages I had social experience and I got a money for myself. however, My age is late to work by children ages and I heard about child doing work by another countries that countries had a culture about childrens That is they doing work for their packetmoney. they could their money buy something or entrance to the bank also, our country children's do this, but, many children's accept the money by their porents. Which persons got a pocketmoney over the 20 ages think, if children's had a work and they study at money. they perfectly prepared their adult life after they must be parents.

### **Examiner comment**

### Band 4

While it is obviously related to the topic, the introduction is confusing and the test taker's position is difficult to identify. Ideas are limited and although the test taker attempts to support them with examples from experience, they remain unclear. There is no overall progression in the response and the ideas are not coherently linked. Although cohesive devices are used, they assist only minimally in achieving coherence. The range of vocabulary is basic and control is inadequate for the task. Language from the input material is used inappropriately and frequent errors in word choice and collocation cause severe problems for the reader. Similarly, the range of structures is very limited, the density of grammatical and punctuation error is high and these features cause some difficulty for the reader. Attempts to use complex structures, such as subordination, are rare and tend to be very inaccurate.

# Academic Writing Sample Task – 2A – Sample Script B

I greatly support the idea about Children who are brought up in Families that do not have tage amounts of money are better prepared to deal with the problems of adult life than children brought up by weaking prevents. I support it , because of the following heaton -

Children who are brought up in funnilies that do not have large announts of monoy are trice in a centain psychological values. Such as the value of hardworking, dicipline, they are used to be in the condition where money doesn't come easily They have to earn it, work for it. Oppose to it, a child who comes from a wealthy family is used to have money all the time. where ever they wanted something, the money is teacily gave to them as a if everyday are their birthday.

Children who are brought up in pannines that do not have large announds of movey are well trained to face adulthad. They are well-propared to see the fact that the world is a very tough place. They watched their parent everyday worked very hard Just to put the food on the table. They have the advantage to see the reality and embrace it, set their mind that they too have work hard for their puture, their own dreams, their authentic self. A child that came from a wealthy family doesn't always have this advantage. This is because their eyer are bladed by the power of money, that their parent has They also have a dicadvantage of a family love life. Commonly

| wealthy parents express love by money. They love                        |
|---|
| their children, so they bought them cars, expensive                     |
| Clother, tour, but they are never home when their                       |
| children needs them. The basic necessity of comparision                 |
| isn't pulpilled in this kind of pamily. The impact to a child           |
| is that they will grow up and think that money is                       |
| everything, that the source of happiness is money. They don 4           |
| care about other people, they only care about money. The problem is     |
| they don't know how to get it, they we been spoiled all the time, so    |
| doesn't have the time to discovered the art of money making,            |
| only money spending. On the contrary children from families that do not |
| have large amount of money will grow up with the cense of respectfor    |
| money, they know how to get it and use it well. They know               |
| how to take adult life problems because they've been watching           |
| since they were achild. But a wealthy child is always to busy           |
| with himself to know that.  |

### **Examiner comment**

### Band 6.5

The arguments in this response are generally well developed, ideas are appropriate and there is a clear position. (It is a shame that the first paragraph, and beginning of the second are mainly copied from the rubric.) Better use of paragraphing would have allowed a clearer focus to some of the supporting points and prevented the lapse into generalisation towards the end. Nevertheless, there is a generally clear progression with a good arrangement of opposing arguments. Referencing is usually accurate and effective, but better use of linkers would have improved the cohesion. Vocabulary is varied and used with some flexibility. The choice is not always precise but the test taker can evidently incorporate less common/idiomatic phrases into the argument and there is a good range that is generally accurate. The repetition of language from the rubric, while integrated, reveals a lack of ability to paraphrase. Regular errors detract from the use of a range of structures, although they do not detract from overall clarity. This is a generally good response to the task, but the weaknesses in organisation and grammatical control limit the rating to Band 6.5.

# Academic Writing Sample Task – 2A – Sample Script C

I do agree to the statement that children brought up in poor families are better prepared to deal with the problems of adult life than children brought up in by wealthy parents.

Children of poor parents are prevaturely exposed to the problems of adult life eg. carring a tiving learning to survive on a low family income a sociation luxuries for essential items. These children begin to see the 'realities' of life in their home or social environment. Their parents own struggles serve as an example to them.

These children are taught necessary skills for surrival as an adult from a very early age. Many children eg work in the weekcends or holidays to either collect some pocket maney or even commune to their families' income. A good example is the many children who accompany their parents to sell produce at the market. They are making a direct contribution to their families in terms of labor or income.

Children of poor families also are highly mot high goals to improve their, situal to tend lheu set Mr Bill be Gates ( relevant example would had Corporation) He Microsof đ an im novensh his he used talent motiva background but and the to largest set worlds Computer organisation UD there are that some problems However. do encamter. backgrounds Ø Manu man 000r of their robbed' Children who are child hood They cheated. feel otten working 6 May Ihis 松 however, Small 15 9 group UD, childreen with impovenshed summing backarounds deal with ane orobleus are do or life đ because exposure. tamily role early adu models sheer and motivation.

### **Examiner comment**

### Band 8.5

The topic is very well addressed and explored in depth. The position is clear throughout and directly answers the question. The ideas presented are relevant and very well supported, apart from some over-generalisation in the penultimate paragraph. However, there is no mention of how well children from 'wealthy parents' deal with problems. Although this is not a requirement, it could be added to further improve the response. The ideas and information are very well organised and paragraphing is used appropriately throughout. The answer can be read with ease due to the sophisticated handling of cohesive devices, with only minimal lapses (for example, the use of 'e.g.'). The writer uses a wide and very natural range of vocabulary with full flexibility. There are many examples of appropriate modification, collocation and precise vocabulary choice. Syntax is equally varied and sophisticated. There are only occasional errors in an otherwise very accurate answer. Overall this is a very strong performance and a good example of Band 8.5.

# Academic Writing Sample Task – 2B – Sample Script A

International tourism has brought enormous benefit to many places. At the same time there is concern about it's impaction on local inhabitants and the environment Do the disadvantages of international tourism outweight the advantages. In my opinion advantages outweight the disadvientepes. like Egypt or Tailoud live from Firstly, many wuntries hots of people work there as a selfomens or tourist quids countries without support of tourists usuldn't be able to fumotor properly Secondly, in countries visited by tourists are plenty where just com t ienimals or pleuts Another thimp is that people like treveling and seeing new Toloces. They like we on the beach or swim in ocean. But on the Furthemore, tourism is now more prou industry highening tousands of people. There are makeing new places to work and to have But on the other hand, people often forget that they avou't the only beings on the plenet lining parbape just anywhere. Some Many tourists or illepal tor of them went en exotie suvenir so they pay things like deddtaminals or some sculpcure thimk inter national 10 sum up J traveling is a good thing but people must realise there is something else besides them They need to know Reple have that flore and forma meeds to be protected to enjoy their halidays but alsow but protect environment

### **Examiner comment**

### Band 5.5

The first five lines of this response are directly copied rubric; no credit is given for copied rubric. The topic is addressed and a relevant position is expressed, although there are patches (as in the fourth paragraph) where the development is unclear. Other ideas are more evidently relevant, but are sometimes insufficiently developed. In spite of this, ideas are clearly organised and there is an overall progression within the response. There is some effective use of a range of cohesive devices, including referencing, but there is also some mechanical use of linkers in places. Paragraphs are sometimes rather too short and inappropriate. A range of vocabulary is attempted and this is adequate for a good response to the task. However, control is weak and there are frequent spelling errors that can cause some difficulties for the reader, thus keeping the rating down for the lexical criterion. The test taker uses a mix of simple and complex structures with frequent subordinate clauses. Control of complex structures is variable, and although errors are noticeable they only rarely impede communication. Although there are some features of a higher band in this response, flaws in the paragraphing and the errors in vocabulary limit this rating to Band 5.5.

# Academic Writing Sample Task – 2B – Sample Script B

'Tourism' - Friend or foe?

Tourism is a very big industry in the modern time and is growing quite rapidly. Thousands and people travel everywhere to various destinations every year. Arguments have come up regarding the benefits and negative impacts of trunism in places and on its local inhabitants and emimorment; however, J believe there are more advantages than disadvantages of international tourism.

People travel for various reasons; they we have for business purpose, holidays, visit friends and relatives etc. Travelling is mostly seen as recreationed activity. Tourism has many advantages. Tourism can pear if tremendous part in a country's economy, the more trunists with a country and spend money there the better it is for the country; in that way more money is arculated within the country and even the stability of their currency rate of eachange persists if not improve. Vendors and shops get to sell more goods and **Examples** mate an income. Tourism also has its non-monetary advantages; it beings cultures and people closer. People from all around the world get to share their curteur with each other and even letter more, This is a good opportunity in education.

Tourism seems to have some disadvantages too; However, I believe the problems caused by tourism and are not something that cannot be solved or prevented. A lot of people believe that tourism can destroy or deviate culture and causes quite an impact anthe on visited locations. such as pollution and lettering. People can also adhere to their own beliefs and way of life if they want to: No owe can really breefully influence someone to change from their norals and ethics Pollution can be avoided by increasing usage of emironmental friendly vehicles used for tours and rents, Wornings and visual education on littering and smoking, Specific times can be allocated for tours to certain areas, such as peak times where local into bitants feel uncomfortable due to to many foreigners.

Where there are problems there can always be solutions. Tourism brings great 'เภิก - เภิก' vantages for any place The very problems caused can always be avoided or taken believe tourism should be highly pronoted, specially traditional and poor countries with natural beauty such as Bandadesh

#### **Examiner comment**

### Band 7.5

The test taker addresses both aspects of the task and presents a clear position throughout the response. Ideas are relevant, well extended and supported, although there are occasional lapses in content (as in the opening of paragraph 2 and the tendency to 'present solutions to the disadvantages' in paragraph 3). However, ideas are logically organised and there is a clear progression. A range of cohesive devices is used effectively, but some under-use of connectives and substitution and some lapses in the use of referencing are noticeable. A wide range of vocabulary is used flexibly. The test taker can convey precise meanings, and although awkward expressions or inappropriacies in word choice occur, these are only occasional and do not limit the rating for this criterion. Likewise, a good range of sentence structures is used with a high level of accuracy resulting in frequent error-free sentences. Minor systematic errors persist, however, and punctuation is unhelpful at times. The strength of the appropriate response to the task, and the lexical resource in particular, mean overall this response is a good example of Band 7.5.