

# Example Writing Answers for the ieltshelpnow.com General Training Practice Tests

Below you will find example writing answers for all the writing questions in the ieltshelpnow.com General Training Practice Tests. Some of these example essays were written by IELTS students and some were written by an IELTS examiner in order to give an example of a good answer. Please refer to the question papers while you are reading these answers so that you understand the question that is being answered. After each of the example answers, an IELTS examiner has written a short commentary analysing the good and bad points of the answer. We hope this will give you an insight into how the writing answers should be written for IELTS General Training module.

## General Training Writing Practice Test 1

### TASK 1

Dear Sir,

I am writing in connection with a bag that I left on one of your planes. Last week on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May I came to London on flight ABC from New York. My seat number was R5. The plane arrived late at night and I was tired. As a result when I got home, I remembered that I had left my bag on the plane under the seat in front of me.

My bag is small and made of black leather with a zip opening the top. Inside the bag there is a pen, a paperback I was reading, some car keys and my diary.

Therefore would your lost property department please check and see if they have my bag and contact me as soon as possible to let me know whether they have found it or not?

You can contact me on my mobile telephone number which is: 01753 853 736.

Thanking you in advance for your help, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

John Smith

(171 words)                      **Estimated IELTS Writing Band 9**

### IELTS Examiner Commentary

The letter was written by an IELTS examiner to give an example of a good answer. Please remember that there are other ways of approaching this question that are just as good.

The General Training Task 1 Writing is marked in 3 areas. Let's look at these.

**Task Fulfilment** This mark grades you on basically whether you have answered the question or not. A common mistake is to miss out in your letter one of things that it asks you to do. Has

the letter above answered the question? It explained what happened. It described the bag and its contents. It says what the writer wants them to do. That is not all. The question asks you to write a letter. To answer the question the letter should be set in the appropriate way with a semi-formal opening and an ending that is appropriate to this type of letter. It uses correct language with the right degree of formality. Good paragraphing splits up the letter in easy-to-read chunks. The letter also provides information (such as the telephone number and flight details) that would be appropriate in a letter of this type. The letter is 171 words long so easily fulfils the 150 word limit. So finally, by doing all the above the letter would fulfil its function. The person receiving it would do what was wanted. Because of all the above reasons, this letter would get a very good Task Fulfilment band.

**Cohesion and Coherence** These two are interrelated which is why they are done together. Cohesion is how your writing fits together. Does your writing with its ideas and content flow logically? Coherence is how you are making yourself understood and whether the reader of your writing understands what you are saying. The above letter has excellent cohesion. The structure helps this. The first paragraph introduces the subject, sets the scene and provides the basic information. The second paragraph describes the bag that is talked about in the first paragraph. The third paragraph explains what the writer wants to happen. Finally there is an appropriate ending. This logical progression of ideas in the structure of the three paragraphs gives the letter good cohesion and coherence. The choice of words also never causes any cohesion problems. For an example of bad cohesion, see the Free Help Tutorial for the General Training Task 1 Writing. Coherence is also very good in the letter. The letter makes the problem and what needs to be done quite plain. The reader never has a problem understanding what is said.

**Vocabulary and Sentence Structure** With Vocabulary the examiner looks at the range of words used and whether they are used in the right place and at the right time. With Sentence Structure, the examiner looks at the grammar. The Vocabulary of the letter is good though this Task 1 requires nothing complicated. All the words chosen are correctly and appropriately used with the correct degree of formality. The spelling is all correct. The Sentence Structure again is fine. The past tenses are used correctly to describe past events and the present tenses for description, all agreeing correctly. The singulars and plurals are all correctly used and everything is correctly punctuated including a list.

So, in conclusion, this letter fulfils all the things that an examiner looks for in a good answer in a letter for the General Training Task 1 Writing.

## **TASK 2**

It is true that children today spend far more time indoors than in previous generations. I would say that this has both a positive and negative side.

Children today seem to spend far too long inside with computer games, watching TV and videos. This is definitely bad in some ways because children should develop outdoor pursuits such as football, cricket and basketball that would make them healthy now and in their later lives. If they don't learn to play sports when they're young, it is unlikely that they will develop these healthy habits later in life and the results can be seen today in the higher levels of obesity and related illnesses such as diabetes. When I was young I had only sports to keep me occupied and I am grateful now that I still love and play the sports of my youth.

On the other hand the world today is dominated by computers and electronics so it's important that children learn to like and understand computers and technology early in life. The older generation didn't have the opportunity to have this electronic entertainment and so don't understand the attraction.

In conclusion I would certainly agree that it is bad and unhealthy for children to spend all their time indoors with electronic entertainment. I don't think all children are too dependent on electronic entertainment but too many definitely are. We cannot expect though that children will totally ignore today's technologies and it is important that they grow up with awareness and understanding of these things that will dominate their later lives. I believe it is up to parents to guide and encourage a reasonable mixture of both indoor and outdoor pursuits.

(281 words)                      **Estimated IELTS Writing Band 9**

### **IELTS Examiner Commentary**

This essay was written by an IELTS examiner to give an example of a good answer. Please remember that there are other ways of approaching this question that are just as good.

The General Training Task 2 Writing is marked in 3 areas. Let's look at these.

**Arguments, Ideas and Evidence** This band grades the essay on its content, how it structures its ideas and backs up the ideas with examples. When you look at the above essay, you are first struck by how it is set out with paragraphs. Firstly there is a short introduction. Then there are 2 paragraphs that provide the ideas on both sides of the question of the essay. Finally there is a conclusion where the question is answered by the writer with his point of view. The writer examines both sides of the argument and shows that it is not an issue that is black or white. Example are given to backup his ideas – examples of sports, illnesses, the writer's own childhood. The minimum word limit of 250 words has also been passed so that is not a problem. All these things would lead to a good band for Arguments, Ideas and Evidence.

**Communicative Quality** This mark grades the candidate on how easily the reader understands the essay. This depends on accuracy in structure, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary as bad grammar, punctuation and vocabulary will cause a breakdown in communication. Other things affecting communication would be linking words, prepositions and agreements. The paragraphing is the first thing that helps the communicative quality. As said above the paragraphing is very good. It splits the essay up into easy-to-read chunks and separates the ideas of the essay into these chunks. The grammar, punctuation and vocabulary are all very good and all the linking words, prepositions and agreements are all correctly used. The Communicative Quality in this essay therefore is very good.

**Vocabulary and Sentence Structure** With Vocabulary the examiner looks at the range of words used and whether they are used in the right place and at the right time. With Sentence Structure, the examiner looks at the grammar. As pointed out in the section above, the Vocabulary and Sentence Structure are very good. All word usage is correctly used and spelt correctly. The grammar is all error free and the punctuation is good. The Vocabulary and Sentence Structure band would be very good.

## General Training Writing Practice Test 2

### TASK 1

Dear Sir,

I write to inquire about staying to your hotel with me family. Me family is consists of me wife, me two sons and me. We arrive on 14 August and want stay til 21 August - Therefore we will stay 6 nights. Me wife and me would like to take double room with view of sea and my sons will take room at back of the hotel. I would like to stay to the hotel with bed and breakfast. Please would you contact to me as soon as possible with the details of prices for this thing?

We not know the location where your hotel is very well so could you please write to us also in your letter give us some activities that my family like. Me two sons are 13 and 11 years old.

Thank you for your help, I look forward to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

*Alex Luchí*

(151 words)                      **Estimated IELTS Writing Band 7**

### IELTS Examiner Commentary

This letter was written by a Romanian IELTS student in the middle of an IELTS practice course.

The General Training Task 1 Writing is marked in 3 areas. Let's look at these.

**Task Fulfilment** This mark grades you on basically whether you have answered the question or not. A common mistake is to miss out in your letter one of the things that it asks you to do. Has the above letter answered the question? The question asks the candidate to write a letter, give the arrival and departure details, request the type of rooms and price for the weekend and ask about activities and places of interest. There are obviously language errors but nearly all these areas have been covered. The letter asks about activities but not places of interest but this is fairly minor. The letter is of 151 words so it fulfils the length requirement too. Also the letter is set out in a good way with an appropriate opening and ending. It has good paragraphing which splits up the letter into good easy-to-read chunks. So, this letter will get a fairly good task fulfilment band.

**Cohesion and Coherence** These two are interrelated which is why they are done together. Cohesion is how the writing fits together. Does the writing with its ideas and content flow logically? Coherence is how you are making yourself understood and whether the reader of your writing understands what you are saying. The above letter has reasonable cohesion. The flow of ideas through the letter is fairly logical but occasionally awkward (**therefore** is used correctly but a native speaker would have avoided its use). The faulty grammar takes away a bit from its coherence but it is an understandable letter and it would have the desired effect.

**Vocabulary and Sentence Structure** With Vocabulary the examiner looks at the range of words used and whether they are used in the right place and at the right time. With Sentence Structure, the examiner looks at the grammar. The vocabulary of this letter is mainly correct with the occasional awkward choice (**take double room; contact to me**). Spelling is fairly good with only occasional errors (**sincerely; til**). The Sentence Structure is the weakest part of the letter. There are numerous mistakes. Some verb tenses and patterns are faulty (**write; is consists; want stay; to hear from; we not know**) though other verbs are correct with correct use of **would like**. The writer also uses me instead of my and uses **to the hotel** instead of **at the hotel** twice. The grammar errors do not really affect communication in the letter though.

In conclusion, although the letter is at times a bit awkward, it is well set out, covers the main points, is fairly accurate and would fulfil its purpose.

## **TASK 2**

We have been known for some time now that smoking is a killer. I completely agree that all countries should make the rules that outlaws smoking in all the public areas.

That is a difficult subject though. Many of the smokers believe that they have the right to smoke where they will and that non-smokers can just go away from them. They have a point to some point but tobacco smoke is not the perfume. The smell get into your hairs, clothes and eyes and of course the smoke get into your lungs which make you feel bad the next day and can cause the illnesses over a long time. There are just too many things bad to let the people have the right to smoke anywhere.

It is of course only an optimist theory. It is not probable that all countries in the earth will disallow smoking in all of the public areas although Ireland has just done so and many part of US does. It is a good goal to try to do though. The more that it is prohibited then, slowly, the more people will realise how they kill them. People who would normally die would live and huge amounts of money will save on treating smoking diseases such as the cancer and the heart disease. If this lead to the fall of companies with losses of jobs and money for company owners then I can only say good. Governments will lose duties but I am sure that governments will think up other ways of making more duties!

So I completely believe in the statement that all countries should prohibit smoking in public places.

(277 words)                      **Estimated IELTS Writing Band 7**

### **IELTS Examiner Commentary**

This essay was written by a German IELTS student studying in the UK.

The General Training Task 2 Writing is marked in 3 areas. Let's look at these.

**Arguments, Ideas and Evidence** This band grades the essay on its content, how it structures its ideas and backs up the ideas with examples. The above essay wholly addresses itself to the question and there is no irrelevance. From the first introductory paragraph the writer makes his

position plain as regards the question. This is restated in the conclusion. The two paragraphs in between contain the writer's argument looking at both sides of the question. Good examples back up the ideas that the writer puts forward. 250 words has also easily been passed so the word limit is not a problem. So this essay would get a good band for Arguments, Ideas and Evidence.

**Communicative Quality** This mark grades the candidate on how easily the reader understands the essay. This depends on structure, accuracy in grammar, punctuation and vocabulary as bad grammar, punctuation and vocabulary will cause a breakdown in communication. Other things affecting communication would be linking words, prepositions and agreements. The paragraphing is the first thing that helps the communicative quality. As stated above, the introduction and conclusion are short and to the point and the main ideas for the essay are put into two separate paragraphs. These things help the "readability" of the essay and therefore help the communicative quality. There are a few errors with the grammar and word choice but this does not affect the communicative quality. The linking words and punctuation are both good and this really helps the communicative quality. So the communicative quality band here would be pretty good.

**Vocabulary and Sentence Structure** With Vocabulary the examiner looks at the range of words used and whether they are used in the right place and at the right time. With Sentence Structure, the examiner looks at the grammar. As pointed out above there are a few errors in word choice (**smoke where they will; too many things bad; optimist; a point to some point; disallow; good goal to try to do; duties**) but none are serious. The errors are more the wrong form of the word or the choice of a synonym of the correct word. This makes it occasionally a bit unnatural but it is a minor effect. The grammar is mostly good but there are some errors. **The** is used wrongly on a number of occasions. There are a couple of plural problems as well (smell get into your hairs; many part of the US). The verb forms are mostly good but there are some slips (**We have been known; rules that outlaws; the smoke get into; which make you; many part of the US does; money will save; If this lead**). Finally there is one pronoun error (**how they kill them**). So, Vocabulary and Sentence Structure is the weakest area of this essay but it is not too bad. The essay would get a reasonable band for Vocabulary and Sentence Structure.

## **General Training Writing Practice Test 3**

### **TASK 1**

Dear Sir,

I am writ in conection with radyo I buy before two week in your shop at London Road, when I go hme and play it I fiand it no work well, this very bad for me, I go holday soon and I buy radyo becus of this thing, I return radyo next day to your shop and shop man he say that they fix proplem and cal me soon. I wait one wek for cal from this man and I no hear nothing, I therefor ask you to call me very soon for tel me that you fix rayio or you give me new radio, I put copi of sale papr and fixing paper, I hope to hear yu soon

Best regard,

Abdulaziz al Suwaidi

(122 words)

**Estimated IELTS Writing Band 4**

## IELTS Examiner Commentary

This letter was written by an Arabic IELTS student at his college

The General Training Task 1 Writing is marked in 3 areas. Let's look at these.

**Task Fulfilment** This mark grades you on basically whether you have answered the question or not. A common mistake is to miss out in your letter one of the things that it asks you to do. Has the above letter answered the question? The first thing that one notices that the letter is considerably under length. By not writing the required 150 words the writer is not answering the question and so is penalised under Task Fulfilment. If less than 150 words is produced then only a maximum band of 5 (less than 5 can also be given) can be awarded for Task Fulfilment. Another omission is that the writer did not say how he feels about the situation and this is asked for in the question. Apart from these things the question is dealt with. The problems with the length and the feelings will give this letter quite a poor Task Fulfilment band.

**Cohesion and Coherence** These two are interrelated which is why they are done together. Cohesion is how the writing fits together. Does the writing with its ideas and content flow logically? Coherence is how you are making yourself understood and whether the reader of your writing understands what you are saying. Cohesion here is poor as well. The structure with no paragraphing and little punctuation makes it a badly joined together letter. Bad spelling causes understanding problems too. This leads to poor coherence for the reader also. It is often difficult to follow the letter and understand the meaning, although with some difficulty the point can be understood. This letter would get a low cohesion and coherence band.

**Vocabulary and Sentence Structure** With Vocabulary the examiner looks at the range of words used and whether they are used in the right place and at the right time. With Sentence Structure, the examiner looks at the grammar. The Vocabulary choices in this letter aren't too bad in spite of some errors but there are lots spelling mistakes (**radyo; therefor; becus; proplem; regard; etc...**). Although the writer didn't know the correct words for sales and repair receipts, he managed to paraphrase in a clumsy but understandable way in spite of the spelling errors. The Grammar is more of a problem. Most verb forms are faulty in tenses and negative forms (am write; buy; go; play; no work etc.). There are other grammar errors eg: (**before two weeks**; absence of the verb **to be**; absence of **the** and **a** (definite and indefinite articles); giving two subjects of verbs (**the shop assistant he say**); a double negative (**I no hear nothing**); an adjective in place of an adverb (**it no work good**); missing or wrong prepositions (**at London Road; I hope to hear you soon**). All these errors and others would ensure a poor Vocabulary and Sentence Structure band.

In conclusion the letter is quite poor in spite of being fairly relevant to the task set.

## **TASK 2**

I am agree with this. The study it is so important now a days. The childrn is need the study for their lifes. The girls and boys no diffrent for this. They are need the study every day for get the bettr results. I think that evry day monday to friday the childrn must go to school for the classes. If they study then later they can be doctors or law or businessman. Then they get the muney for this for there famly and there famly they can be doctors or

law or businessman. Nevertheless boys and girls some times are study together. I no think this is good idae. When the boys are yung they are like the girls too much and they are look too much the girls and no study. It is same with the girls becuse they are like also the boys and they are look too much the boys and they are no study. So for the boys and for the girls they are not get the results and no be doctors etc. So in conclusion I am believe that the study and the education is too much important for the boys and the girls so they can get the good results for help them in their lifes. The boys and the girls they must no study in mix sex classes or they are no study very well and they are no get the good results for help them. Therefor I am agree with this statment.

(251 words)

**Estimated IELTS Writing Band 5**

### **IELTS Examiner Commentary**

This essay was written by a Korean IELTS student doing an IELTS preparation course.

The General Training Task 2 Writing is marked in 3 areas. Let's look at these.

**Arguments, Ideas and Evidence** This band grades the essay on its content, how it structures its ideas and backs up the ideas with examples. Ones first reaction on seeing this essay is that it is badly structured. The length is no problem as it is over 250 words. Looking at the argument of the essay, more than a third of the essay is irrelevant. The writer opens by talking about how important education is to young people. This is of course true but it is not answering the question at all. The writer only starts to answer the actual question after **Nevertheless**. The remaining writing is also a bit repetitive and short on ideas and examples. The only real, relevant point that the writer makes in the whole essay is that girls and boys should not study together because they will look at each other. The Arguments, Ideas and Evidence band would not be very good here.

**Communicative Quality** This mark grades the candidate on how easily the reader understands the essay. This depends on structure, accuracy in grammar, punctuation and vocabulary as bad grammar, punctuation and vocabulary will cause a breakdown in communication. Other things affecting communication would be linking words, prepositions and agreements. The communicative quality here is not that good. There are quite a lot of grammar errors although the punctuation isn't too bad. **Nevertheless** is used wrongly and causes the reader to stop and reread. The paragraphing is non-existent. The essay is all just in one big lump. This really affects how easy the essay is to read (see General Training Task 2 Tutorial for an example of good and bad paragraphing – Free Tutorials are available on the Home Page). So, the communicative quality band for this essay would not be very good.

**Vocabulary and Sentence Structure** With Vocabulary the examiner looks at the range of words used and whether they are used in the right place and at the right time. With Sentence Structure, the examiner looks at the grammar. The vocabulary is not that bad though the spelling is not very good. Even when the writer has chosen a wrong word (**law** instead of lawyer; **some time** instead of sometimes) the writing can still be understood. Apart from that the vocabulary is a bit repetitive and needs a greater variety. The grammar is not very good. Most of the verb forms are faulty (tense choice, formation and agreement) (**I am agree; the children is need; are need etc...**) and the verb **to be** is used badly (**girls and boys no diffrent**). There are also lots of other mistakes scattered through the essay. The Vocabulary and Sentence Structure band would not be very good for this essay.



## General Training Writing Practice Test 4

### TASK 1

Respected Sir,

I have just recently been awarded a place at your esteemed college and I now write with respect to my accommodation requirements for my first initial year.

As I will not know anyone at the College, I would like to spend my first year in a Hall of Residence so that I can meet people in this place. I would prefer the Hall to be a single sex female only hall and with full board so that I won't have to worry about cooking for myself. In addition I also require a vegetarian choice as I am vegetarian. If there are no halls offering the above then I would be satisfied in a hall with kitchens so I can cook. In addition I would not like to share my room and I would prefer en suite facilities if you have halls offering this.

Thanking you for your assistance in advance, I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Anna da Silva

(149 words)                      **Estimated IELTS Writing Band 9**

### IELTS Examiner Commentary

This letter was written by an Indian lady on an IELTS preparation course.

The General Training Task 1 Writing is marked in 3 areas. Let's look at these.

**Task Fulfilment** This mark grades you on basically whether you have answered the question or not. A common mistake is to miss out in your letter one of the things that it asks you to do. Has the above letter answered the question? The question asks the candidate to write a letter, give accommodation requirements, give room and food needs and ask for alternatives. It seems to me that all these questions have been answered. The letter is also set out well with good structure. One minus is that the question instructs the candidate to begin the letter with **Dear Sir** but this letter begins **Respected Sir**. This is not a serious problem but you should bear in mind that you should follow all instructions very carefully. Another problem is the length. In Task 1 you have to write 150 words. This letter is only 149 words. Now, 1 word short is not a problem but if a letter is noticeably short it will be heavily penalised in Task Fulfilment as is seen in the Task 1 example for General Training Test 3. The Task Fulfilment band for this letter would be fairly good.

**Cohesion and Coherence** These two are interrelated which is why they are done together. Cohesion is how the writing fits together. Does the writing with its ideas and content flow logically? Coherence is how you are making yourself understood and whether the reader of your writing understands what you are saying. The cohesion and coherence in this letter are both quite good. There is a good opening and ending and the important enquiry information is set out nicely in the

middle paragraph. It is easy to read and well punctuated. The Cohesion and Coherence band for this letter would also be fairly good.

**Vocabulary and Sentence Structure** With Vocabulary the examiner looks at the range of words used and whether they are used in the right place and at the right time. With Sentence Structure, the examiner looks at the grammar. The Vocabulary is good and appropriate though it occasionally becomes over formal in a way that would be a little archaic in modern English (**Respected Sir; esteemed college**). The grammar is very good with virtually no errors. One thing that does stand out is the redundant use of **in this place** but that is about all. So, the Vocabulary and Sentence Structure band for this letter would again be pretty good.

## TASK 2

Everywhere people studies English. In my country too many people is study English. I think study other language is, in today's world, a waste of time.

English is Number 1 language in World today. Today everybody need English. English is the language for travel and business and other thing. If you want to stay in hotel, go restaurant, do money, you need English. America also most important economics and science country in world. When I go Dubai last year I only need English in hotel and shops.

Other language also important. The country that next to your country maybe you must know this language. Also China language, India language, Spanish language, Arab language very important and maybe more important later. So maybe this language also you can learn in school.

In my country we study English at school. Some people studies also other language but everyone say English is most important.

So I think English should be the primary foreign language taught in schools around the world. Learning a different foreign language is, in today's world, a waste of time.

(180 words)                      **Estimated IELTS Writing Band 6**

### **IELTS Examiner Commentary**

This essay was written by a Thai IELTS student studying in the UK.

The General Training Task 2 Writing is marked in 3 areas. Let's look at these.

**Arguments, Ideas and Evidence** This band grades the essay on its content, how it structures its ideas and backs up the ideas with examples. The main problem with this essay is the length. If an essay for the General Training Task 2 Writing does not equal or exceed 250 words then the essay will be penalised on Arguments, Ideas and Evidence. In addition to being under length the writer has also used a small chunk of the question in the introduction and a larger chunk in the conclusion. The maximum band that can be awarded in this area for under length essays is 5 though it can be lower. So this essay's maximum band for Arguments, Ideas and Evidence would be 5. This is a shame as the writer makes a fair attempt to answer the question and is mostly

relevant. The essay just needs some more ideas and evidence to back up the argument.

**Communicative Quality** This mark grades the candidate on how easily the reader understands the essay. This depends on structure, accuracy in grammar, punctuation and vocabulary as bad grammar, punctuation and vocabulary will cause a breakdown in communication. Other things affecting communication would be linking words, prepositions and agreements. First of all the structure of this essay is good and this helps the communicative quality. The information is set out into clear, separate paragraphs and this makes it easier for the reader to read it. The sentences are also short which also makes it more difficult for the writer to get mixed up. The punctuation is good which helps the communicative quality. On the other hand the grammar is fairly poor and this adversely affects the communicative quality. The sentences are also a bit awkward and unnatural. All in all this essay would get a reasonable band for communicative quality.

**Vocabulary and Sentence Structure** With Vocabulary the examiner looks at the range of words used and whether they are used in the right place and at the right time. With Sentence Structure, the examiner looks at the grammar. In general the vocabulary in this essay isn't bad. Quite often the wrong form of the word has been chosen (**economics, science, China language etc.**) but this does not affect intelligibility. There is only really one completely incorrect word choice (**do money**). The grammar in this essay is not that good. The only good areas are where the writer has copied the chunks from the question so these cannot be taken into account by the examiner. The verbs are often incorrect, the articles are a problem and there are other smaller, individual mistakes. The Vocabulary and Sentence Structure band would not be that good.

## **General Training Writing Practice Test 5**

### **TASK 1**

Dear Sir,

Last week on Saturday night some friends and I had dinner in your restaurant to celebrate my birthday. I am writing to thank you for the great evening that we had.

All my friends remarked afterwards on the standard of the food and service that we received. All the food was very tasty and well presented. Our waiter, whose name was James, was fast and friendly and put with well with our bad jokes! The restaurant itself was warm and friendly and the atmosphere showed that all the diners there were enjoying their evening.

I would like though to suggest one improvement. One of my friends is a vegetarian and he felt that the choice for vegetarians was little small. If you could develop that, it would be a great advantage to your restaurant.

Once again I would like to thank you for my highly enjoyable birthday dinner.

Yours faithfully,

Rebecca Ahlinder

(152 words)

**Estimated IELTS Writing Band 9**

## **IELTS Examiner Commentary**

This letter was written by an IELTS examiner to give an example of a good answer. Please remember that there are other ways of approaching this question that are just as good.

The General Training Task 1 Writing is marked in 3 areas. Let's look at these.

**Task Fulfilment** This mark grades you on basically whether you have answered the question or not. A common mistake is to miss out in your letter one of things that it asks you to do. Has the letter above answered the question? The letter thanks the restaurant mentioning the food, service and atmosphere and also suggests an improvement. This is what the question asked. The letter also gives the relevant detail of the waiter's name. The letter is set out in an appropriate way with a semi-formal opening and an ending that is appropriate to this type of letter. It uses correct language with the right degree of formality. The letter would certainly fulfil its function. The person receiving it would wholly understand its purpose. This letter would get a very good Task Fulfilment band.

**Cohesion and Coherence** These two are interrelated which is why they are done together. Cohesion is how your writing fits together. Does your writing with its ideas and content flow logically? Coherence is how you are making yourself understood and whether the reader of your writing understands what you are saying. The above letter has excellent cohesion. The structure helps this. The first paragraph introduces the subject by mentioning the birthday meal and thanking the restaurant. The next paragraph details why the meal was so enjoyable. The third paragraph suggests the improvement. Finally there is an appropriate ending with another thank you. This logical progression of ideas in the structure of the three paragraphs gives the letter good cohesion. The choice of words also never causes any cohesion problems. For an example of bad cohesion, see the Free Help Tutorial for the General Training Task 1 Writing. Coherence is also very good in the letter. At no time does the reader have to stop because he does not understand.

**Vocabulary and Sentence Structure** With Vocabulary the examiner looks at the range of words used and whether they are used in the right place and at the right time. With Sentence Structure, the examiner looks at the grammar. The vocabulary of the letter is good throughout. The Sentence Structure again is fine. The past tenses are used correctly to describe past events and the suggestions are all correctly presented. All other grammar is correct and everything is correctly punctuated.

So, in conclusion, this letter fulfils all the things that an examiner looks for in a good answer in a letter for the General Training Task 1 Writing.

## **TASK 2**

Many people travel nowadays; vastly more than at the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century this increase was due to the improvement in the means of travelling. In this century I believe that the numbers of people travelling will continue to grow. This will be due to various factors.

Just like last century I believe that travel technology will get more advanced and that it will become cheaper and therefore more people will have the opportunity to fly. In addition to

this, lesser-developed and poorer nations today, such as China and other Southeast Asian and African countries, will become richer and more of the population will be able to afford to fly. Other factors will be a greater awareness in travel and travelling in order to obtain a better education. These I feel will be the factors most responsible for the future growth of travel.

On the other hand there will be factors negatively affecting the growth in travel. At present the most important one is probably the threat of terrorism leading to a fear of travelling by plane. Also the spread of wealth and opportunities around Southeast Asia and Africa will lessen the need for people to travel for a better life or education.

The reasons negatively affecting the growth of travel are certainly important but I believe that the ones that will positively affect its growth will prove far more powerful and so I believe that travel in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century will certainly continue to grow and become even more popular.

(257 words)                      **Estimated IELTS Writing Band 9**

### **IELTS Examiner Commentary**

This essay was written by an IELTS examiner to give an example of a good answer. Please remember that there are other ways of approaching this question that are just as good.

The General Training Task 2 Writing is marked in 3 areas. Let's look at these.

**Arguments, Ideas and Evidence** This band grades the essay on its content, how it structures its ideas and backs up the ideas with examples. When you look at the above essay, you are first struck by how it is set out with paragraphs. Firstly the introduction sets out the writer's opinion in relation to the question. Then there are 2 paragraphs that provide the ideas and examples that support the writer's opinion. Finally the conclusion reiterates the writer's opinion in light of what he has just written. The writer does not wholly look at one point of view but looks at factors affecting travel positively and negatively. The minimum word limit of 250 words has also been passed so that is not a problem. All these things would lead to a good band for Arguments, Ideas and Evidence.

**Communicative Quality** This mark grades the candidate on how easily the reader understands the essay. This depends on accuracy in structure, grammar, punctuation and vocabulary, as bad grammar, punctuation and vocabulary will cause a breakdown in communication. Other things affecting communication would be linking words, prepositions and agreements. The paragraphing is the first thing that helps communicative quality. As pointed out above the paragraphing is very good. It splits the essay up into easy-to-read chunks and separates the ideas of the essay into these chunks. The grammar, punctuation and vocabulary are all very good and all the linking words, prepositions and agreements are all correctly used. The Communicative Quality in this essay therefore is very good.

**Vocabulary and Sentence Structure** With Vocabulary the examiner looks at the range of words used and whether they are used in the right place and at the right time. With Sentence Structure, the examiner looks at the grammar. As pointed out in the section above, the Vocabulary and Sentence Structure are very good. All word usage is correctly used and spelt correctly. The grammar is all error free and the punctuation is good. The Vocabulary and Sentence Structure band for this essay would therefore be very good.