

Writing sample answers

TEST 1 QUESTION 1 PART 1 ESSAY

Unsustainable and sustainable tourism

The author of the first text points out the damaging effects of unsustainable tourism. The text states how undeveloped villages have been forced to replace traditional crafts and fishing for more appealing entertainment to the tourist point of view. The statement 'Been there, Done that' results in an arrogant approach to the so valued culture of people living in the villages. Seas contaminated by sewage, vastly reduced wildlife, constant litter and air polluted by traffic are the main concerns when it comes to unsustainable tourism. The author of the second text talks about holiday spots where the damage hasn't been visible or hasn't occurred at all, and those places have been reformed and better equipped to welcome tourists. Unfortunately in most cases reforming came after the damage has been done. Reforming in holiday spots has happened mostly for public relations purposes and not to commit to sustainable tourism. With human curiosity and tourist hunger to discover new holiday places, unsustainable tourism will always cause problems for places newly open to tourism. The general need for holidays is growing vastly, and the costs of holidays abroad are sometimes cheaper than holidays people can take in own countries. As most tourists are involved in unsustainable tourism, the damage done to places and local people will continue to happen and to spread. However, a genuine commitment to sustainable tourism would bring benefits to the freshly discovered holiday spots in the long term.

Content

The two main points from the first text are included in the first paragraph of this answer. The first key point of the second text is not specifically mentioned but the second one is present, although there is some copying of the phrasing used in the text.

Communicative Achievement

The register is suitably neutral/formal. The answer fully addresses the general issues raised in both texts in a coherent way and the candidate's own views are clearly expressed in the last paragraph.

Organization

The essay is very well organised. It is divided into clear paragraphs, each having a different focus – the first text, the second text and the writer's opinions on the issues raised in the two texts. The essay flows well, with coherent linking of points in the answer as a whole and within paragraphs.

Language

The language used in the essay shows a good level of fluency. Complex sentences are used throughout and these are well constructed in terms of grammatical

accuracy. The variety of noun phrases listed in the last sentence of the first paragraph is very effective, the passive is appropriately used throughout, and there is good use of the linking words *With*, *As* and *However* in the last paragraph. A range of vocabulary connected with tourism is used appropriately and the general level of vocabulary, both individual words (e.g. *arrogant*, *visible*, *occurred*, *curiosity*, *hunger*) and phrases (e.g. *vastly reduced*, *when it comes to*, *bring benefits to*, *in the long term*) is good. There are a couple of mistakes with prepositions in the first paragraph: *replace ... for* should be *replace ... with* and *to the tourist point of view* should be *from the tourist point of view*. In the last paragraph, *own countries* should be *their own countries*.

Mark

Despite some repetition of the second text, the essay does what is required for the task with a good level of English and few mistakes.

Band 4

TEST 1 QUESTION 4 PART 2 REVIEW

I bet that when they first made 'Friends', the producers wouldn't have expected and dreamt that their new 'attempt to amuse' bored viewers – and with totally unknown actors 'from nowhere' – would earn such a great success. After many years of living a daily life with characters from Dallas, Baywatch, Dynasty, a new wave of funny, clever and witty entertainment struck people in. And obviously, people welcomed the change very warmly. 'Friends' was full of diversity. Each of the main five characters was completely different and brought to the series something new. Despite their differences, they created a perfect working jigsaw. They lived, laughed, cried and shared their fate together. You could feel some kind of oneness there; and that is a vital thing in every friendship. Chandler – a sexist who couldn't live without women – with his ironic and sharp, witty humour, contrasted with naive, a little bit dumb but cute Joey, who had a vanity and irresistible smile in the role of an unsuccessful actor. Monica was a nagging perfectionist who often quarrelled with frivolous and untidy Rachel. Ross was a worried paleontologist who tried to come to terms that his wife left him. Poor guy! And at last weird Pheobe, who refreshed almost every episode with her 'fabulous' music which nobody could get. Oh yeah, she's quite odd but everybody loves her. 'Friends' was a great refreshment after a long, exhausting day at work. It is no wonder that it was so popular. People just loved it – from children to adults and older people as well. We need to laugh and relax. The actors, producers and creators deserve appreciation and admiration for making such a great show. People were waiting eagerly for new episodes all the time. And that's a sign of success. Not to mention that 'friends' was popular in every continent of the world. And that proves something.

Content

The review fully covers the requirements of the question, providing a detailed description of the chosen programme and a clear explanation of its popularity.

Range

There is a great deal of excellent use of sophisticated vocabulary and structure, for example, *welcomed warmly* (first paragraph), *diversity, fate, oneness* and the enormous number of adjectives used to describe people and personalities in the second paragraph, *no wonder, deserve appreciation and admiration, waiting eagerly*, and *Not to mention* (third paragraph). The second paragraph is particularly effective.

Accuracy

There are a couple of minor errors. The phrase *struck people in* (first paragraph) does not exist and something like *came to people's attention* would be appropriate. In the second paragraph *come to terms that* should be *come to terms with the fact that* because the phrase is 'come to terms with something'. In the second paragraph, *at last* should be *finally*.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

The register is appropriately informal and the format, with its clear paragraphing, appropriate for a review.

Organization and Cohesion

The review is very well-organized. It begins by talking about the success of the programme chosen, the second paragraph provides a detailed description of the characters, and the last paragraph talks about how it deserved its success. There is good linking throughout, enabling the review as a whole to flow very well.

Target Reader

The reader would be absolutely clear as to what the series was like, why it was popular and why the writer liked it so much.

Mark

An excellent and virtually fluent review, with a lot of very good and appropriate vocabulary.

Band 5**TEST 2 QUESTION 2 PART 2 REPORT****REPORT – SOCIAL PROBLEMS**

I think that the programme should focus on these three main areas:

CRIME

Crime is a big problem that has been rising in recent times. There has been a big increase in the number of burglaries and also in muggings on the street. Some people seem to think that, if they haven't got as much in life as they want, they can just take it from somebody else. As a result, a lot of ordinary people are fearful and a lot of victims of these crimes are permanently affected.

YOUTH PROBLEMS

A lot of youngsters seem to feel bored, alienated from society or cynical about life. This leads some of them to turn to crime, for example in the form of hooliganism. Vandalism is widespread and we can observe the results of that in many places. Besides causing a lot of damage, this makes a lot of people worried about the future of society. The only way to turn this situation around is to try to prevent these young people to continue to have such negative attitudes by showing them how they can make a positive contribution to society. They need to realise that doing so will make them feel better about themselves.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Whether it's because of inadequate education or just unfortunate circumstances, unemployment leads to several problems, such as debts, depression, crime, etc. Unemployment creates a tense and agitated home environment. This affects children in a most destructive way. Children need to feel safe. Their schoolwork and social development will suffer.

Content

The report fully covers the areas required in the question, since it lists three social problems and discusses both the causes and the consequences of them.

Range

There is some good use of vocabulary and structure, for example *rising steadily, burglaries, muggings* and *fearful* (first section), *alienated from, cynical about, turn to, Besides causing, turn this situation around, and make a positive contribution to* (second section) and the use of *Whether* for linking, *tense, agitated* and *destructive* (third section).

Accuracy

There is only one error. In the second section *prevent these young people to continue* should be *prevent these young people from continuing*.

Appropriacy of Register and Format

The register is appropriately neutral and the format is entirely appropriate, with a heading for the report and three clear sections with clear headings.

Organization and Cohesion

The report is very well-organized, with each section providing a clear description of each problem and a brief analysis of its causes and consequences. The linking is accurate and appropriate.

Target Reader

The reader would be completely clear as to the points made by the writer.

Mark

A clear, accurate and competent report.

Band 4