

Expected text length

The specified word range is intended as a guide. If significantly fewer words are written, this is likely to mean that the task has not been successfully completed. However, in the context of the new Cambridge English Writing mark scheme, candidates are not explicitly penalised for the length of their response. Exceeding the recommended word range is therefore acceptable (though if there is resulting irrelevance, repetition or poor organisation, these may be penalised).

PART 1 Compulsory task

This part tests the candidates' ability to write an essay, summarising and evaluating the key points from two texts and including their own ideas in their answer.



Sample question and scripts: pages 25 and 30–33.

Task type and focus

In Part 1, candidates are asked to write an essay. The question in Part 1 always has a discursive focus. Discursive writing is a style used in academic writing and it requires the high level of language competence appropriate at C2 level. In addition, the ability to identify key points from a text is considered important at C2 level. The CEFR states that at this level candidates should be able to 'summarise information from different sources, reconstructing arguments and accounts in a coherent presentation of the overall result.'

Task format

Candidates are required to base their answers on input material which will take the form of two texts, each approximately 100 words long. The texts will be based on a variety of authentic, contemporary sources. Since the task focus is on productive language, the input will be well within the reading competence of candidates at this level.