IELTS[®]

WRITING TASK 1: Band Descriptors (public version)

Band	Task achievement	Coherence and cohesion	Lexical resource	Grammatical range and accuracy
9	 fully satisfies all the requirements of the task clearly presents a fully developed response 	 uses cohesion in such a way that it attracts no attention skilfully manages paragraphing 	sophisticated control of lexical features; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'	accuracy; rare minor errors occur only as 'slips'
8	 covers all requirements of the task sufficiently presents, highlights and illustrates key features/ bullet points clearly and appropriately 	 manages all aspects of cohesion well uses paragraphing sufficiently and appropriately 	 uses a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings skilfully uses uncommon lexical items but there may be occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation produces rare errors in spelling and/or word formation 	 uses a wide range of structures the majority of sentences are error-free makes only very occasional errors or inappropriacies
7	 covers the requirements of the task (A) presents a clear overview of main trends, differences or stages (GT) presents a clear purpose, with the tone consistent and appropriate clearly presents and highlights key features/bullet points but could be more fully extended 	there may be some under-/over-use	 uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation 	 uses a variety of complex structures produces frequent error-free sentences has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors
6	 addresses the requirements of the task (A) presents an overview with information appropriately selected (GT) presents a purpose that is generally clear; there may be inconsistencies in tone presents and adequately highlights key features/ bullet points but details may be irrelevant, inappropriate or inaccurate 	 uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical may not always use referencing clearly or appropriately 	 attempts to use less common vocabulary but with some inaccuracy makes some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but they do not impede communication 	 uses a mix of simple and complex sentence forms makes some errors in grammar and punctuation but they rarely reduce communication
5	 generally addresses the task; the format may be inappropriate in places (A) recounts detail mechanically with no clear overview; there may be no data to support the description (GT) may present a purpose for the letter that is unclear at times; the tone may be variable and sometimes inappropriate presents, but inadequately covers, key features/ bullet points; there may be a tendency to focus on details 	be a lack of overall progressionmakes inadequate, inaccurate or over-use of cohesive devices	 uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task may make noticeable errors in spelling and/or word formation that may cause some difficulty for the reader 	 uses only a limited range of structures attempts complex sentences but these tend to be less accurate than simple sentences may make frequent grammatical errors and punctuation may be faulty; errors can cause some difficulty for the reader
4	 attempts to address the task but does not cover all key features/bullet points; the format may be inappropriate (GT) fails to clearly explain the purpose of the letter; the tone may be inappropriate may confuse key features/bullet points with detail; parts may be unclear, irrelevant, repetitive or inaccurate 	coherently and there is no clear progression in the	 uses only basic vocabulary which may be used repetitively or which may be inappropriate for the task has limited control of word formation and/or spelling errors may cause strain for the reader 	 uses only a very limited range of structures with only rare use of subordinate clauses some structures are accurate but errors predominate, and punctuation is often faulty
3	 misunderstood presents limited ideas which may be largely irrelevant/repetitive 	• may use a very limited range of cohesive devices, and	 uses only a very limited range of words and expressions with very limited control of word formation and/or spelling errors may severely distort the message 	 attempts sentence forms but errors in grammar and punctuation predominate and distort the meaning
2	answer is barely related to the task	has very little control of organisational features	 uses an extremely limited range of vocabulary; essentially no control of word formation and/or spelling 	cannot use sentence forms except in memorised phrases
1	answer is completely unrelated to the task	fails to communicate any message	can only use a few isolated words	cannot use sentence forms at all
0	 does not attend does not attempt the task in any way writes a totally memorised response 			