



Model and sample answers

This section contains both model and sample answers. The model answers provide examples of good answers. The sample answers are written by students with possible score bands. The publishers stress that these are not official grades and are for guidance only. There is no guarantee that these answers would obtain these grades in the test.

Practice Test 1

Task 1

The graph shows the percentages of homes in the UK which had access to four items of modern technology between 1994/95 and 2008. For all of these four items, the percentage showed a clear upward trend.

In 1994/5, about 48 per cent of homes had a CD player. This figure rose gradually over time to reach around 90 per cent in 2004. There was little change in the percentage after that. The number of households with mobile phones stood at just under 20 per cent in 1996. This also increased over the period and reached approximately 80 per cent in 2004/5. After that, this figure also levelled off.

Turning to houses with Internet connections, the percentage rose from around 10 per cent in 1998 to just over 60 per cent in 2008. No figures are given for households with DVD players before 2002/3. The percentage rose steeply from around 30 per cent at that time to about 80 per cent in 2004/5. It then continued to increase, but more gradually. (162 words)

Comments: Paragraph one paraphrases the topic and gives an overview of the general trends. Paragraph two gives details for CD players and mobile phones, as these two items showed similar trends. It quotes the percentages for the beginning of the period and the highest points. Paragraph three gives details of the remaining two items.

Task 2

Most people face important changes at some point in their lives. These new situations can be exciting, but they can also be difficult for people to cope with.

One reason for this difficulty is that new situations bring new challenges. People will have to do things that they have not done before or learn about subjects that they have not thought about before. They may therefore feel that they are not capable of dealing with the new situation.

Another reason is that many changes often come at the same time. For example, if someone moves to a new part of the country, they do not just have to get used to the place. They also have to form new friendships and probably start a new job. With all these new changes coming together, it is easy to feel overwhelmed by it all.

One key to dealing with change is information. People tend to be frightened of the unknown, so they should always find out as much as possible about the new situation before making the change. Another measure is simply to be patient and not expect everything to work out perfectly at the beginning. For example, if someone starts a new job, they will probably experience difficulties with some aspects of it at first but, with time, they will gain the knowledge and experience they need.

In conclusion, it is important for us to be prepared for changes in our lives both by being well informed about the kinds of new situations we may find ourselves in and by giving ourselves time to adapt to them. (266 words)

Comments: Paragraph one introduces the topic. Paragraphs two and three give reasons why people find it difficult to adapt to new situations. The second reason is developed with an example. Paragraph four then gives two measures, and again the second one is developed with an example. Paragraph five concludes by referring to the importance of the topic and summarizing both measures.

Practice Test 2

Task 1

The graph shows the contribution of different sectors to the UK economy in the 20th century. In particular it compares the agricultural, manufacturing and business and financial sectors.

Firstly, agriculture sector shows the higher value at the beginning of the period (around 50% in the first 50 years of the century). By the 1975, it had suffered a dramatic decrease (15%) followed by a drop to almost zero in 2000. By contrast, business and financial sector were almost zero at the beginning but it sharply increased during the period.

Manufacturing sector seems to follow the trend of agriculture, starting with a value of 45% in 1900. In 1950 it began to fall till 1975 where it was below 35%. At the end of the period the percentage for manufacturing reaches 20%.

In general, agricultural and manufacturing sector has a similar trends but the former dropped much more at the end of the century than the latter. In contrast, the trend of business and financial increased during the period. (168 words)

Grade: 6

Comments: Use of the rubric unchanged reduces the word count. The information is logically ordered, but the business sector data is omitted. Vocabulary is adequate and usually appropriate, as is the range of sentence forms, but there are some significant errors.

Task 2

Studying the past certainly plays an important, if not the most important role in helping young people deal with today's world.

There can be no doubt that studying history can help young people to operate in the present world. For example, studying the history of their own country not only gives them pride in their own history and culture, but an understanding of why the business, financial or legal systems work as they do. They can then learn to judge what to protect and what to change. Learning history can also help prevent people from making mistakes by showing them how events develop and mistakes occur, thus enabling them to avoid pitfalls in their lives.

Although studying history is beneficial, it is not enough on its own. There are other approaches that are almost as important in helping young people. Travelling informs the young about the world around them. Take educational exchanges between countries like Russia and the UK, for example. In such exchanges, learning about the culture and history, the ways of doing things as well as learning the language take place. These, in turn, help young people deal with people from other countries as well.

Another measure is to make sure that all young people are equipped for the digital age. They need a wide range of digital skills to study and find work in a highly competitive world. Even with these skills, an understanding that comes from a study of culture and history both national and international is still needed, to survive and not make the mistakes of the past.

In conclusion, while there are obviously different ways to help people deal with modern life, an awareness of the past is probably the best means of doing so. (292 words)

Comments: The model answers each part of the question. The writer answers the first question (To what extent do you agree or disagree?) in the second paragraph. The third and fourth paragraphs answer the second question (What other measures could be effective in helping young people to function well in the modern world?). The answer is divided into suitable paragraphs: an introduction, three body paragraphs and a conclusion.

Practice Test 3

Task 1

The diagram illustrates the various stages in the desalination of seawater to make it suitable for drinking.

First of all, water is taken from the sea and then passed through a pre-treatment filter where the big impurities are removed. This backwash is then piped back into the sea through another filter. At the next stage in the process, the remaining water is forced through a membrane at high pressure and any impurities including salt are removed. After that, the seawater concentrate is returned to the sea while the remaining water goes through a post-treatment process. In this phase, the water is treated with lime, chlorine and fluoride to make it drinkable before it is stored in a reservoir. Finally, the desalinated water is distributed to the integrated water supply system for people to use as drinking water.

Desalination involves a process of purification of water followed by filtration and adding chemical agents. (153 words)

Grade: 7

Comments: Interest is maintained by the flexible use of input language, and a wide range of vocabulary and skilfully deployed grammatical structures. All stages are covered accurately, though some additions are made. The overview would work better as the second sentence.

Task 2

Great changes have taken place in our life along with development of society. As far as I am concerned, the Internet plays a big part in this.

First of all, with the opportunity of surfing internet or playing computer and video games, people have a more sedentary life style. Children no longer play games outside and get exercise but they spend time on the computer. This has bad effect on their health and can cause problems such as obesity.

Another problem is the negative effect on their relationship with their family. Internet access fills most young people's time, and even their leisure time, so this is the cause of their disconnection with their family and ultimately can have an effect on their social behaviour. A third problem is that not all internet sites are useful. Information is often not accurate and some sites are not suitable for children. Some internet sites like chat rooms can even be dangerous because you do not know who is the other person.

As regarding children's use of the Internet, the first solution must be with the parents.

They need to limit hours that children spend on the computer and to encourage them to have other hobbies and pastimes. There is an important need for them to spend more time to speak with their family than an electronic connection. Parents should also encourage children to use other means of information in addition to internet.

To conclude, I would say that the internet has brought many benefits and it will not disappear, therefore it is very important that we learnt to use it well so that we can reap the benefits and not the disadvantages. (278 words)

Grade: 7

Comments: The topic is considered fully, with ideas presented in a clear progression with mostly logical paragraphing. A good range of vocabulary gives flexibility and precision to the writing. Sentence structure is reasonably varied, but minor grammatical errors are frequent.

Practice Test 4

Task 1

The chart provides information about the proportions of males and females in the UK by age group in 2009 who did not have any qualifications.

Among those aged 17–19 and 20–24, more males than females lacked qualifications, approximately 7% and 6%, and 8% and 7% respectively. As regards the 25–29 age group, there is no difference in the proportions of men and women without qualifications at around 8% for both sexes with the same pattern being seen for the 30–39 age group. By contrast, among those aged 40–49, the lack of qualifications was greater among women compared to men (12% as opposed to 10%), while more women in the oldest age group (about 20%) did not have any qualifications compared to around 17% for men.

Generally speaking, it is clear that there is a greater proportion of men compared to women without qualifications in the youngest age groups whereas the reverse is true for the oldest age groups. (159 words)

Comments: This is a good model answer. The introduction is a paraphrase of the rubric and there is a clear overview at the end of the answer. The answer is divided into paragraphs. All the data is compared and there is a range of vocabulary and grammatical structures, including complex sentences.

Task 2

To some extent I disagree with the notion that competitive sports cannot be part of the school curriculum. However, the amount of time given should not be overlooked.

Sports as a whole is an important part of growing up. Students regardless of their age take part in exercise individually or as a team member. Take primary schools for instance, they have playgrounds and fairly enough facilities from which students can take benefit.

In secondary schools students' attitude to sport changes. The demand for more facilities and equipments rises. As can be seen, more and more teenagers turn to football, swimming, even body building outside school hours. They try to make use of the facilities available to them at school as well. What is important is time which should not be spent on taken up sport and not doing other school work or study.

On the other hand, considering the availability of the facilities to all schools is not a bad idea.

To illustrate this, some schools are well equipped while others do poorly. No matter how little the facility students should be encouraged to take part in competitive sports.

All in all, I think sport was part of everyday life in the past and is in today's sport attracting societies. The best place you start your life after home is school. Everyone decides what to do at early age. As for sport, it was part of curriculum vitae in the past and will be in the future of course, with a better time management. (254 words)

Grade: 6

Comments: Though the ideas are relevant and sufficient, faults in ordering and use of links sometimes cause difficulty for the reader. A good range of vocabulary is mostly used with precision. A limited but accurate range of complex sentences are deployed.

Practice Test 5

Task 1

The maps show how the seaside town of Templeton changed between 2000 and 2013. Overall, it is clear that the town underwent a considerable transformation over the period.

On the west side of the river, a number of developments occurred. Blocks of flats replaced the houses north and east of the lake with more houses also being built to the south. Between the sea and the extension of the railway along the sea front, the houses and trees gave way to more blocks of flats and a supermarket.

On the east side, a new airport was constructed northwest of the school with new houses being put up north of the hospital. The railway in the east of the town was extended south and then along the sea front. A car ferry was built in the southeast with a factory replacing the houses and the trees.

The town appears to be more built-up and less green in 2013 compared to 2000. (159 words)

Comments: This is a good model answer, which covers all the key points. There is a clear overview in the introduction with a further comment at the end. The answer contains a range of vocabulary and the sentences are well constructed with a variety of structures.

Task 2

Many people think that the world's existing problems are only matters for the young generation as they are the candidates who are facing them now and in the future.

Although a considerable percentage of the public might refer to these hazards as hazards for the young predominantly, yet many of these concerns are actually brought into the scene by the old people. The previous generation are those who lived through the new developments in science and technology that brought with them pollution, poverty and part of it also possible extinction of many species of plants and animals.

So they raise the alarms for those radical and serious consequences. It is often suggested that old generations are passing by and not interested in what is happening and only the young who give those alerts considerable thoughts.

However from what we are expecting now that many of our people are old and work actively to reserve animals' rights and fight fiercely against global warming and environmental pollution. This gives us that the present world concerns are a shared interest of both old and new generations. Although many activists on these issues appear in the media and they are from the youth, still and probably equal numbers from the old follow the same routes.

Actually no one in this life wants to destroy our planet. Definitely every parent is of concern about his offspring's lives thereafter, and selfishness does not dominate our thinking at all. What one should be aware of is that such threats are not always discussed or contemplated in the right way by old or young generations. (264 words)

Grade: 6

Comments: Though the ideas are relevant and sufficient, faults in ordering and use of links sometimes cause difficulty for the reader. A good range of vocabulary is mostly used with precision. A limited but accurate range of complex sentences are deployed.

Practice Test 6

Task 1

The table illustrates the percentages of both young boys and girls who listened to music in the previous month in the capital of Japan.

The most striking feature is that males were more interested in music than their female counterparts except for listening to CDs (19% and 22% respectively). The highest rate was 79% for boys who were interested in MP3 players, while with regard to the same type of players for girls the proportion was 40% which was almost similar to the percentage of the Internet (42%). With respect to live music, females recorded 44%.

Turning to the pie chart, 70% of young Japanese people prefer live music, whereas recorded music rate was 26% and those who answered Don't know their rate was just 4%.

In conclusion, young females spent less time listening to favourite music compared to the opposite sex. Regarding preference of music Live music scored the top percentage. (150 words)

Grade: 6

Comments: The key points are mainly covered, but there is an important error (paragraph 3). It could be ordered more logically. However, cohesive devices are well used. Vocabulary is adequate for the purpose. There is a variety of sentence structures, but their complexity sometimes causes difficulty for the reader.

Task 2

It is often said that nowadays we are living in a global village. People make contact with those from other cultures far more than fifty years ago, both during leisure and as part of their work.

The obvious advantage of this is that it contributes to international understanding. If, for example, British people learn something of other languages and learn to relate to others regardless of their race, then there will be less tension between people from different backgrounds from other countries even within Europe.

There are clear advantages for businesses as well. If business people are culturally aware, they may be able to adapt their products such as food books to suit new customers abroad and enter new markets. They can also draw on a wider pool of talent when looking for staff if they are not limited to recruiting people from their own culture. These new members of staff may bring new ideas and approaches to the workplace.

The main disadvantage probably occurs when the contact with the other culture is only brief. A short superficial experience of another culture can give people mistaken ideas about it, because they may make generalisations about what they have experienced which are not true. By contrast, reaching a good understanding of another culture takes time and requires people to remain open-minded.

In conclusion, contact with people from other cultures is of benefit both for people's personal development and for a country's economy. However, we should be aware that building up a good awareness of another culture can be a long process and should not just be based on one or two limited experiences. (272 words)

Comments: Paragraph one introduces the topic. Paragraphs two and three give two main advantages for being in contact with people from different cultures. Paragraph four describes a situation when it may not be beneficial. Paragraph five concludes by referring back to both advantages and to the situation when it may be a disadvantage.

Practice Test 7

Task 1

The two bar chart illustrate the percentage of purchase on-line tickets of concert, cinema and theatre in (Australia, the UK and Malaysia), by a selected age group and how the interest was accessed over the first three months of 2013.

Purchases for the age group 25–44 was the same in the western countries at 55%, whereas in Malaysia, it was just under 40%. Surprisingly, the percentage was very close in the UK and Malaysia around 40% for the age group 65+, with a slight increase in Australia to about 45%.

In terms of the most common means of access to buy tickets, the chart shows that the desktop computers was the predominant means in Malaysia the UK and Australia at about 60%, 62% and 68% respectively. Next came the laptop, with a close percentage in Australia and Malaysia around (45% each), while there was a moderate drop to 30.5% in the UK.

The data might give us an indication about the online purchasing. (163 words)

Grade: 5

Comments: Excessive use of the rubric reduces the word count and incurs a penalty. There are many inaccuracies in the data, which lacks an overview. Vocabulary and links are inaccurately used, but grammar and sentence structures are adequate for the task.

Task 2

The question of whether money could be more usefully applied to tackle the crisis around the world rather than spent it on space research is a very controversial issue and it is now a matter of considerable public concern. There are, therefore, people on both sides of the argument who have feelings either for or against.

Many people believe that money should be spent to solve food crisis in Africa and South Asia. Drought, for example, left Africa with famine. Every 30 seconds an African child dies of hunger and about 45% of children in South Asia suffer from malnutrition. Similarly, the global issue is the conflict of AIDS in Africa. Although, there are numerous factors in the spread of HIV/AIDS, it is largely recognized as a disease of poverty. Medicines, for instance, are very expensive and the government in poor countries can not afford to treat the disease, therefore millions are dying, while in rich countries people are living longer.

Having said that, however, some people oppose the former argument. They claim that space research has brought enormous benefits to mankind. Recently, NASA has launched Satellites for weather and climate, which will give the scientists a unique view of earth's atmosphere, helping them to improve their abilities to forecast weather and predict climate change.

From what has been discussed above we may draw the conclusion that both points of view have their merits. Although, human life has priority in our societies, advanced research should be carried out to find another source of energy, water on other planet, and to understand the planets and its' effect on earth for the benefit of all. (276 words)

Grade: 7

Comments: Though there are sufficient ideas and evidence, the first paragraph adds nothing. Ideas are logically organized and paragraphed, but the conclusion is not clearly articulated. There is a good range of vocabulary and sentence structures, despite some jarring punctuation errors.

Practice Test 8

Task 1

The table shows the estimated costs of environmental projects in three different areas. The pie chart gives a breakdown of the costs in the first year.

In 2020, the projected cost for the West African project is 10.5 million dollars. It is forecast that this figure will fall to just 2.5 million in 2022 and 2023, but it is expected it will rise to 3.5 million in 2024. The Central American project is predicted to cost 20 million in the first year but by 2022 annual expenditure will have fallen to 5 million. It will then remain unchanged. However, in South-east Asia the projected cost for 2020 is 30 million and expenditure will reach 50 million in 2023 and 2024.

According to the pie chart, 50 per cent of the budget for year one will be spent on salaries and 30 per cent on set-up costs. Training and office expenses will each make up 10 per cent of the total. It is clear that by far the greatest amount of money will be spent on the South-east Asian project and, unlike the other two, annual costs will rise. (183 words)

Comments: Paragraph one paraphrases the rubric. Paragraph two gives details about all the projects and gives an overview by pointing out the differences between the third project and the previous two. Paragraph three gives details about the pie chart.

Task 2

Many people are moving out of big cities into the countryside to live to escape from city problems. This is causing problems because most the jobs that are available are in the cities so people have to travel back into the cities again to work. The transport system cannot cope so people are using their own cars and the countryside is affected by the traffic jams.

One solution to encourage people to stay in cities is to improve the quality of life there. More money could be spent reducing crime, as this is one of the main reasons why people leave cities. For example, more policemen can be employed for city centres, which happened in New York and is happening here in UK. As well as safe places to work and live city centres could be made more friendly and welcoming. The environment can be made cleaners and more agreeable to live and work in. This way people might be encouraged to stay rather than moving out.

A very different way to tackle the problem would to move some of the jobs out of city to smaller cities or towns. People could then still live in the countryside and enjoy it and only have to travel short distances to work. Another step is to encourage workers to spend part of their working week at home, perhaps two days and then to go into work in the other days. This is happening more and more in many parts of the world.

There are other ways to overcome the situation but these are the most important. (264 words)

Grade: 7

Comments: The writer's proposals are clearly presented, with logical paragraphing, but the conclusion could be more fully developed. The progression of ideas is well marked. The vocabulary is very appropriate to the task. Sentence structures are reasonably varied, without significant errors.

Practice Test 9

Task 1

The graph gives information about the average monthly use of a Health Club in Miami Florida by full time members in 2013.

One of the most striking features of the graph is that use the gym was higher in summer compared to the other months of the year. In January 550 males visited the gym the figure decreased slightly. After that there was a significant increase in the number of males membership from January to June. In June the figure hit the highest point of 8500 but in July there was a slight reduction to December. The trend for females membership follow the same. However from July to September 7200 females used the gym in every month.

Turning to pie chart, 4% more of male membership aged between 21 and 45 used the facilities in gym compared to females. Thirty-two per cent of female member had age 65+ in contrast to 25% of males. Twenty per cent of other age group among males had the membership compared to 17% of females.

Overall, higher number of males used the gym than women. (179 words)

Grade: 5

Comments: Copying the rubric reduces the word count. Data is listed mechanically and includes serious errors. The selection, which is not wholly logical, lacks an overview. The range of both vocabulary and sentence structures is limited, with many grammatical errors.

Task 2

There is no doubt that age expectancy has increased over the last twenty years. The question of whether the increasing number of elderly people causes positive effects or negative is a matter of dispute. As far as I am concerned it has negative effect for a number of reasons.

Some people are of the opinion that this trend should be increased because there might be more experienced workers in society. People will work longer than now. This might have a possitive effect on economy. As we know, these people give tax to the government.

Moreover if we ask anyone, they are happy to live longer as they devote most of their lives to working. In retirement age elderly people need comfort and such people desire to do many things that they did not do before. Thus, increasing aged population gives hope to the seniors who would like to enjoy their lives.

However, I do believe that higher aged population needs higher investment as people in elder age suffer from diseases such as heart disease, stroke, diabetis, Alzehamer disease.

Governments need to invest a colosal sums of money treating such patients. Further more people in elder age become more dependent to others as these people nee to be supervised by other people. I think nobody likes to live with other people and use the facilities that are not belong to them. Therefore seniors suffer from depression and psychological problems.

At the same time if people work longer, there is not promotion for the younger generation because most positions are occupied by the elderly people.

To conclude, I feel that the negative effects on society outweigh the positive effects because of the above reasons. (282 words)

Grade: 6

Comments: There are plenty of ideas, but the paragraphing is not well managed. However, the sentences tend to be clearly linked. The range of vocabulary is adequate for the purpose, as is the variety of sentence structures, but grammatical errors are obtrusive.

Practice Test 10

Task 1

The line graph shows the number of people in the UK living on their own between 1996 and 2012. It is clear that for most age groups there was relatively little change over the period.

The group who were least likely to live alone were the 16-24 year olds. About one quarter of a million lived alone in 1996 and the figure remained largely unchanged. Among 25 to 44 year olds, about 1.6 million lived alone in 1996. There was a slight rise in the number between 2000 and 2004 but it had dropped again by 2012.

For the oldest age groups, those aged between 65 and 74 and those aged 75 or over, there was again little change. For the first group, the figure stood at around 1.4 million and for the second there was just a slight rise from about 1.8 to 2 million.

There was, however, a more significant change among 45 to 64 year olds. In this case, the figure was about 1.6 million in 1996, but rose to reach nearly 2.5 million in 2012. (187 words)

Comments: Paragraph one paraphrases the rubric and gives an overview. Paragraph two gives details about the youngest two groups. Paragraph three gives details about the oldest two groups. Paragraph four gives details about the remaining group and points out that this group shows a different trend.

Task 2

There is little doubt that governments and large institutions implement many innovations into our society. However, from my point of view, they are only able to do so with the help of ideas from individual citizens.

For a start, every part of society, including government and large institutions, consists of individual members. Governments have the rights to the further use of the new ideas and in fact should always listen to them. For example, a Ukrainian engineer called Platon introduced the idea of building a bridge across the river in Kiev. Seeing the strategic importance of this bridge the government provided funds to build it. And now the whole of society benefits from the use of one man's idea.

Furthermore in London, the Mayor, Mr Livingstone, announced a competition which can be entered by individuals to find a new way to provide air conditioning for the underground system. This is yet another example of how governments and large institutions rely on the creativity of individuals to be inventive and bring about change.

Some people might say that governments have the strength, power and money to realize and introduce new ideas on their own. In the case of institutions they possess up to date equipment and massive facilities. However I would say that they are not enough to allow them to contribute to society as a whole. This is where creativity and outstanding ideas come in. So if an individual's efforts are combined with the governments' s power and money, there would be many changes that could benefit everyone.

In conclusion, both individuals and large organizations, including governments need to work in partnership to bring about any beneficial change. (278 words)

Grade: 8

Comments: The writer does not fully address the topic but does present a clear and logically sequenced argument, supported by evidence. Cohesive devices are used effectively. The range of vocabulary produces fluency and precision. Sentence structure is varied and grammatically accurate.

