

# MASTER IELTS ESSAYS

## SUPER INTENSIVE COURSE

Understanding Task Types & the Band Descriptors

**Ebrahim Tahassoni**

CELTA, CertTESOL, IELTS Ac. 9



# Objectives



- Review task types
- Understand TR, CC, LR, and GRA in the public assessment criteria for Task 2

# Task Types (in Theory!)



1. Opinion
2. Discussion (Argument)
3. Expository (Issue)
4. Mixed (Two-Part)

# Opinion Task



You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***New parents should attend parenting classes to learn how to bring up their children well.***

***To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

# Opinion Task



You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Many parents now let their young children use tablet computers to see pictures and photographs, watch videos or play games.***

***Is this a positive or negative development?***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

# Discussion Task



You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Some people believe that children should listen to and obey their parents. Others believe that children should think and do things on their own.***

***Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

# Discussion Task



You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***While some people prefer to live in apartments, others do not think an apartment is a suitable form of accommodation.***

***Do you think the advantages of living in an apartment outweigh the disadvantages?***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

# Discussion/Expository Task



You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Some people believe that modern designs for schools and offices with more open spaces are necessary.***

***What are the advantages and disadvantages of such spaces?***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

# Expository Task



You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Housing and accommodation has become a major problem in many countries around the world.***

***What are some of the main factors that have contributed to this problem?***

***What can be done to help reduce the number of homeless people?***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

# Mixed Task



You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***In some countries people prefer to buy used things rather than new ones.***

***Why is this the case?***

***Is it a positive or negative trend?***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

# Writing Band Components

**TR**

**LR**

**CC**

**GRA**

# Task Response

| Band 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Band 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Band 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Band 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main parts of the prompt are incompletely appropriately addressed. The format may be inappropriate in places.</li> <li>The writer expresses a position, but the development is not always clear.</li> <li>Some main ideas are put forward, but they are limited and are not sufficiently developed and/or there may be irrelevant detail.</li> <li>There may be some repetition</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main parts of the prompt are addressed (though some may be more fully covered than others). An appropriate format is used.</li> <li>A position is presented that is directly relevant to the prompt, although the conclusions may be unclear, unjustified or repetitive.</li> <li>Main ideas are relevant, but some may be insufficiently developed or may lack clarity, while some supporting arguments and evidence may be less relevant or inadequate.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The main parts of the prompt are appropriately addressed.</li> <li>A clear and developed position is presented.</li> <li>Main ideas are extended and supported but there may be a tendency to over-generalise or there may be a lack of focus and precision in supporting ideas/material.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The prompt is appropriately and sufficiently addressed.</li> <li>A clear and well-developed position is presented in response to the question/s</li> <li>Ideas are relevant, well-extended and supported.</li> <li>There may be occasional omissions or lapses in content.</li> </ul> |

# Task Response



## ❖ Band 6

- The main parts of the task are addressed
- Some parts of the task are explained more extensively than others
- Position is directly relevant
- Main ideas are relevant
- Some main ideas are unclear, unjustified or underdeveloped
- Some supporting ideas or examples may be less relevant
- Some conclusions are unclear, unjustified or repetitive

## ❖ Band 7

- The main parts of the task are addressed appropriately
- Position is clear and developed
- Main ideas are clearly developed and easy to understand

# TR: Task Parts, Plurals, and Other Nuances of the Rubric



***Some people say that the best way to improve public health is by increasing the number of sports facilities. Others, however, say that this would have little effect on public health and that other measures are required.***

***Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.***

A problem of modern societies is the declining level of health in the general population, with conflicting views on how to tackle this worrying trend. One possible solution is to provide more sports facilities to encourage a more active lifestyle.

Advocates of this believe that today's sedentary lifestyle and stressful working conditions mean that physical activity is no longer part of either our work or our leisure time. If there were easy-to-reach local sports centres, we would be more likely to make exercise a regular part of our lives, rather than just collapsing in front of a screen every evening. The variety of sports that could be offered would cater for all ages, levels of fitness and interests: those with painful memories of PE at school might be happier in the swimming pool than on the football pitch.

However, there may be better ways of tackling this problem. Interest in sport is not universal, and additional facilities might simply attract the already fit, not those who most need them. Physical activity could be encouraged relatively cheaply, for example by installing exercise equipment in parks, as my local council has done. This has the added benefit that parents and children often use them together just for fun, which develops a positive attitude to exercise at an early age.

As well as physical activity, high tax penalties could be imposed on high-fat food products, tobacco and alcohol, as excessive consumption of any of these contributes to poor health. Even improving public transport would help: it takes longer to walk to the bus stop than to the car.

In my opinion, focusing on sports facilities is too narrow an approach and would not have the desired results. People should be encouraged not only to be more physically active but also to adopt a healthier lifestyle in general.

# TR: Task Parts, Plurals, and Other Nuances of the Rubric

*In a number of countries, some people think it is necessary to spend large sums of money on constructing new railway lines for very fast trains between cities. Others believe the money should be spent on improving existing public transport.*

*Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.*

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 7.5** score. Here is the examiner's comment:

This is a good response which would achieve an even higher score if there was more focus on **large sums of money** and on **between cities**. The writing is well organised and there is a clear progression throughout, although the use of some cohesive devices could be more flexible. There is a wide range of vocabulary, used appropriately and naturally, [preferred method of transportation | leave the driving to the professional | more affordable | ever-expanding urban populations | embrace the idea of], but some spelling errors are noted [Communters | whill | cheif | ammount | busses]. There is a wide range of structures and again, these are used flexibly, however there are occasional errors in punctuation.

For many people around the world, the preferred method of transportation is high-speed rail. Communters travelling to and from work rely on the safety and efficiency, whill tourists appreciate the convenience and novelty that trains provide. Others believe that highways, busses and regular trains should be improved before new, high-speed lines are added.

Safety is cheif among concerns for those who travel to work or school on a regular basis. If one drives a car, they have to concentrate on the road not only to avoid accidents but also to prevent other drivers from causing a problem on the road. High-speed rail allows the commuter to leave the driving to the professional controlling the train, allowing them to get some work done while getting to work safely.

In addition, people tend to move further and further away from city centres, where land and houses are more affordable. High-speed rail allows these commuters to travel greater distances in a shorter ammount of time. There is a flow-on effect here, because if we can reduce the number of cars on the road, we can also cut down on traffic jams and road delays.

On the other hand, high-speed trains are expensive, and some believe this money could be spend on repairing motorways which are used by cars, busses and motorcycles. Another possibility would be to use this money to build more regular commuter trains and busses to service the ever-expanding urban populations. Moreover, boats and ferries could benefit from a budget which focuses more on existing forms of transport.

In the end, public transport is an issue which affects us all. The taxes which we pay should be spent on the type of transport which will have the most benefit to all citizens. In addition, we need to take into account how much the environment is damaged by fossil fuels and pollution. therefore, I believe in order to move forward, we need to embrace the idea of high-speed rail so that future generations can continue to live safely and efficiently.

# TR: Task Parts, Plurals, and Other Nuances of the Rubric



*Some people claim that not enough of the waste from homes is recycled. They say that the only way to increase recycling is for governments to make it a legal requirement.*

*To what extent do you think laws are needed to make people recycle more of their waste?*

## TEST 2, WRITING TASK 2

### SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 5** score. Here is the examiner's comment:

The candidate expresses a position, but only partially addresses the prompt (he or she considers ways in which people can be encouraged to recycle, rather than explicitly looking at the extent to which laws are required); however, ideas are relevant and are supported with clear examples. There is a clear overall progression and cohesive devices are used effectively, if somewhat mechanically (apart from *Either*). Paragraphing is just adequate. Lexical range is adequate for the task and there are attempts to use less common items (*policy, junk bank, citizen, deposit*), but there are errors in word formation (*sale/sell, growth/grow up*) and some errors in word choice cause difficulty for the reader (*inverse to be some money, motivate advantages of recycling*). There are attempts to use complex sentence structures, but grammatical errors are frequent (*million tons of wastes have been being produced which from home everyday, easy example way to do in house, There is one day a week in order that clean school together which help they have ..., Starting give education*).

# TR: Task Parts, Plurals, and Other Nuances of the Rubric



***In many countries, the amount of crime is increasing.***

***What do you think are the main causes of crime?***

***How can we deal with those causes?***

*Source: Cambridge IELTS 10, GT test A*

***Today more people are travelling than ever before.***

***Why is this the case?***

***What are the benefits of travelling for the traveller?***

*Source: Cambridge IELTS 8, GT test A*

# TR: Main Idea & Development



Nowadays the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology.

In what ways has technology affected the types of relationship people make?

*Source: Cambridge IELTS 8, test 2*

**Main idea:** Long-distance relationships are much easier

**Developing a main idea:**

1. Present it clearly and completely (no unclarity and vagueness)
2. How?  
Why?  
Example? (*where possible; not every main idea needs examples*)  
So what?

**Technology → Long-distance relationships are much easier**

Developments in telecom → services e.g. Apple FaceTime & WhatsApp → visual contact with people far away → miss them less

***Some people think that it is better to educate boys and girls in separate schools. Others, however, believe that boys and girls benefit more from attending mixed schools.***

***Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.***

Some educationalists think it is more effective to educate boys and girls in single-sex schools because they believe this environment reduces distractions and encourages pupils to concentrate on their studies. This is probably true to some extent. It also allows more equality among pupils and gives more opportunity to all those at the school to choose subjects more freely without gender prejudice. For example, a much higher proportion of girls study science to a high level when they attend girls' schools than their counterparts in mixed schools do. Similarly, boys in single-sex schools are more likely to take cookery classes and to study languages, which are often thought of as traditional subjects for girls.

On the other hand, some experts would argue that mixed schools prepare their pupils better for their future lives. Girls and boys learn to live and work together from an early age and are consequently not emotionally underdeveloped in their relations with the opposite sex. They are also able to learn from each other, and to experience different types of skill and talent than might be evident in a single gender environment.

# TR: Plurals + Good Development



Housing and accommodation has become a major problem in many countries around the world.

What are some of the main factors that have contributed to this problem?

What can be done to help reduce the number of homeless people?

**The main reason behind this problem is overpopulation.** In many countries, people migrate from villages and rural areas to cities so that they can find better jobs, as well as educational and medical facilities. This has increased the population of cities to such an extent that there is not sufficient accommodation for everyone. **Apart from this, economic difficulties in many countries like Greece, Iran and Venezuela have made it hard for many to buy or rent accommodation.** Many citizens in such countries are either unemployed or are engaged in low-paid jobs like seasonal farm jobs or washing dishes at restaurants, and inflation has resulted in an increase in house prices. Therefore, the number of people who cannot afford housing is on the increase.

# TR: Clear Position + Good Development



**Some people believe that national sports teams and individual athletes who represent their country should be financially supported by the government. Some people think that they should be funded by non-government groups (e.g. business, sponsorship).**

**What is your opinion?**

I think between governments and non-government groups, the former should be responsible for supporting national teams and athletes financially.

One reason is that the success of a country's sportspeople benefits its government financially. When they win international games and competitions, their nations' position in international sports federations is boosted and it can host future international games that attract hundreds of athletes and fans from around the world. This creates thousands of jobs, especially in the hospitality and transport sectors, and allows the government to earn a lot of money through relevant taxes.

## Exercise: Ignoring Task Parts

***In many places, new homes are needed, but the only space available for building them is in the countryside. Some people believe it is more important to protect the countryside and not build new homes there.***

***What is your opinion about this?***

However, some may argue that a greater part of rural areas should be allocated to building individuals' homes because the price of land is much lower there. Nonetheless, I believe that constructing more and more buildings for people in such areas would encourage more people to live there, leading the land price closer to that in the cities.

## Exercise: Ignoring Task Parts

Some people believe that national sports teams and individual athletes who represent their country should be financially supported by the government. Some people think that they should be funded by non-government groups (e.g. business, sponsorship).

What is your opinion?

*There are some reasons why some say governments are obliged to support sports. Firstly, since the state receives taxes from taxpayers, they may have enough funds to spend on sports. For instance, by giving loans to athletes, the government enables them to buy sports equipment, rent a place to practice or even hire a skilled coach. Moreover,...*

# Coherence and Cohesion

| Band 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Band 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Band 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Band 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organisation is evident but is not wholly logical and there may be a lack of overall progression. Nevertheless, there is a sense of underlying coherence to the response.</li><li>• The relationship of ideas can be followed but the sentences are not fluently lined to each other.</li><li>• There may be limited/overuse of cohesive devices with some inaccuracy.</li><li>• The writing may be repetitive due to inadequate and/or inaccurate use of reference and substitution.</li><li>• Paragraphing may be inadequate or missing.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information and ideas are generally arranged coherently and there is a clear overall progression</li><li>• Cohesive devices are used to some good effect but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical due to misuse, overuse or omission.</li><li>• The use of reference and substitution may lack flexibility or clarity and result in some repetition or error.</li><li>• Paragraphing may not always be logical and/or the central topic may not always be clear.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Information and ideas are logically organised and there is a clear progression throughout the response. (A few lapses may occur, but these are minor.)</li><li>• A range of cohesive devices including reference and substitution is used flexibly but with some inaccuracies or some over/under use.</li><li>• Paragraphing is generally used effectively to support overall coherence, and the sequencing of ideas within a paragraph is generally logical.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The message can be followed with ease.</li><li>• Information and ideas are logically sequenced, and cohesion is well managed.</li><li>• Occasional lapses in coherence and cohesion may occur.</li><li>• Paragraphing is used sufficiently and appropriately.</li></ul> |

# Coherence & Cohesion

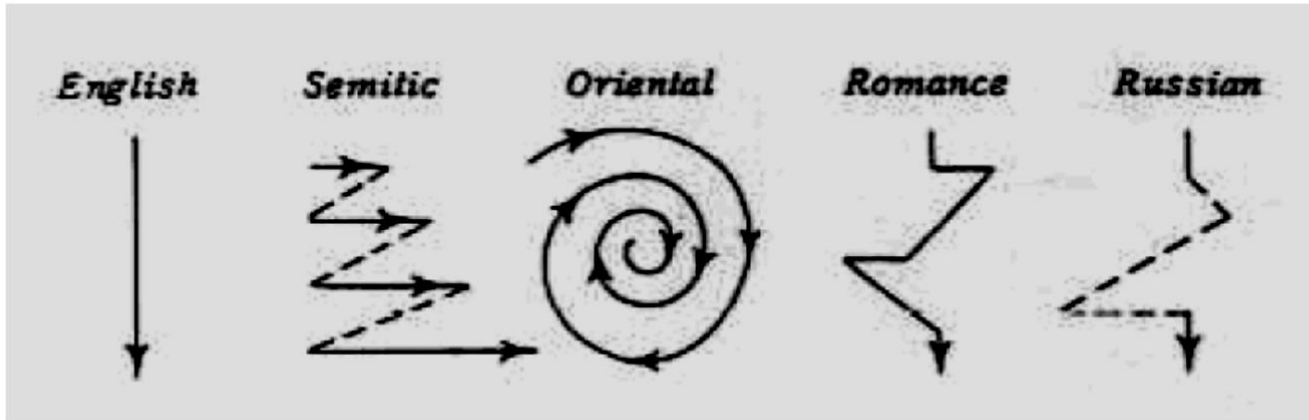
## ❖ Band 6

- You are generally coherent
- There is clear overall progression
- Cohesive devices are used effectively
- Linking may be faulty/mechanical due to misuse, overuse or inappropriate omission of linkers
- Referencing may be unclear, inflexible or faulty
- There may be some repetition
- Paragraphing may be illogical
- The central topic of some paragraphs is not clear

## ❖ Band 7

- You are almost always coherent
- There is clear progression throughout
- There is a flexible range of linkers and referencing/substitution
- There may be some inaccurate use of linkers or references
- There may be some over/underuse of linking and referencing
- The order of ideas in each paragraph is mostly logical

# Coherence: Idea & argument organisation



(1) North American (English) argumentative writing is linear, direct and to the point, with the thesis statement/claim at the beginning of the argument, and supporting arguments arranged hierarchically.

(2) Semitic argumentative writing (Jewish, Arabic, Armenian) presents the argument in parallel propositions, or embedded in stories, not in hierarchical progression.

(3) Oriental (Asian) argumentative writing approaches the argument in a circular, respectful, indirect, non-assertive, but authoritative way.

(4) Romance (and German) argumentative writing favor a digressive style that requires readers to follow the argument to its conclusion.<sup>1</sup>

(5) Russian argumentative writing follows the Romance model, but with more freedom for dividing the pieces of the argument as the author proceeds to the conclusion.

# CC: Coherence + Avoiding Linker Overuse



Nowadays the way many people interact with each other has changed because of technology.

In what ways has technology affected the types of relationship people make?

## Technology → Long-distance relationships are much easier

Developments in telecom → services e.g. Apple FaceTime & WhatsApp → visual contact with people far away → miss them less → less tension

Thanks to recent technological developments, long-distance relationships are now generally more convenient than they used to be. Telecommunication technology has developed greatly in recent years, and services such as Apple FaceTime and WhatsApp allow people to see friends and loved ones who live far away, which makes it less likely for them to miss each other and reduces tensions in their relationship.

It is said that countries are becoming similar to each other because of the global spread of the same products, which are now available for purchase almost anywhere. I strongly believe that this modern development is largely detrimental to culture and traditions worldwide.

A country's history, language and ethos are all inextricably bound up in its manufactured artefacts. If the relentless advance of international brands into every corner of the world continues, these bland packages might one day completely oust the traditional objects of a nation, which would be a loss of richness and diversity in the world, as well as the sad disappearance of the manifestations of a place's character. What would a Japanese tea ceremony be without its specially crafted teapot, or a Fijian kava ritual without its bowl made from a certain type of tree bark?

Let us not forget either that traditional products, whether these be medicines, cosmetics, toys, clothes, utensils or food, provide employment for local people. The spread of multinational products can often bring in its wake a loss of jobs, as people turn to buying the new brand, perhaps thinking it more glamorous than the one they are used to. This eventually puts old-school craftspeople out of work.

Finally, tourism numbers may also be affected, as travellers become disillusioned with finding every place just the same as the one they visited previously. To see the same products in shops the world over is boring, and does not impel visitors to open their wallets in the same way that trinkets or souvenirs unique to the particular area do.

Some may argue that all people are entitled to have access to the same products, but I say that local objects suit local conditions best, and that faceless uniformity worldwide is an unwelcome and dreary prospect.

It is true that many parents purchase a multitude of playthings for their offspring. Whether or not this is a good thing for the child, is a moot point. On the face of it the advantages seem most apparent, but could there be a downside to this phenomenon of devoted parenting as well?

Most people would consider children who have many toys to be the fortunate ones. Interesting things to play with stimulate many positives in the young boy or girl, such as optimum brain development, hand-eye coordination and colour recognition, apart from the simple joy of playing. Modern toys are designed to be educational as well as fun, and concerned parents carefully select products which might speed their child's acquisition of numbers or the alphabet.

Is it possible that owning multiple toys could be in any way detrimental to a child? This is an unusual question, but there are some hidden pitfalls. **For one,** wealthy parents might spoil their son or daughter by showering him/her with toys, resulting in a negative effect on the child's character. **For another,** a growing child's concentration span may suffer if they are constantly surrounded by too many tempting objects, so that they become unable to focus on any one game for a decent length of time before being distracted. **On the social side,** older children may become targets of envy from classmates, if they are perceived as having far more possessions than their peers. **Finally,** the majority of toys today are made of plastic which commonly contains the chemical BPA, proven to be dangerous for infants to suck on or ingest.

It is clear then that this situation is not as straightforward as it first appears. It would seem that one of the many duties of parents is to make an informed choice about how many toys they buy for their young ones.

# CC: Referencing Examples



Traditionally, children have begun studying foreign languages at secondary school, but introducing **them** earlier is recommended by some educationalists. This policy has been adopted by some educational authorities or individual schools, with both positive and negative outcomes.

The obvious argument in its favour is that young children pick up languages much more easily than teenagers. **Their** brains are still programmed to acquire **their** mother tongue, which facilitates learning another language, and unlike adolescents, **they** are not inhibited by self-consciousness.

The greater flexibility of the primary timetable allows for more frequent, shorter sessions and for a play-centred approach, thus maintaining learners' enthusiasm and progress. Their command of the language in later life will benefit from this early exposure, while learning other languages subsequently will be easier for them. They may also gain a better understanding of other cultures.

There are, **however**, some disadvantages. Primary school teachers are generalists, and may not have the necessary language skills themselves. **If** specialists have to be brought in to deliver these sessions, the flexibility referred to above is diminished. **If** primary language teaching is not standardised, secondary schools could be faced with a great variety of levels in different languages within their intake, resulting in a classroom experience which undoes the earlier gains. There is no advantage **if** enthusiastic primary pupils become demotivated as soon as they change schools. **However**, these issues can be addressed strategically within the policy adopted.

Anything which encourages language learning benefits society culturally and economically, and early exposure to language learning contributes to this. Young children's innate abilities should be harnessed to make these benefits more achievable.

***Some people think that it is better to educate boys and girls in separate schools. Others, however, believe that boys and girls benefit more from attending mixed schools.***

***Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.***

Some educationalists think it is more effective to educate boys and girls in single-sex schools **because** they believe this environment reduces distractions and encourages pupils to concentrate on their studies. This is probably true to some extent. It **also** allows more equality among pupils and gives more opportunity to all those at the school to choose subjects more freely without gender prejudice. **For example**, a much higher proportion of girls study science to a high level when they attend girls' schools than their counterparts in mixed schools do. **Similarly**, boys in single-sex schools are more likely to take cookery classes and to study languages, which are often thought of as traditional subjects for girls.

**On the other hand**, some experts would argue that mixed schools prepare their pupils better for their future lives. Girls and boys learn to live and work together from an early age **and** are **consequently** not emotionally underdeveloped in their relations with the opposite sex. They are **also** able to learn from each other, and to experience different types of skill and talent than might be evident in a single gender environment.

# Lexical Resource

| Band 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Band 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Band 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Band 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The resource is limited but minimally adequate for the task.</li><li>• Some vocabulary may be used accurately but the range does not permit much variation in expression.</li><li>• There may be frequent lapses in the appropriacy of word choice and a lack of flexibility is apparent in frequent simplifications and or repetitions.</li><li>• Errors in spelling and/or word formation may be noticeable and may cause some difficulty for the reader</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The resource is generally adequate and appropriate for the task.</li><li>• The meaning is generally clear in spite of a rather restricted range or a lack of precision in word choice.</li><li>• If the writer is a risk-taker, there will be a wider range of vocabulary used but higher degrees of inaccuracies or inappropriacy.</li><li>• There are some errors in spelling and/or word formation, but these do not impede communication.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The resource is sufficient to allow some flexibility and precision.</li><li>• There is some ability to use less common and/or idiomatic items.</li><li>• An awareness of style and collocation is evident, though in accuracies occur.</li><li>• There are only a few errors in spelling and/or word formation and they do not detract from overall clarity.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A wide resource is fluently and flexibly used to convey precise meanings.</li><li>• There is skillful use of uncommon and/or idiomatic items when appropriate, despite occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation.</li><li>• Occasional errors in spelling and/or word formation may occur, but have minimal impact on communication.</li></ul> |

## 1. Range

- Flexibility
- Precision
- Collocation
- Style
- Less common/idiomatic vocabulary  
(NOT IDIOMS!)

## 2. Errors

## ❖ Band 6

- Range of vocabulary: mostly adequate for the task
- Meaning is mostly clear
- Some candidates risk using of wider range of vocabulary [that they do not yet master] but there are more errors too
- Errors do not affect understanding

## ❖ Band 7

- Range of vocabulary: enough to show some flexibility and precision
- Some less common words and idiomatic words/phrases used accurately
- Some awareness of style despite a few errors
- Some awareness of collocation despite a few errors
- Only a few errors in spelling, word formation and word choice
- Errors do not affect understanding

# LR: Less Common Vocabulary + Collocation

**Some people believe that national sports teams and individual athletes who represent their country should be financially supported by the government. Some people think that they should be funded by non-government groups (e.g. business, sponsorship).**

**What is your opinion?**

Based on my knowledge, some people choose to accept the fate that they have to undergo the bad situation as they believe that good things might come out of it. Their solution is simply to just go with the flow because they think that they will learn something new along the journey. For example, a student received a grade B for his Physics examination. However, he only needs one more mark to get an A. If a student requires to receive a mark percentage of 70% to get an A, this student got a 69% on his paper. As the teacher looked through the questions with the whole class, he notices that the teacher accidentally marked his correct answer to wrong. So, realistically, he should get an A. However, he chooses to leave his grade as a B because he believes that his current grade will be a motivation for him to improve and work harder to get a better grade in the next examination. Hence, this explains why some people chooses to accept the bad situation.

## LR: Range + Flexibility

Some people think that now we can watch movies on gadgets we do not need to attend movie theatre. Some think that to be really liked movies must be seen in a movie theatre. In this essay I will discuss both these views and give my own opinion.

To see films on our tablets and phones there is no need to go to the cinema. On my tablet I see every film I want to see. Also this way is cheap. Each month I pay £9 and I watch many films in my home or on train. If something happen I can stop and do it and later I can watch my film again. I like this and then I fully enjoy it as my stress is not there.

In addition, I like to go the cinema. I like my frinds and me to meet up and go to cinema and if I see my boyfriend I like to go to cinema to see a film to gether. Last year on my birthday many friends and me all went to cinema to gether and we watched Deep Water Horizon. I enjoyed this and my friends too, because the big screen showed more information and because the sound quality was better than at home. May be in my house we will not be so happy to watch this film and see the famous actor. Also, we enjoyed the popcorn and coke we could buy.

In conclusion in my house I like to watch films on my tablet. It is cheap and easy for me, but I also like to go to cinema to see films, especially with friends. Maybe both are good to fully enjoy films at different times and with different people.

# Grammatical Range and Accuracy

| Band 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Band 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Band 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Band 8                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The range of structures is limited and rather repetitive.</li><li>• Although some complex sentences are attempted, they tend to be faulty, and the greatest accuracy is achieved on simple sentences.</li><li>• Grammatical errors may be frequent and cause some difficulty for the reader.</li><li>• Punctuation may be faulty.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A mix of simple and complex sentence forms is used but flexibility is limited.</li><li>• Examples of more complex structures are not marked by the same level of accuracy as in simple structures..</li><li>• Errors in grammar and punctuation occur, but rarely impede communication.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A variety of complex structures is used with some flexibility and accuracy.</li><li>• Grammar and punctuation are generally well controlled, and error-free sentences are frequent.</li><li>• A few errors in grammar may persist, but these do not impede communication.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A wide range of structures is flexibly and accurately used.</li><li>• The majority of sentences are error-free, and punctuation is well managed.</li><li>• Occasional, non-systematic errors and inappropriacies occur, but have minimal impact on communication.</li></ul> |

## 1. Range

- Simple Sentences
- Compound Structures
- Complex Structures:  
*noun clauses, adj. clauses, adv. clauses, participle clauses,...*
- Compound-Complex Structures

## 2. Errors

# Grammatical Range & Accuracy



## ❖ Band 6

- Complex structures + simple/compound structures
- Simple sentences are generally error-free but complex sentences contain relatively more errors
- Does not use grammatical structures very flexibly
- Grammatical and punctuation errors almost never affect understanding

## ❖ Band 7

- Uses different complex structures with some flexibility (= uses them where they need to be used)
- Most of the time shows good control over grammar and punctuation
- Many error-free sentences
- Only a few persistent errors in grammar and punctuation
- Errors do not affect understanding

# Focus on GRA: Errors with Complex Structures



To make road transport safer, drivers should repeat their driving test every year.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with this opinion?

To begin with, repeating driving test every year seems not to have a significant impinge on current situation of road safety. It is mainly because people use traffic rules on a daily basis; therefore, they will not forget them easily. In fact traffic offences are sequel to other incentives. For instance, disobeying traffic rules are probably due to personal reasons, being careless toward rules, not suitable driving penalties, non-existence of proper signs in roads, and so on. For example some people are in rush for an appointment leading them to drive quickly and higher than legal speed limit, or others want to experience more excitement during their trip making them drive in high speed. Needless to say, driving with high pace is the most incentive for many road accidents.

## Focus on GRA



I am writing to let you know *that at last we have moved to a bigger house*. We just couldn't go on living in the two-bedroom bungalow *now that the twins are growing up and the new baby has arrived*. So we started looking- and one thing led to another and finally here we are in our new home.

I'm sure *you'll like it*. We have three bedrooms now, and a very modern bathroom and kitchen. The kids are happy *because there is much more space with the big living room and the garden outside*. But Michel is the happiest of all *because he doesn't need to do much decorating*.

Why don't you come round this weekend and see *what you think of our new place*? We would all love to see you and *if the weather is good* we can have a barbecue in the garden.

Our new address and phone number are below, so give us a call and let us know *when to expect you*.

# Focus on GRA: Range & Error-free Sentences

Some people think that now we can watch movies on gadgets we do not need to attend movie theatre. Some think that to be really liked movies must be seen in a movie theatre. In this essay I will discuss both these views and give my own opinion.

To see films on our tablets and phones there is no need to go to the cinema. On my tablet I see every film I want to see. Also this way is cheap. Each month I pay £9 and I watch many films in my home or on train. If something happen I can stop and do it and later I can watch my film again. I like this and then I fully enjoy it as my stress is not there.

In addition, I like to go the cinema. I like my frinds and me to meet up and go to cinema and if I see my boyfriend I like to go to cinema to see a film to gether. Last year on my birthday many friends and me all went to cinema to gether and we watched Deep Water Horizon. I enjoyed this and my friends too, because the big screen showed more information and because the sound quality was better than at home. May be in my house we will not be so happy to watch this film and see the famous actor. Also, we enjoyed the popcorn and coke we could buy.

In conclusion in my house I like to watch films on my tablet. It is cheap and easy for me, but I also like to go to cinema to see films, especially with friends. Maybe both are good to fully enjoy films at different times and with different people.

# Focus on GRA: Band 7: Range, Error-free Sentences

**Examiner's comments:** There is a variety of complex structure and many sentences are error free. There is also good control of punctuation.

(Source: Cambridge IELTS 13 GT)

To see films on our tablets and phones there is no need to go to the cinema. On my tablet I see every film **I want to see**. Also this way is cheap. Each month I pay \$9 and I watch many films in my home or on train. **If something happen** I can stop and do it and later I can watch my film again. I like this and then I fully enjoy it **as my stress is not there**.

In addition, I like to go the cinema. I like my friends and me to meet up and go to cinema and **if I see my boyfriend** I like to go to cinema to see a film together. Last year on my birthday many friends and me all went to cinema together and we watched Deep Water Horizon. I enjoyed this and my friends too, **because the big screen showed more information** and **because the sound quality was better than at home**. Maybe in my house we will not be happy to watch this film and see the famous actor. Also we enjoyed the popcorn and coke **we could buy**.

# Focus on GRA: Band 7: Control over Grammar



## WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

***Some people think that parents should teach children how to be good members of society. Others, however, believe that school is the place to learn this.***

***Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.***

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

# The Process of Writing

## Topic

- Read carefully
- Decide topic area
- Distinguish parts

## Prewrite

- Brainstorm ideas
- Examples/support/...
- Organise (establish progression)

## Write

- Do not add/remove ideas
- Focus on sentence construction, proper vocabulary and cohesion

## Revise & Edit

- Grammar
- Vocabulary
- Referencing
- Linking