

Assessing Student Skills in Writing and Speaking

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YEAR 12

WRITING TEST

2017

Task 1 E-mail (15 points)

You should spend about 25 minutes on this task.

Write between 100 – 120 words.

You are designing a poster for a healthy lifestyle campaign. You find a suitable picture on a photographer's blog. Write an e-mail to the photographer, Mr Bloom. In your e-mail:

- introduce yourself;
- give details of your project;
- ask for permission to use the photo;
- explain how you are planning to use it;
- offer to send a copy of the poster.

Remember you have to write between 100 – 120 words.

YEAR 12

WRITING TEST

2017

Task 2 Essay (25 points)

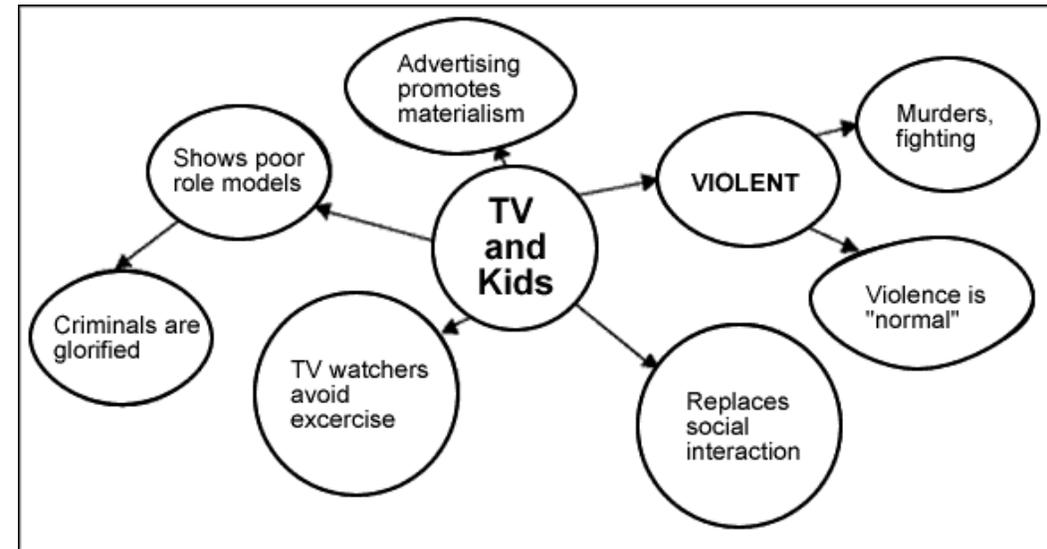
You should spend about 45 minutes on this task.

Write between 200 – 250 words.

People these days buy more products (food, electronic devices etc.) than they need. Do you agree or disagree? Write an essay expressing your opinion, giving at least two reasons to support it.

PREWRITING TECHNIQUES

- BRAINSTORMING
- FREEWRITING
- CLUSTERING OR MINDMAPPING
- QUESTION-ASKING
- OUTLINING



YEAR 12

SPEAKING TEST

NUMBER OF TASKS	2
SPEAKING TEST DURATION	10 - 12 minutes
TARGET LEVEL	B1 – C1
TEST CONTENT	General language proficiency test
CHANNEL	face to face, recorded

TASK 1

INTERVIEW

Task instructions:

You have to answer five questions about the topic.

You have 3-5 minutes for the five questions. Say as much as you can.

TRAVELLING

1. Do you enjoy travelling? Why/Why not?
2. If you could go anywhere on holiday, where would you choose to go? Why?
3. What would you advise holiday makers to do and see in Latvia?
4. How can travel change a person?
5. What's more important about travelling – the journey or the destination? Why?

TASK 2

MONOLOGUE

Task instructions:

Read the text. In your own words:

- 1) define briefly what the main issue/problem is;
- 2) say what you think about the issue raised in the text;
- 3) provide arguments and examples to support your opinion;
- 4) come to a conclusion;
- 5) answer one additional question (the examiner will ask you at the end of your monologue).

You have 2 minutes to prepare. Speaking time: 5 minutes.

TASK 2

MONOLOGUE

TEXT 1: MORE FREE TIME FOR LEISURE ACTIVITIES

Leisure activities may be the first things you sacrifice to make more time for career and family duties. However, making even a little leisure time for yourself every day can help you achieve a more balanced and enjoyable life, relieving stress and giving you more physical and emotional energy for other daily tasks. Evaluating your priorities, schedule and time management can help you find ways to fit in more leisure activities.

- How can our leisure time choices show what kind of people we are?
- Why do people these days often complain that they do not have enough time?

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

TASK COMPLETION	5
	5
VOCABULARY	5
GRAMMAR	5
FLUENCY AND PRONUNCIATION	5

ACTIVITY 1

Put the band descriptors in the correct order (1 - lowest, 5 - highest)

FLUENCY AND PRONUNCIATION

	Expresses themselves with evident pauses. Speech is often disconnected. Pronunciation errors may impede understanding
	Expresses themselves with some hesitation, pausing for grammatical and lexical planning. Pronunciation errors are rare and do not impede understanding.
	Expresses themselves with much pausing. Produces very short, isolated utterances, impeding understanding. Pronunciation errors partly impede understanding.
	Expresses themselves quite fluently. Pauses may occur when searching for ideas. Pronunciation is accurate, minor errors possible.
	Expresses themselves fluently and with ease. Pauses are logically placed. Pronunciation is consistently accurate.

FLUENCY AND PRONUNCIATION

5	Expresses themselves fluently and with ease. Pauses are logically placed. Pronunciation is consistently accurate.
4	Expresses themselves quite fluently. Pauses may occur when searching for ideas. Pronunciation is accurate, minor errors possible.
3	Expresses themselves with some hesitation, pausing for grammatical and lexical planning. Pronunciation errors are rare and do not impede understanding.
2	Expresses themselves with evident pauses. Speech is often disconnected. Pronunciation errors may impede understanding
1	Expresses themselves with much pausing. Produces very short, isolated utterances, impeding understanding. Pronunciation errors partly impede understanding.

ACTIVITY 2

Complete the band descriptors with the given words and phrases.

not always relevant / in a simple way / thoroughly supported / some / appropriately supported / insufficiently developed / in a fully satisfactory manner / all / most / quite satisfactorily

TASK COMPLETION

TASK 2

5	Covers all task points _____ . The opinion expressed is well developed and _____ .
4	Covers all task points _____ . Gives a relevant and _____ opinion on the issue raised.
3	Covers _____ task points _____ . The opinion expressed may be _____ and/or supported.
2	Covers _____ task points. The conveyed meaning is _____ to the issue raised.
1	Covers _____ task points. Gives mostly isolated, unrelated statements.

TASK COMPLETION

TASK 2

5	Covers all task points in a fully satisfactory manner . The opinion expressed is well developed and thoroughly supported .
4	Covers all task points quite satisfactorily . Gives a relevant and appropriately supported opinion on the issue raised.
3	Covers all task points in a simple way . The opinion expressed may be insufficiently developed and/or supported.
2	Covers most task points. The conveyed meaning is not always relevant to the issue raised.
1	Covers some task points. Gives mostly isolated, unrelated statements.

SAMPLE ANSWER

TASK 1

EDUCATION

1. Which subjects take most of your time at school? Why?
2. Is it important to have higher education? Why/Why not?
3. What important life skills have you learned at school?
4. Who is responsible for your education (you yourself, your parents, school)? Why?
5. Is education a right or a privilege? Why?

SAMPLE ANSWER

TASK 2

TEXT 3: THE BENEFITS OF EXERCISE

We often hear about the physical benefits of exercise, but it is also a fact that engaging in a moderate amount of physical activity will result in improved mood and emotional states. Exercise can promote psychological well-being, for example by increasing a person's self-confidence, improving their self-esteem, giving them more energy and can also relieve the symptoms of depression. Even a brief walk can improve mood and increase energy.

QUESTION FROM THE INTERVIEWER: *How can stress affect health?*