

# ROAD TO IELTS

IELTS preparation and practice



## Writing

General Training module  
Practice test 2

Candidate Number

Candidate Name \_\_\_\_\_

**INTERNATIONAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TESTING SYSTEM****General Training Writing****PRACTICE TEST 2**

1 hour

**Time** 1 hour**INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

Do not open this question paper until you are told to do so.

**Write your name and candidate number in the spaces at the top of this page.**

Read the instructions for each task carefully.

Answer both of the tasks.

Write at least 150 words for Task 1.

Write at least 250 words for Task 2.

Write your answers in the answer booklet.

Write clearly in pen or pencil. You may make alterations, but make sure your work is easy to read.

At the end of the test, hand in both this question paper and your answer booklet.

**INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

There are **two** tasks on this question paper.

Task 2 contributes twice as much as Task 1 to the Writing score.

## WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

*You have lost an item of value on a train.*

*Write a letter to the railway company. In your letter*

- *describe the item*
- *explain where and when you left it*
- *say what action you would like the company to take*

Write at least 150 words.

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

**Dear Sir or Madam,**

  
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## WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

*Some people think that having a set retirement age (e.g. 65 years) for everybody, regardless of occupation, is unfair. They believe that certain workers deserve to retire and receive a pension at an earlier age.*

*Do you agree or disagree?*

*Which types of workers do you think should benefit from early retirement?*

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

Write at least 250 words.

## GENERAL TRAINING MODULE WRITING TASK 1 – Model Answer

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing to report the loss of a valuable personal item on one of your trains.

The item is a small black leather wallet with the brand name 'Urban Limit' embossed on the front. Inside was a library card, a credit card, a swipe card for the gym, a student I.D. card and my driver's licence – all in my name. There was also a little cash: about \$25 in all.

I must have lost the wallet between 4.15 pm and 4.30 pm while travelling southbound on the Wyndham Line on Friday afternoon (15<sup>th</sup> May). If I recall correctly, I was in the second carriage sitting near the front.

Could you please let me know if a wallet of this description has been found. My phone number is 099 304 2442. If you have it, please keep it in a safe place and I will make arrangements to collect it at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Joe Black

154 words

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## **GENERAL TRAINING MODULE WRITING TASK 2 – Model Answer**

Many governments set an arbitrary retirement age (such as sixty-five), but some people are physically worn out or mentally exhausted well before they reach this age. While some people believe the set age is reasonable, others think it should be more flexible with exemptions for certain workers. In my opinion, a fixed retirement age is actually best for everybody because it is the easiest and fairest arrangement, but I think a tribunal could be established to decide whether individual workers deserve to receive a pension at an earlier age.

Before the new economy, when most people had a single occupation for life, it would have made a lot of sense to allow some manual labourers or people working in psychologically stressful roles to retire earlier. Today, however, so many people change jobs and shift between industries every few years that it is difficult to make these distinctions.

An ideal middle ground would be to have a set retirement age for everybody, but to create a tribunal that could hear individual cases. A sixty year old who had been a miner for forty years could get an early pension, for example, whereas someone of the same age who had only spent eight years mining in his twenties would not.

Two types of workers would benefit from early retirement. First are those who work in tough, physically demanding conditions such as construction workers, coal miners and welders. The others are workers in high stress positions where sound judgement is crucial for public safety. Emergency medical practitioners and air traffic control operators are two such examples.

With people's working lives differing on an individual basis, it is difficult to classify them into large groups and distribute pensions accordingly. Nevertheless, many individuals still deserve an early pension and in some cases our well-being may depend on giving it to them.

306 words