

Test and Train Practice Test 1
C1 Advanced
Writing

Important note: a computer-based version of this paper is available in the 'Tests' area on Cambridge One.

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Sample answers and commentaries

Please note the sample answers given here show just one of many different approaches.

Sample A (Part 1, Essay)

Factors that have an impact on people when choosing a career

Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions in life and so people usually need help with their choices. But who or what is the biggest factor?

To begin with most families have a great influence on their children's choices. In some occasions parents force their children to follow their steps and do what they do. However young people shouldn't necessarily do what their parents do. That is a personal choice and parents should only help with the choice rather than command them. Moreover they should be there to support their children do what they like.

On the other hand personal interests might have a way greater influence than family. Usually people tend to do what they like because that way they will be entertained while they are getting paid for it. In my view that is the better option because they will work more diligently and have better workflow overall. However sometimes people take the job of their interests frivolously and take it more as a leisure time activity than a serious job. As they say: if you are lucky, your hobby can become your job.

To conclude, the factors should only help you with your choice rather than force you to make it. It might be helpful, however, to ask for advice from more experienced people in life like your family members.

Content	5	All content is relevant to the task and the ideas given for the two chosen factors are well supported with arguments for and against them.
Communicative Achievement	3	The conventions of essay writing are used to communicate ideas in an appropriate way. The opening paragraph states the reason for writing and leads into the body paragraphs, each of which explores the writer's opinions on one of the chosen factors. The conclusion states which factor the writer thinks has more influence and explains why. The communicative purposes of the essay have been achieved.
Organisation	3	The text is organised into clear paragraphs and is coherent throughout. The writer has used a range of cohesive devices and sentence structures to develop the arguments and to express complex ideas.
Language	3	The writer uses a variety of vocabulary and expressions in an effective way (<i>shouldn't necessarily do, diligently, Usually people tend to</i>). Errors are minor ones, such as with spelling (<i>intrests</i>) and register (<i>a way greater influence</i>).

Sample B (Part 1, Essay)

In today's society, more and more people find difficulties in choosing a career because of some major factors like family and interests.

To begin with, families play a significant role when their relatives are very likely to go on with a certain job. Parents usually have high expectations of their children and want them the same career as they have. But this attitude among choosing a career can often cause major problems and misunderstandings in families. In order to combat these problems families should support them in some ways. For example, parents can support their children financially and emotionally too.

On the other hand, interests and hobbies are very important when choosing the right career. If somebody likes a certain hobby, that means they are interested in it and passionate about it. These type of young people who find in their hobbies passion should choose the same field as a job. Thus, they will be more productive in their work. They will try to do their best to solve certain problems, because they are motivated to do so. For instance, a book lover won't give up so easily, because she or he knows that it takes time and patience to find the exact information they are looking for.

In conclusion, choosing a career can be difficult but with some support and passion about what you are doing will help you to make the right choice.

Content	4	The content is relevant to the essay task and the target reader is informed about the opinions of the writer. The essay is well developed and presents a clear line of argument, although the examples given are not always appropriate to the focus of the task.
Communicative Achievement	3	The writer uses the conventions of essay writing with sufficient flexibility to communicate ideas effectively, holding the reader's attention and fulfilling the communicative purpose of the essay. The opening paragraph states the factors chosen, and each body paragraph addresses one of these to explore in detail, considering the pros and cons of family and interests.
Organisation	3	The text is organised and coherent and makes use of a variety of cohesive devices (<i>To begin with, On the other hand, Thus, For Instance</i>) to effectively signal new points and ideas, despite occasional awkward referencing expressions (<i>this attitude, These type of young people</i>).
Language	3	The writer uses a variety of simple and complex sentence forms in a controlled and natural way. There is a wide range of vocabulary and expression used effectively, despite a number of spelling errors (<i>difficulties, choise</i>) and errors with singular and plural agreement (<i>theirs hobbies, These type of young people, it take time</i>).

Sample C (Part 2, Review)

Technology is rapidly growing these days and there is quite a wide range of applications presented on the market. I must admit, I do not belong to people who keep an eye on all the new applications that come out nearly every day. However, I would like to share my thoughts on some of them that I have recently downloaded and found quite useful.

The first application would be "EasyRead". It is perfect for people who tend to read quite a lot. Being an avid reader myself, I am really satisfied with how easy it is to manage and how many books it can store. All the similar apps for reading I used to have before could have one or two hundred books at most whereas this one contains more than five hundred files. What makes it really different from all other apps, though, is the number of settings it has. Even if you are not into reading, you might want to do it all the time with this app because it makes reading absolutely enjoyable!

The other app I find really useful and user-friendly is "MoneySaver". It provides you with information about all the sales that are currently taking place in all the shops in the city. Considering that I am not particularly good at saving money and keeping track of my expenses, this application is extremely helpful for me!

Of the applications mentioned above, I find "MoneySaver" more useful because it can help you pick up a good bargain or find something which is a really good value for money. Nowadays when most people complain about not having enough money to get by, the opportunity to save money while shopping cannot be underestimated.

Content	5	The writer has addressed all parts of the question and the reader is fully informed about why the two apps were chosen, what they do and how useful they are.
Communicative Achievement	4	The writer has used a style and register appropriate to that of a review for a website and has organised the review into clear paragraphs. The opening paragraph presents a general introduction to the topic and the reasons for writing the review, and the body paragraphs each deal with one of the two chosen apps. The tone is suitably friendly and informal, which makes the reader interested in reading the review to find out more about why the writer has chosen to write about the apps.
Organisation	4	The review is well-organised and clear. The writer uses different sentence lengths to good effect, particularly in the opening sentences of the body paragraphs. The effective use of a variety of cohesive devices helps the reader follow the development of the writer's argument (<i>I must admit, However, though</i>).
Language	4	The writer has used a wide range of grammatical structures and expressions which are appropriate for a review (<i>I would like to share my thoughts on, What makes it really different from all other apps</i>) as well as topic vocabulary and expressions (<i>store, settings, good at saving money and keeping track of my expenses</i>). Errors tend to be slips rather than serious in nature.

Sample D (Part 2, Review)Shorten your time. Simplify your life

In today's technological world, we cannot deny that mobile phones are essential. All the applications available on your mobile phones assist your daily lives in planning, learning, working, connecting, etc. By being carefully selected, the applications or "apps" for short can handle several tasks and get you through successful life in certain ways.

One app that nowadays is mostly used is "LINE", a message-exchanging method which has been extremely popular among people in various countries from all over the world. Although some countries, such as China, hasn't allowed this app due to a political and policy reasons, we have made use of it in various ways in our daily lives. Besides communication, we can use it as our community's meeting rooms, galleries, portfolios. For example, we can collect all the pictures from certain events and share our friends, colleagues, family members on what we call "room". Similary, the other app that I find it very useful and helps me to complete a plenty of tasks in a structured way with a limit of time is "WhatsApp". This app also has its "platform" to gather all the people in your life. You can create as many platforms as you want to be organised. For instance, one platform is for my colleagues whilst another platform is created for my customers. People from different careers surely have their own structure of organisation and this two apps should assist their tasks without difficulties.

All in all, the two apps I chose to review here are only a tool of exchanging messages; however, there are a plenty of apps that provide other useful methods and serve various needs of people todays. In this communicating world, the apps reviewed above will be more and more functional and improved continuously to serve the needs of users in the future. As a result, we all will have one of the best tools to simplify our lives and save our time.

Content	4	The task covers all the content points. The response is well-developed and presents two apps, summarises what they do and their usefulness. However, some of the points made are not entirely relevant to the task.
Communicative Achievement	3	The communicative purpose of the writing is achieved, although some features of style and tone are more similar to those of an essay in places, such as the opening sentence. There is good use of a variety of structures, and this adds interest to the text as a whole.
Organisation	3	The task is generally well-organised in paragraphs and it is coherent. The writer makes use of a range of cohesive devices to link ideas, exemplify and make comparisons (<i>Although, Similary, For instance, All in all</i>), but not always successfully.
Language	2	There is some appropriate use of topic vocabulary (<i>tasks, platform, exchanging messages</i>). The writer uses different sentence structures and lexis for a range of purposes – but with a number of errors, such as with spelling (<i>galleries, Similary</i>) – verb forms (<i>You can create as many platforms as you want to be organised</i>) and sentence structures (<i>the other app that I find it very useful</i>).

Sample E (Part 2, Email)

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you about my latest tour with your agency, a city-break holiday in Wien during Christmas, a three-day guided tour including accomodation.

My overall experience was utterly dissapointing. The pictures that were presented online, the reviews and even the schedule were misleading. When I decided to book my tour, I was expecting a very good hotel, clean rooms, three meals a day and access to a pool. In exchange, we stayed in a hostel (not a very clean one, might I add) and we had to pay for our food. I find it useless to even mention the pool which was definitely missing. Also, the schedule of the trip was supposed to include visits to all the main tourist attractions, a half-day of shopping in SCS, the biggest shopping center in Europe and a Christmas Eve dinner in the Danube Tower Restaurant. All of these were reduced to 3 museum visits, no shopping and no reservations for dinner. We had to wait outside, in the cold, for hours!

This was my first experience with your travel agency and, considering my previous complaints, it will probably be my last. I decided to write this, however, in an attempt to change my option. Better information, more attention for your customers and better trained guides could all remedy dramatically the problems that I had experienced. Also, not hiding the negative reviews on your website would definitely be a better choice. It just seems fair that way.

I hope that you will take into account my complaint and that you will inform me about your future decision. I do not want to have this experience be my standard when thinking about your company.

Thank you!

Best wishes,

Mrs. Paula Smith

Content	5	All the content points of the question have been addressed fully and the reader is fully informed about the reason for writing the email, why the city-break holiday was a disappointment and the ways in which the company could improve its service. The writer includes how the company should deal with the complaint.
Communicative Achievement	4	The tone and register of the email are appropriate to the task. The complaint is clear, convincing and polite. The tour operator would understand why the complaint has been made and would consider responding to what the writer expects should be done.
Organisation	4	The organisation of the email is clear and well-developed. For example, in the second paragraph the writer makes good use of cohesive devices within paragraphs to signal and link the various complaints (<i>When I decided, Also</i>). There is also effective use of reference to link ideas within and across paragraphs (<i>All of these, This was my first experience</i>).
Language	3	There is use of a range of structures in the email which add to its effectiveness, such as comparative forms (<i>better information, more attention for your customers and better trained guides</i>); modality (<i>had to, could, will probably be</i>) and adverbs of degree (<i>utterly, dramatically, definitely</i>). The vocabulary and expressions used are mostly appropriate for the topic (<i>misleading, access to a pool, the main tourist attractions</i>). There were a number of errors with spelling (<i>accomodation, dissapointing</i>) and some inaccurate use of vocabulary (<i>change my option, my standard</i>)

Sample F (Part 2, Email)

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you in order to express my dissatisfaction with the three-day guided tour which was organised by your company in Seoul at the end of last month (28-30.04.2017).

Firstly, I would like to emphasise how important this trip was for me as this was my only one chance to visit Korea and which has been my dream since I was a child.

The trip did not meet my expectations. First of all – the food. I have clearly signed in the form that I am vegetarian but when the tour started, it turned out that there was no vegetarian options for me in the menu. I ended up eating plain bread with butter, which was very disappointing as I came to try the local cuisine. What is more, due to a busy time schedule, I was not able to visit any restaurant or market if I wanted to bear the extra costs.

Secondly – the quality of accommodation. The brochure misled me with the picture of highly-standardised bedroom with a beautiful view through the window. In reality the view is less “picturesque” and certainly not “breathtaking”. When it comes to the bedroom, the brochure does not mention anything about sharing one bathroom (per one floor) with other people! If I knew about this before, I would reconsider my decision about participating in the tour.

In light of those problems mentioned, I suggest some ways in which your company could improve the service. First, if the company cannot afford a better standard of accommodation – reduce the cost of the tour. It will attract more students who don't mind considerably lower conditions for a lower price. What's more, please pay attention to vegetarians when making the menu.

Yours faithfully,

Paula

Content	4	All the content of the email expressing complaint to the tour operator is relevant. The writer covers what the complaint is about in detail, suggests how the company could improve their service. However, there is no reference to the final point about how the writer expects them to deal with the complaint.
Communicative Achievement	3	The writer uses the conventions of writing an email of complaint with sufficient flexibility to communicate the details clearly. The opening paragraph introduces the background to the complaint and the two main paragraphs address the two areas of complaint, the food and the accommodation. The final paragraph suggests ways in which the company could improve their service.
Organisation	3	The text is well-organised and coherent, and the writer makes use of cohesive devices and organisational patterns to good effect. For example, the writer makes use of signalling devices (<i>First of all, What is more, Secondly</i>).
Language	3	The writer has used a variety of sentence lengths for effect. For example, the main paragraphs begin with short statement to introduce a complaint (<i>The trip did not meet my expectations. First of all – the food, Secondly – the quality of accommodation</i>). A range of grammatical structures and verb forms have been used, although not always accurately (<i>I was not able to visit any restaurant or market if I wanted to bear the extra costs, If I knew about this before, I would reconsider my decision</i>).

Sample G (Part 2, Report)Introduction

The aim of this report is to outline the arguments for and against losing the town park which were presented and discussed at the meeting in the town hall on Monday 15 May. We shall also try to evaluate the overall impact of the plan on the town's residents as the debate was heated and provoked a lot of strong emotions.

Arguments for losing the park

The primary reason for losing the public park is the fact that the town is densely-populated with young university graduates looking for jobs and flats locally. There is a great demand for apartments on the market, which can generate a lot of money for the town economy. Another argument in favour of losing the park is the financial report on maintaining this area. It shows that operating costs of running the park are extremely high and, as the place is free of charge, it makes a loss, not a profit. Finally, some claim that the park is the meeting spot for criminals of any sort – vandals, robbers, muggers and the like. They hope having no park will remedy the danger of crimes happening.

Counterarguments

On the contrary, the park is 'the green lungs' of the town – it cleans the polluted air by releasing the extensive amount of oxygen produced by the trees. Without it, local people may suffer from respiratory problems and allergies. Also, the area is the natural habitat of animals and bird species, some of which are rare or even in danger of extinction, like the squirrel or the hedgehog. Finally, this is the perfect place to relax, to do sports, to walk your dog, to have a good time, which is so important in daily life of local residents.

Conclusion

All in all, a park serves numerous functions in any town and in any society. It definitely should be regarded as an asset in any local infrastructure, providing facilities of different nature to both local residents and visitors. A park is a must-have!

Content	5	All content is relevant to the task. The writer has presented a well-developed report which covers a range of arguments for and against losing the park and has considered the potential impact on the town and residents. The reader would be fully informed.
Communicative Achievement	4	The conventions of report writing have been used effectively, with clear headed sections, which help the reader follow its structure. The introduction is clear and outlines the aims of the report. The body sections follow on logically from this and present the arguments for and against, while the conclusion summarises the writer's view on the importance of parks in general for society.
Organisation	3	The report is well-organised and coherent throughout, with each paragraph dealing with one area of the report. The points are signalled clearly through the use of cohesive devices (<i>The primary reason for, Another argument, Finally, All in all</i>) and the use of the reference pronouns to link ideas between sentences and across paragraphs.
Language	4	The language is varied and mostly accurate. The writer has made use of key expressions for reports (<i>The aim of this report is to</i>) and has written in a fairly formal, impersonal style, for example, through use of the passive voice (<i>were presented and discussed</i>) and generalisations (<i>There is a great demand for, some claim that</i>). Errors are minimal.

Sample H (Part 2, Report)**SAVE YOUR ONLY PARK!**

I am writting these lines to tell you what is happening with our only park and with the ideas of our town council.

As you should know, our own council wants to sell our only park for essential housing. In the meeting that I attended last week we discussed about for and against losing the park.

In the one hand, they explained that selling the park for essential houses is an advantage. First, because the town will win a lot of money to improve town's places and resources, and second because it will creates enough work and jobs for all the habitants.

In the other hand, and it is what I really wanted to show them last week and to show you now, is that if we sell our only park we will lose our only green and free-pollution place in our town. As an environmentalist, I evaluated the overall impact of the plan on the town's residents, and I am going to explain you, like I did in the meeting, what can hapens to us and to our town: we will not have anywhere to go for walk; morover, we will be surrounded by buildings and essential housing inted of plants, parks, rivers or flowers. In addition, without parks the pollution increases. As we will not have our only park, our stress will be higher than now and we will not run away.

In conclusion, we must be concient about what we have and take care of it, of our planet and of our healthy. I hope town's council can be concient and understand it too.

Content	5	All content points of the question have been covered in the report. The writer has addressed the reason for writing and has presented the arguments for and against losing the park, along with the potential impact on the town and residents.
Communicative Achievement	3	The report is written in paragraphs, with the introduction stating the reason for writing and each of the following paragraphs dealing with a different area of the report. The body paragraphs give a number of examples to support the arguments given, while the fourth paragraph explains the writer's views on the potential impact of losing the park. The conclusion summarises the opinion of the writer. The style and register are sometimes not appropriate for a report, which requires a less personal and more formal tone (<i>it is what I really wanted to show them last week and to show you now, and I am going to explain you, like I did in the meeting</i>).
Organisation	3	The text is generally well-organised and coherent and uses a variety of cohesive devices (<i>In the one hand, In the other hand, moreover, In conclusion</i>), though with some inaccuracy.
Language	2	The writer uses a range of vocabulary, including collocations (<i>essential housing, overall impact, pollution</i>) and a variety of sentence structures for stylistic effect (<i>As an environmentalist, In addition, without parks the pollution increases</i>) and verb forms and tenses (<i>if we sell our only park we will lose our only green and free-pollution place, we will be surrounded by buildings</i>). There are a number of errors with spelling, vocabulary and structures which do not impede communication (<i>writting, habitants, concient, we discussed about for and against, what can hapens</i>).