

C1 Advanced Writing Mock Test 2

Sample answers

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

Sample A (Part 1, Essay)

What modes of mass transport should be encouraged in the city centre?

It is indisputable that one of the main problems faced by authorities worldwide is how best to transport ever increasing numbers of people around their cities. This is by no means a new issue and over the years many schemes have been introduced to try to solve it. But the crucial question centres around which method of transport is best, in terms of efficiency, speed and cost.

Many city councils have encouraged their citizens to take up cycling by implementing bike rental schemes and introducing safe cycle lanes. In cities like London and Amsterdam you'll see large numbers of commuters cycling to work. The effects and benefits are clear: the improved health of citizens, the low cost and the reduction in pollution resulting in an all-round better city environment. But not everyone can cycle and there are many circumstances when cycling just wouldn't be possible.

Underground travel, on the other hand, is almost always feasible, regardless of a person's circumstances, the route or even the weather. Modern underground travel is efficient, clean, safe and fast, and if subsidized by the government, can be cost-effective too. However, it's true that the investment required for actually building and maintaining a city's underground system is far from cheap and requires huge feats of engineering in some places, where the tunnelling is difficult.

Having discussed the bicycle and the underground as the best means of city transport, I would suggest that the latter method is the one that should be encouraged because it is the most effective way of transporting the greatest number of people.

Sample B (Part 2, Proposal)

Having read the announcement in the local paper that there is a parcel of land to be developed in our town, I would like to put forward a proposal for what I'd like to see happen to it and why I think it would be so beneficial to our town.

I propose building a park on this land which would be divided into two main areas. At one end I suggest installing a state-of-the-art play area for children of varying ages. This playground would comprise a safe enclave for toddlers and young children, an adventure discovery space for 8–13 year olds and a mini assault course for teenagers. If space allowed, although I'm not sure this would be the case, then the addition of a skateboard area would be a marvellous opportunity for youngsters to practise their skating skills.

The other end of the park should include a garden designed to allow people to relax, enjoy nature and to meet and talk. A sensory garden with plants to delight the senses of touch and smell should be included for our blind residents, along with a fountain and pond. The seating should be designed to maximize people's enjoyment of the trees, shrubs and flowers, and cater both for groups and for individuals who are seeking privacy.

We don't currently have a place like this, and I believe it would benefit the physical and mental health of young and old alike. As well as attracting all kinds of wildlife, it would be yet another draw for visiting tourists.

Sample C (Part 2, Email)

To: Head of Customer Services

It is very rare that I write to complain about something. However, I feel I have absolutely no choice but to do so with regard to my recent experience of your online clothing company, LTC Ltd.

A month ago, I decided to buy a pair of winter boots from your company, as a friend had recommended you to me. I went onto your website and was surprised by how unnecessarily hard it was to navigate. Men's and women's clothes were not separated, and clothing was mixed in with footwear, making the whole process of locating what I wanted very time-consuming.

I persisted and ordered a pair of Hi-Mex ladies' boots, size 5, colour navy blue, and was told delivery would be within a week of ordering. Three weeks later, after a number of emails to enquire where they were, the boots were finally delivered, without being given notification of the delivery date and time.

On opening the parcel, I was dismayed by what I found inside. The boots were black instead of navy, but it was the poor quality which really surprised me. The boots were advertised as having leather uppers, but that was true only of the trim, as the rest was made of some kind of shiny plastic.

I am returning these boots not only because they are the wrong colour, but because they fall far below the standard described on your website. I expect a full refund for my purchase and also for the cost of returning them.

Thank you
Georgia Luxton

Sample D (Part 2, Review)

'Titanic' is a 1997 American epic romance and disaster film, directed by James Cameron and incorporating both historical and fictionalized aspects of the sinking of the ill-fated vessel Titanic on its maiden voyage in April 1912.

Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet play Jack and Rose, two characters from very different social backgrounds, who fall in love during the voyage. Rose is engaged to be married to another man whom she does not love: an arrangement of her mother's to resolve the family's financial problems. Jack saves Rose from trying to throw herself into the ocean because she's so unhappy.

Eventually, the ship collides with that fateful iceberg and the terrible sinking of this luxurious vessel unfolds, with the loss of many lives but the saving of others through selfless acts of great courage. The panic and confusion, the terror and disbelief of those on board is brilliantly captured in the sustained scenes of the actual sinking.

The film gives a real sense of the time, the early twentieth century, when differences between the classes were great and the arrogant treatment of the lower classes by the upper was accepted as being normal. The costumes and sets of the film were meticulously researched, giving an accurate picture of what things looked like on board. The Titanic was considered unsinkable, but wasn't, and the film showed the result of both the poor safety procedures and insufficient provision of lifeboats.

'Titanic' was a great commercial success and won 11 Academy Awards. If you haven't seen it, I envy you a treat in store!