

Writing Section Review - Platform Testing Notes

Date: 9 September 2025

Tester: simon001

Section: Writing Section - Personality Test Topic

Test Environment: Platform UI Testing



Content Structure Issues

Major Content Problems

1. Inconsistent Task Instructions

- **Problem:** Two different versions of the writing prompt appear:
- Version A: "Should personality test results be used in the hiring process?"
- Version B: "Personality test results should not be used in job applications"
- **Impact:** Creates confusion about the actual stance students should take
- **Recommendation:** Standardize to one clear prompt with explicit direction (argue FOR or AGAINST)

2. Missing Section Labels

- **Current:** "Situation:" label only
- **Needed:** Add "Instructions:" label to separate contextual setup from task requirements
- **Benefit:** Clearer information hierarchy for students

3. Incomplete Audio Information

- **Missing:** Duration of the full podcast
- **Current:** "You will listen to the full podcast" (no time specified)
- **Recommendation:** Add podcast duration (e.g., "You will listen to the 8-minute podcast")
- **Rationale:** Helps students manage their time effectively

4. Unusual Rubric Exposure

- **Issue:** Detailed marking criteria (5+5+5 marks breakdown) visible to students during test

- **Industry Standard:** Rubrics typically kept internal for examiner use
 - **Action Required:** Flag this for exam writing team (Rhett) – policy decision needed
 - **Options:**
 - Remove detailed rubric entirely
 - Provide simplified version focusing on expectations, not marks
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Design & User Experience Issues

Interface Problems

1. Plain and Cluttered Instructions Page

- **Current State:** Dense text blocks, poor visual hierarchy
- **Issues:**
 - No visual separation between different instruction types
 - Wall of text format reduces readability
 - Important elements not highlighted

2. Audio Player Placement

- **Current:** Audio player positioned at bottom of page
- **Problem:** Not prominent enough for critical listening task
- **Recommendation:**
 - Move to more prominent position (top-right or center)
 - Consider sticky/floating player that remains visible during scrolling
 - Add visual emphasis (border, highlighting)

3. Right Panel Underutilization

- **Current:** Instructions cramped on left side
 - **Opportunity:** Use right panel for:
 - Timer display
 - Task checklist/progress
 - Key reminders
 - Audio controls
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Recommended Improvements

Content Fixes (High Priority)

1. **Standardize Writing Prompt:** Choose one version and ensure consistency
2. **Add Missing Labels:** Include "Instructions:" section header
3. **Specify Audio Duration:** Add podcast length information
4. **Review Rubric Policy:** Consult with exam team on student-facing criteria

Design Enhancements (Medium Priority)

1. **Restructure Instructions Layout:** - Use clear section breaks - Implement visual hierarchy (headings, bullet points, spacing) - Highlight key requirements
2. **Improve Audio Integration:** - Reposition player for better visibility - Add progress indicator - Include replay functionality if permitted
3. **Optimize Page Layout:** - Utilize right panel for supplementary information - Implement responsive design elements - Add professional styling elements



Action Items

For Development Team:

- ☐ Fix inconsistent writing prompts
- ☐ Add section labels to instruction structure
- ☐ Include podcast duration information
- ☐ Reposition audio player interface

For Exam Team (Rhett):

- ☐ **Policy Decision Required:** Student-facing rubrics - keep detailed version or simplify?
- ☐ Review writing prompt versions for final standardization
- ☐ Confirm audio duration specifications

For UI/UX Team:

- ☐ Redesign instructions page layout
 - ☐ Implement professional styling
 - ☐ Optimize right panel usage
 - ☐ Test audio player prominence
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Testing Context

Account Used: simon001

Test Focus: Writing section functionality and user experience

Key Finding: Content consistency and interface design need attention before production deployment

Screenshots Referenced: - Interface layout issues documented - Audio player positioning captured

Note: This review focuses on the writing section specifically. Similar content and design review recommended for other test sections.