

# Writing Section Review - Platform Testing Notes

**Date:** 9 September 2025

**Tester:** simon001

**Section:** Writing Section - Personality Test Topic

**Test Environment:** Platform UI Testing

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## 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 Documented

#### 1. Plain and Cluttered Instructions Page

##### Interface Layout Issues

- **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

##### Additional Interface Screenshot

#### 2. Audio Player Placement

##### Audio Player Position

- **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. Overall Interface Layout

##### Complete Interface View

- **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
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## 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 Included:** - Figure 1: Interface layout showing cluttered instructions - Figure 2: Additional interface view - Figure 3: Audio player positioning issues - Figure 4: Complete interface overview

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## Visual Evidence Summary

The attached screenshots demonstrate: 1. **Cluttered text presentation** without proper visual hierarchy 2. **Poor audio player integration** at bottom of interface 3. **Underutilized screen real estate** with cramped left-side layout 4. **Lack of professional styling** in the overall interface design

These visual issues directly impact user experience and should be addressed before production deployment.

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