

TEST A, WRITING TASK 2 (GENERAL TRAINING)

SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 7** score. Here is the examiner's comment:

The response looks at the advantages of living in apartments and houses then briefly considers some disadvantages before giving the candidate's own opinion. Fuller development of the disadvantages would raise the candidate's score here. The ideas are clearly organised and paragraphing is logical. There is some under-use of cohesive devices and some incorrect referencing, but links between sentences and paragraphs can be clearly followed. The range of vocabulary used is varied and there is some good use of collocation, but there are occasional examples of inappropriate word choice, and better control of spelling would help to raise the candidate's score. The range of complex structures could be wider, but there is sufficient variation in sentence forms and sufficient control of grammar and punctuation to reach this band. Some errors occur, but most are minor and do not reduce communication.

In big business cities there are two options available for the type of accommodation: houses and apartments. Some people prefer to live in apartments and some like to live in houses.

In big business cities, where almost everyone is going out daily for work or study, apartments provide a much more comfortable and safe way of living. The advantages include the fact that there is one key and lock they have to take care of, and also the sense of being a part of a big family. Usually a guard sits at the main gate, so children can play around in the compound with their next door friends. In addition, not much daily cleaning is required in apartments as no staircase has to be clean, which is a difficult task - all housewives know it very well. But a key advantage is that it is safe to go on vacation for a long trip.

On the other hand, houses have their own attraction for its inhabitants. Garden lovers usually prefer houses as they can have their own garden. It is also easy to keep a pet, especially a dog in a house because dog can play around the garden. If someone is interested in maintaining cars himself, it can only be possible in houses where one can have his own garage.

Where people are sometimes much more concerned about their privacy, living in apartments can be a very difficult for them. It may also be the case that someone is not able to deal with other people, for instance next door neighbours, and then house can be a best choice for such people.

However, sometimes houses can be a bad choice for low income people. Maintaining a big house and running it properly can be a problem for such cases.

At the end I must say both options can be good or bad, depending on the personal considerations. But from my point of view, I must say apartments seem a part of modern way of life which is not common in my home town.