

Marks and results

Sample A (Test 5, Question 1 – Essay)

Young people living in cities

Nowadays many young people prefer to live in the big cities. There are many factors that have influence on their decision, but the most common are work and education.

It is the job that really matters to all of us and especially to the young generation. They all want a high salary, which will provide them a good and stable life. But as we know the wider range of jobs can be found in the big cities and that is why young people choose to live there.

The other reason, which is really important for students, is the education. Most of the good universities are located in the cities and the young have no choice, because the majority realise that if you want to succeed in the life, you need to have an excellent education.

Also the educational system is better in towns than in villages. A bigger variety of programmes is available and you can have a chance to get an internship, which will be really helpful in the future when you are trying to find a good job.

Of course, there are more reasons like night life, that will always attract the young people to choose the big city than the small one. However, the work and the education will be the most important, because they have a vital importance in the life of all of us.

Scales	Mark	Commentary
Content	3	Two factors – work and education – are discussed but no choice is made as to which is more important (with supporting reasons); the target reader is on the whole informed.
Communicative Achievement	4	Essay conventions are used with sufficient flexibility to communicate straightforward and complex ideas in an effective way. The register is appropriate.
Organisation	4	Well organised with clear opening and closing sections. Ideas are presented logically, each paragraph developing a new point. Cohesive devices and organisational patterns, such as referencing, are used naturally and effectively to link ideas within and across paragraphs creating a coherent text. Accurate punctuation.
Language	3	There is a range of vocabulary, including less common lexis, used appropriately (<i>'influence on their decision', 'provide ... a stable life', 'a chance to get an internship', 'a vital importance'</i>) and a range of simple and complex grammatical forms used with control (<i>'if you want to succeed ... , you need to have ...', 'which will be useful ... when you are trying to find ...'</i>). The occasional errors do not impede communication.

Sample B (Test 5, Question 4 – Proposal)

PROPOSAL OF SPANISH STUDENTS INVITATION

Introduction

The aim of this proposal is to suggest some ways of raising up the students visits so as to make profit from it in the future.

Two weeks visit

Many international colleges around the world organise visits, in which all nationaties can be participating. It would be interesting to send an invitation to some students from my born country, Spain. Although these kind of events are expensive, our college could afford it if the visit lastes about two weeks, not more.

A wide range of activities could be hold, such as baseball match, an intensive course with our teachers or a London tour, which foreing people usually love.

Benefits

Not only would the students learnt the language, but also could the college offer them a hole year pack, in which they will find all kind of activities to meet new people. Moreover, the new students will know more about the country culture.

Regarding the current students, they could take part in all the activities that the news ones will do. So it will be several positive points.

Recommendations

I think that if the college takes into consideration these suggestions, a marked improvent will be in the public image of it.

Scales	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	All content is relevant to the task and the content elements (length of visit, description of activities and explanation of potential benefits) are developed appropriately so the target reader is fully informed.
Communicative Achievement	2	Suitable proposal format is used to communicate straightforward and some complex ideas to the target reader. Register and tone are consistent and appropriate.
Organisation	3	The response is well organised and coherent, making good use of headings. A variety of cohesive devices and organisational patterns connect the text generally very well.
Language	2	There is a range of vocabulary including attempts, sometimes successful, to use less common lexis ('raising up the visits', 'make profit from it', 'a marked improvement ... in the public image ...'). There is a range of simple and some complex grammatical forms used with a good degree of control and errors do not impede communication.

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Sample C (Test 6, Question 2 – Report)

Report on college study resources

Introduction

The aim of this report is to evaluate a range of study resources available for students majoring in 'English and Marketing' programme and recommend possible improvements.

English Course

In terms of language learning, I highly appreciate the set of text books that the students were provided with due to a wide variety of discussion topics as well as high-quality supplementary materials for self-study such as interactive CD-ROMs and extensive word lists. All this has proved to be vital resources for the ones who strive to acquire an excellent command of the English language.

Marketing Course

As far as the subjects in the marketing field are concerned, I suppose the selected study materials are a bit too theoretical. Although the students stand at a chance to master Business English fully during their extensive reading, the materials miss out on more practical issues, for instance, lacking in such as valuable resource as case-studies. As a result, the students had a relatively limited number of opportunities to see how the suggested marketing solutions could be implemented into practice.

Recommendations

Given the advanced software solutions, I would suggest introducing more computer-based self-study materials with more control on the tutor's part if possible both in language learning and marketing courses. To improve the latter, I would strongly recommend providing students with more sample cases, which will be entirely beneficial for developing their project work.

Scales	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	The writer develops both content areas describing what study resources are offered to students and suggesting improvements for next year. All the content is relevant and the target reader is fully informed.
Communicative Achievement	4	The conventions of report writing are used flexibly to describe the current situation in some detail and make credible suggestions. The register is consistently appropriate and a positive, constructive tone is created which holds the reader's attention while communicating complex ideas.
Organisation	4	The text is a well-organised, coherent whole with effective use of headed sections. A variety of cohesive devices and organisational patterns is used to good effect.
Language	4	The writer includes a range of topic-specific vocabulary ('vital resources', 'strive to acquire', 'chance to master', 'extensive reading', 'relatively limited number of opportunities', 'could be implemented'), which is generally used effectively and precisely. There is a range of complex grammatical forms used with control and where there are errors, some are slips. None of them impedes communication.

Sample D (Test 6, Question 3 – Review)

When our coach told us that we were going to a swimming camp in Canarian Islands during the recent summer holidays, none of us was looking forward to it nor very excited about the idea, as that would mean metres and metres of swimming in lakes in the middle of nowhere and running under extreme temperatures. But the experience turned out to be a great opportunity not only to improve our swimming skills, but also to have a good time with our team mates, coaches and members of the club staff and as a bonus, to have a go at some alternative sports.

Consisting of around ten residence blocks for guests and a huge range of sport facilities, including an olimpic swimming pool, the premises were just what our team was looking for. At the end of the day, a huge amount of money had been invested in the experience so that it was well worth going.

We went for a routine run every morning before the sunrise. I have to admit that running 10km every day without even having had breakfast is not the nicest thing to do, but we were there to work out hard and the instructors were so enthusiastic and supportive that they made it easier for us to get motivated.

I would recommend this type of break to everyone keen on sports, especially thriathlon, swimming and surfing, but taking into consideration that being fit and in physically good condition is a priority to be able to make the most of the activities.

Scales	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	All content is relevant to the task. The three areas specified in the rubric are included and developed appropriately, so the target reader is fully informed.
Communicative Achievement	4	The conventions of review writing are used to convey complex ideas effectively and flexibly. The tone and register are consistently appropriate for a travel magazine article and language of description, evaluation and opinion is used to hold the target reader's attention.
Organisation	3	The text is well organised and coherent. It starts with an introduction to the holiday, moving on to evaluate the positive and negative aspects and concluding with a recommendation. Clearly paragraphed with attention paid to punctuation and a variety of cohesive devices and organisational patterns used to generally good effect.
Language	4	A range of vocabulary is used, generally effectively and precisely (<i>'in the middle of nowhere', 'extreme temperatures', 'alternative sports', 'well worth going', 'a huge amount of money had been invested in the experience'</i>). Complex grammatical forms are used with control and flexibility (<i>'were just what our team was looking for', 'running every day without even having had breakfast ...'</i>). The occasional errors do not impede communication.

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Sample E (Test 7, Question 2 – Letter)

Dear Jack,

In my experience in the Netherlands technology is hugely important in education. Here, in my school, everybody uses laptops and all classrooms are equipped with beamers and audio boxes. It opens up a lot of different methods of learning! We can watch documentaries in classes like Economics, and films in classes like French or history.

We use our laptops in combination with servers the school has set up and on those servers is a lot of information. Study planners for every subject, homework assignments and test results, for example. It's very handy, always being able to access stuff like that, all you need is a computer and an internet connection! The latter can give some problems though, as technical errors are bound to happen every once in a while. Just last Friday we got send home because the internet wasn't working, and thus nobody could access anything! That's the only major disadvantage to all the technology we have adopted into our classrooms.

Our dependency on it has become a bit too big in my opinion. We should be able to continue classes even without our internet connection. While learning with digital material is great, we needn't forget our paper books. Personally I prefer reading from a book to reading off a computer screen any day of the week.

I hope I have given you some kind of answer in this email, but in case I haven't, feel free to let me know. I'll gladly elaborate.

Untill next time,

Scales	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	All content is relevant to the task. All the rubric elements are addressed and developed so the target reader is fully informed.
Communicative Achievement	5	The conventions of letter writing are used flexibly to explain and justify the writer's views and the engaging tone throughout holds the reader's attention. Complex ideas are communicated clearly.
Organisation	4	The text is a well-organised, coherent whole using a variety of cohesive devices. Organisational patterns are used to generally good effect. The paragraphing works well as each one has a different focus and punctuation is used effectively.
Language	4	Uses a range of task-appropriate vocabulary effectively and accurately ('opens up', 'in combination with servers', 'very handy', 'technical errors are bound to happen', 'our dependency on it'). There is a range of simple and complex grammatical forms used with flexibility and control. The occasional errors do not impede communication.

Sample F (Test 7, Question 4 – Review)

'Der Schuh Des Manitu'

Films are typically produced in America or in India. Although German cinemas show American Hollywood films, German productions can be interesting and funny too. One quiet famous one is the "Der Schuh des Manito", which is a comedy film playing in a fictional wild western world. The German actors are very popular in German and even Hollywood movies, that's why this movie is so famous.

Looking at the production and studio work of the movie, it is quite authentic and can be compared to a Hollywood movie. In fact the movie is based on an actual Western movie. The actual movie is a Hollywood production called "Winetu" so the German movie "Der Schuh des Manito" is some kind of parody, without actually offending the real story.

The humor of the movie is a little bit different to most US movies. German humor is special anyways and this movie presents it really well. To some people it may seem stupid or silly, but in general most people will find something interesting and funny about it.

Looking at the making of the movie and the stunts, you can see that it is a professional work, which can't always be stated for German films. I believe the movie has great potential for an international audience, since it is a worthwhile production with a lot of humor. Since it is a fictional movie or actually based on a US story, the movie would be pretty popular in the US, Europe, Asia, Australia and even Africa. To sum it up 'Der Schuh Des Manito' shows that German movies can be good and worth watching.

Scales	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	All content is relevant to the task. The writer addresses and develops all the content areas so the target reader is fully informed.
Communicative Achievement	3	The conventions of the communicative task are used effectively and the register is consistent and appropriate for a website review. Both simple and complex ideas are conveyed.
Organisation	3	It is well organised and coherent, making good use of paragraphs. A variety of cohesive devices which connect the text generally very well, is used.
Language	3	There is a range of vocabulary including some less common lexis (<i>'quite authentic', 'a kind of parody', 'great potential for an international audience'</i>) and control is shown in the use of simple and complex grammatical structures. The occasional errors are non-impeding.

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Sample G (Test 8, Question 1 – Essay)

Nowadays we are surrounded by a lots of different peaces of information on the Internet, in books or magazines and so on, about how to bring up children. But do you know which the most beneficial way for your kids is?

To begin with, some parents would prefer to have their children near them and look after them on their own or with the help of others but still family members. In such situations, the kids would definitely be provided with the love they need in order to grow up in a accommodative atmosphere and develop their personality accurately.

On the other hand, there are many parents that do not have enough time and choose to send their kids in nurseries or pre-schools. Having grown up with other kids, they develop another essential skills such as the ability to communicate with their peers, to make friends and also to cope with various situations which they might come across later in real life. Moreover, being amongs other children, they always have the opportunity to play with them and learn something new while having fun.

In my opinion, the more beneficial way of looking after young kids is in nurseries and pre-schools. It is the communication with people from all walks of life and the experiencing of new and different things, which can't be found in the overprotective atmosphere at home, that will give these little humans a better start for the tough life.

Scales	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	All content is relevant to the task. Two ways of looking after children are discussed and a clear choice made as to which is more beneficial with supporting reasons.
Communicative Achievement	3	Appropriate essay style is used and there is a suitable, consistent register throughout. Ideas are communicated effectively, holding the target reader's attention.
Organisation	4	The text is a well-organised, coherent whole using a variety of cohesive devices and organisational patterns to generally good effect. There is a clear structure with an introduction, discussion of two factors and a developed conclusion. Punctuation is accurate and effective.
Language	3	There is a range of vocabulary used appropriately including some less common lexis ('cope with various situations', 'people from all walks of life', 'overprotective atmosphere'). There is a range of simple and complex grammatical forms used with control and flexibility. The occasional errors do not impede communication.

Sample H (Test 8, Question 2 – Letter)

Dear Editor,
Your recently published lifestyle magazine contains an article arguing against the contribution of pop music to one's lives. I hereby want to give you some feedback, as you asked for the reader's views.
Music has always been a key part of culture. It offers a vast range of interhuman connections and some even choose their friends solely based on music taste. And as decades and centuries come, wave and pass by, music changes and so does every culture.
We currently face a culture that enjoys what we call 'pop' music; soft and not overly complex melodies paired with simple and repetitive lyrics. But even if the current music taste might seem almost useless, as stated in the article, it still represents our culture.
Today's number one pop song is obviously no match for a well crafted classic piece of art. But music still is a way of expressing emotion. It helps to deal with stress and frustration and builds up happiness and a general mental well-being.
The contribution of music is not hidden behind cryptical yet geniusly written stories or the use of real instruments rather than computer generated sounds. The real contribution of music lies both in its nearly endless capabilities of expression and its enormously positive impact on the overall mental well-being.
I hope my feedback is at least of some help and evokes some thoughts on that topic.
Yours sincerely,

Scales	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	All content is relevant to the task. Writer develops both areas – explaining reasons for disagreeing with the article and giving opinions on the value of pop music in people's lives today – so the target reader is fully informed.
Communicative Achievement	5	The conventions of letter writing are used to convey complex ideas and the reader's attention is held with ease. Both register and tone are consistent throughout. The Editor would consider publishing the letter.
Organisation	4	The text is well organised and coherent and the writer uses a variety of cohesive devices and organisational patterns effectively. There is an introduction and logical development of ideas leading to concluding thoughts. The use of shorter sentences in places is appropriate for a magazine readership, encouraging the reader to continue ('And as decades and centuries come ...', 'But even if the current music taste ...', 'But music still is ...')
Language	4	There is a range of vocabulary, including less common lexis, used effectively ('overly complex melodies paired with simple and repetitive lyrics', 'general mental well-being', 'enormously positive impact') and a range of both simple and complex grammatical forms is used with control and sophistication.