

Question 1: Candidate A

Nowadays, many facilities could use money from local authorities. There are people who claim that cultural institutions should receive more money than other facilities. But which ones should receive more investment is open to debate.

On the one hand, museums should be the institutions that need to receive a lot of money because people have lost the interest in visiting and promoting them. In a world where true values are not respected as they should be, it is important to remember what really matters. Moreover, the young men should be aware of the importance of knowing basic things in different domains. For example, science and history museums provide people very interesting informations. Therefore, in order to have well-informed teenagers, the local authorities should give money to museums. With that money, it can be organised events like the day of open museums.

On the other hand, green spaces should also receive money from local authorities. Mainly because in big cities, where the air is very polluted trees can absorb many of the gases produced leading to a much healthier environment. Furthermore, there can be built spaces for kids to play and also running tracks for people who cannot afford to go to gym. It is important for people to keep doing exercises in open air and in my opinion, parks are the best place.

All in all, as far as I am concerned the most important facility that should receive investment from local authority are the museums.

Examiner comments

Subscale	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	All content is relevant to the task and the target reader is fully informed. The candidate discusses two of the proposed facilities (museums and parks), and chooses one of them (museums) to benefit from the extra funding. The candidate discusses the reasons why each one should receive the money: <i>science and history museums provide people very interesting informations; in order to have well-informed teenagers, the local authorities should give money to museums; trees can absorb many of the gases produced leading to a much healthier environment; running tracks for people who cannot afford to go to gym.</i> The final decision is made in the final paragraph.
Communicative Achievement	3	The conventions of essay writing are used well. There is a clear opening paragraph and a strong conclusion which leaves no room for doubt as to where the money should go: <i>... as far as I am concerned the most important facility that should receive investment from local authority are the museums.</i> The register is consistently formal and the essay has an objective tone, giving opinions and providing supporting statements with evidence. The clear paragraphing helps to hold the target reader's attention and communicate both straightforward and more complex ideas in a logical manner.
Organisation	3	The text is well organised and coherent, and uses a variety of cohesive devices to generally good effect. The ideas are clearly introduced: <i>nowadays; on the one hand; moreover; for example; therefore; on the other hand; furthermore; all in all.</i> There is a mix of long and short sentences, and some of the shorter ones could benefit from being combined. Organisational patterns are evident in the choice of language. For example, in the first paragraph it is stated that <i>many facilities could use money from local authorities.</i> This then narrows to become <i>cultural institutions should receive more money,</i> and then the final sentence uses substitution to set out the main idea: <i>But which ones should receive more investment is open to debate.</i>
Language	2	There is a range of relevant vocabulary, but this is not always used successfully to communicate full ideas. Take for example <i>In a world where true values are not respected as they should be, it is important to remember what really matters.</i> Although this has an appropriate tone and is accurate, it has little relevance to the text as a whole and adds no extra information. A range of simple and some more complex grammatical structures is used with control. However, there are a few word order and pronoun problems, such as <i>it can be organised events; there can be built.</i> There are also errors with plurals and articles, but these do not impede communication: <i>the most important facility ... are the museums; afford to go to gym; exercises in open air.</i>

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Question 1: Candidate B

Facilities in need of funds

Having listened to today's radio programme about facilities that need financial help, I realised that sports centers and public gardens have been neglected over the years by the local authorities.

There are few sports centers out there that meet the right characteristics that a good sports center must have. This is one of the many reasons that people avoid sport. We see lots of kids nowadays suffering from obesity and other health problems caused by the simple fact that they don't do sport.

Another reason for this is that people have nowhere to go out for a walk or to run in a nice place. Public gardens, parks for example are also lacking in numbers. The ones that are already there are not very nice and they don't look very good.

I think that by improving this two facilities the population can benefit from this. By creating more sports centers, there will be some more jobs offered, and some kids might even follow a sports career. By making more public gardens people can get out more often and spend some good quality time relaxing.

I think that local authorities should invest money in both facilities because, this is a good way to increase the populations health.

Examiner comments

Subscale	Mark	Commentary
Content	3	All content is relevant to the task and the target reader is on the whole informed. The candidate has not made a final selection between the two facilities. However, he makes a relevant choice (namely, to fund both facilities), and justifies this decision with evidence throughout the essay: <i>This is one of the many reasons that people avoid sport ... Another reason for this is that people have nowhere ...</i>
Communicative Achievement	4	The conventions of essay writing are evident and the target reader's attention is held throughout. The opening statement sets up the context of the essay, and the candidate chooses two of the facilities to discuss (parks and sports centres). The candidate links these two aspects throughout the essay, and this linking is effective in communicating more complex ideas which relate to both facilities. For example: <i>sports centers and public gardens have been neglected over the years; people avoid sport ... another reason for this is that people have nowhere to go out for a walk</i> . The arguments are backed up and supported with evidence either from personal experience or from the input text. A consistent register is used, and the overall tone is suitably persuasive and objective.
Organisation	4	The text is well organised and coherent. Fairly subtle organisational patterns and cohesive devices are used, rather than overt linking words: for example, relative clauses/pronouns, substitution and ellipsis. For example: <i>Having listened to ... I realised that; We see lot of kids nowadays suffering from obesity ... caused by; Another reason for this is; The ones that are</i> . Some sentences are quite short and could have been connected to make the text more fluid at times: <i>Public gardens, parks for example are also lacking in numbers. The ones ...</i> , but the overall effect is good.
Language	3	There is a range of vocabulary and some less common lexis, which is collocates appropriately: <i>neglected over the years; suffering from obesity; the simple fact that; lacking in numbers; follow a sports career; quality time</i> . There is also a range of simple and more complex grammatical structures used with control. Although there is slight awkwardness in places and a few errors, these do not cause the reader difficulty: <i>that meet the right characteristics that a good sports center must have</i> .

Question 1: Candidate C

In regard of a recent discussion about the facilities, which are financially supported by local authorities, I would like to write a few of my personal thoughts. Whether we are talking about sports centres or public gardens, there is no doubt that they are both a good thing to have in the city and should both be supported somehow. The only question then is which one of these is more important, what are the pros and cons of each one?

Let me start with the sport centres as I think these are a bit more problematic. Obviously, in our times where lots of people spend days sitting in their office staring at a computer, some sort of physical training is very important. We have to balance that shift in our lifestyles. The problem I see with supporting the sports centres is the number of activities that you can do at these days. There is almost countless list of either individual or team sports that we can think of, and each centre is usually designed for a specific type or at least a group of sports similar in its nature. Therefore I think that it is too difficult to support them equally and we can't say which activity is better than the others either. Another reason for not financing sports as much as green parks is their commercial use. What I mean by that is that we usually pay for everything the centre offers us to do and therefore they are more able to last from their own money than gardens.

Regarding of the green spaces, the situation is much clearer I think. Every city needs gardens where people can sit and relax, but nobody is going to pay a tax for just walking around.

These factors lead me to my conclusion, that the public gardens are definitely a facility which should be financed from public money, whereas in the case of sports centres, the situation is questionable.

Examiner comments

Subscale	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	All content is relevant to the task and the target reader would be fully informed. The candidate discusses two of the options (sports centres and green spaces). Although the essay is slightly unbalanced, focusing mainly on sports centres, this is justified in the essay: <i>Let me start with the sport centres as I think these are a bit more problematic</i> . Likewise, the brief treatment of parks is explained, and what follows is enough to inform the reader fully: <i>Regarding of the green spaces, the situation is much clearer</i> .
Communicative Achievement	4	The conventions of the communicative task are used effectively, holding the target reader's attention with ease. The register and tone are consistent and the language choices are sufficiently formal and appropriate throughout, particularly the opening and closing paragraphs, <i>The only question then is which one of these is more important, what are the pros and cons of each one?; These factors lead me to my conclusion</i> . There is lots of personal opinion, rather than objective opinion based on a generally assumed view: <i>I would like to write a few of my personal thoughts; I think these are; The problem I see</i> , but straightforward and more complex ideas are nevertheless communicated. A more objective approach would have been more suited to this essay task, which is to discuss the idea in general terms rather than in the candidate's own experience.
Organisation	4	The essay is well organised and coherent, and the different ideas are clearly signposted throughout: <i>Let me start with; Therefore; Another reason; Regarding</i> . The target reader can easily follow the argument. The paragraphs are internally well constructed, and are linked together appropriately. In terms of organisational patterns, the overall effect is generally good, rather than good throughout, due to the imbalance of length between the second and third paragraphs.
Language	4	A range of vocabulary, including less common lexis, is used effectively, although not always precisely: <i>we have to balance that shift in our lifestyles</i> . A wide range of simple and complex grammatical forms is used with control and flexibility, particularly in terms of sentence construction: <i>Obviously, in our times where lots of people spend days sitting in their office staring at a computer, some sort of physical training is very important</i> . Although there are occasional errors, these are often slips and do not impede communication: <i>you can do at these days; there is almost countless list</i> .

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Question 2: Candidate D

My job at the wolcraft company

This report is about my new job as a product designer at the wolcraft company and about my first six months of work experience.

The working conditions

When I first came here for an interview I got very impressed by the architecture of the main building. This still excites me every day when I go in to get to my room where I have been working from the first day on.

I really like the working atmosphere in here not just because my colleagues are very friendly and we do lots of projects in groups. When started working here six months ago my task was to design little products, for instance screwdrivers. But now I am allowed to work on bigger and more important projects which motivates me to put a lot of effort in my work. For me there is only one problem concerning my job at the wolcraft company. We have many workers coming here by car so it is really hard to get my car parked if I am not very early in the morning. For me there is no possibility to get here with public transport because in my home town there isn't even a small train station.

Future training

I have already had a training to improve my skills concerning the work with the new computer programme. I think the company should continue offering these training so we can keep up to date.

So all in all, I am very happy with my job here.

Examiner comments

Subscale	Mark	Commentary
Content	4	There are some minor irrelevances, particularly at the beginning of the report about working conditions and what the building looks like but the target reader would be fully informed about how the candidate feels about this job. The candidate explains what they have achieved in their job (<i>now I am allowed to work on bigger and more important projects</i>). A problem is described, but it is not completely relevant to the actual job they are doing (<i>it is really hard to get my car parked</i>) and is probably not an issue that their manager can resolve. Suggestions are made for further training (<i>the company should continue offering these training so we can keep up to date</i>).
Communicative Achievement	2	The layout of the report uses the conventions of the task effectively. There is a title, an introductory overview of the report, sub-headings and a conclusion. The register slips occasionally (<i>I got very impressed; this still excites me; I am very happy with my job here</i>) and the second point about car parking is not relevant in a progress report to a manager. The report is polite, generally formal, and it communicates straightforward ideas which hold the reader's attention.
Organisation	2	The text is well organised and coherent. The structure is clear and logical, dealing with each point individually and using a variety of cohesive devices and linking words. There are examples of both external and internal cohesion in the use of headings and referencing within paragraphs to reduce repetition (<i>When I first came here...this still; I really like...not just because; my colleagues...we do; my task was...now I am allowed</i>).
Language	2	There is a range of suitable everyday vocabulary used appropriately (<i>working atmosphere; colleagues; projects; task; motivates</i>). There is a range of simple and some more complex grammatical forms (<i>where I have been working</i>) used with control. There are some errors (<i>a training; these training</i>) but these do not impede communication.

Question 3: Candidate E

Who doesn't like to watch, even from time to time, an old movie starring an iconic actors and actresses known all over the world? Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Audrey Hepburn – we know them all. Although the last one might be known as well as for not only being an actress, but also a volunteer helping to fight hunger in Africa. Her latest biography – „Audrey's Hepburn life" tells us the story of a girl, who has made an amazing career, became beloved by millions, won several Oscar awards and was considered to be a fashion icon. Nevertheless this is not everything that she achieved. Audrey always wanted to help other people. This is why after ending her career she decided to help people, who needed this help more than anyone else. The book tells us the story of years of exhausting work in Somalia – for people who needed her help the most. Douzens of photograph present how much she cared about them. The most surprising for me, was the fact that she honestly did not do it to have better public opinion, she was never boasting abot it. But thanks to her fame, more and more people started to get interested in poor districts of Africa. The result was magnificent. Her whole life is an amazing example of how hard work pays off. Propably this is why the book turned out to be such a success. I recommend it to anyone interested in her career and life, I promise you won't regret it!

Examiner comments

Subscale	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	<p>All content is relevant and the target reader is fully informed.</p> <p>This review is based on a biography of Audrey Hepburn and describes her work in Africa, helping people in need. This is an appropriate choice because the subject of the book has made a contribution to society.</p> <p>The first point (Did you learn anything new?), is addressed by the candidate when they describe what they found 'surprising' (<i>she honestly did not do it to have better public opinion</i>). The second point is more implicit in the text because we are told that '<i>[she] always wanted to help</i>' which implies why she made this important contribution.</p>
Communicative Achievement	3	<p>The conventions of the task are used effectively to hold the target reader's attention and there are examples of descriptive language, language of explanation and a recommendation at the end. The register is neutral, and the tone is engaging (<i>who doesn't like to watch; The book tells us the story of; Douzens of photograph; the result was magnificent; I promise you won't regret it!</i>) which has a positive effect.</p> <p>Both straightforward and some more complex ideas are communicated clearly (<i>Although the last one might be known as well as for not only being an actress, but also a volunteer helping to fight hunger in Africa; but thanks to her fame, more and more people started to get interested in</i>).</p>
Organisation	3	<p>The text is well organised and coherent. Despite only having one paragraph, there are breaks in the text and a variety of cohesive devices are used to signal connections and changes in topic (<i>Although; but also; Her latest; Nevertheless; This is why; But thanks to; The result was; I recommend</i>).</p> <p>Organisational patterns are evident in the construction of some of the longer sentences where information is contrasted or developed (<i>Her latest biography – Audrey's Hepburn life tells us the story of a girl, who has made an amazing career, became beloved by millions, won several Oscar awards and was considered to be a fashion icon</i>).</p>
Language	3	<p>There is a range of vocabulary, including some less common lexis used appropriately (<i>iconic actors; beloved by millions; years of exhausting work; Douzens of; boasting about it; poor districts; hard work pays off</i>).</p> <p>There is a range of simple and more complex grammatical forms used with control and flexibility, particularly in the construction of extended sentences which communicate the more complex ideas.</p> <p>There are some errors, mainly spelling, but these do not impede communication.</p>

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Question 4: Candidate F

Hi, Chris!

Congratulations on getting a new job! And it is great you are finally getting a chance to visit our town.

First of all, you absolutely need to visit our new waterpark „Aqua 3000”, it’s got all the awesome waterslides, the most amazing shapes and heights. We have different kinds of saunas there as well, if you fancy. As it is winter already, visiting the waterpark can be a nice opportunity to relax and warm your bones a little.

Secondly, I would advise you to visit our new 5D cinema. I remember, you have told me once you’d really love to visit one of those, well, here is your chance! It is an exciting and unforgettable experience, you’ll be sitting in a moving chair, feel the wind or even water dripping down on your head. I know you are a big fan of horror movies, and our cinema has a large choice of them.

On your free weekend you should visit our famous club „31/11”. At the time of your visit there will be performing an awesome DJ Skream, you have probably heard of him. The club itself is a superb place to hang out at and to dance. The bartender makes the most delicious cocktails in the world, I swear.

I hope some of my suggestions will proof useful to you. May be on one of your free evenings you will find time to stop by my house and we’ll have a nice chat about your new job.

Take care,

Julia

Examiner comments

Subscale	Mark	Commentary
Content	5	<p>All content is relevant and the target reader is fully informed.</p> <p>The candidate responds to Chris’s letter and explains where he should go and why: the water park to relax; the cinema because it’s a new experience; a club because it’s great.</p> <p>The ‘what to do’ aspect is mostly implicit in the description of these places (<i>different kinds of saunas; you are a big fan of horror movies; hang out at and to dance; stop by my house</i>). Chris would have a list of suggestions and be able to make an informed decision about what to do.</p>
Communicative Achievement	4	<p>The conventions of an informal letter are used to communicate in an effective way (<i>Congratulations on getting a new job!; you absolutely need to; if you fancy; I swear</i>). The tone of the letter is friendly, informal and informative and is consistently appropriate throughout. There are not many complex ideas expressed, which does not allow enough flexibility to be demonstrated.</p> <p>There is language of advice, persuasion and description which holds the target reader’s attention with ease.</p>
Organisation	4	<p>The letter is a well-organised and coherent whole. The text suggests three activities and deals with each one separately, explaining what the activity is, what is special about it and why Chris would enjoy it on this trip.</p> <p>There is a variety of cohesive devices used and organisational patterns are used to generally good effect. The three paragraphs are developed in a similar way, making the text flow and showing good internal cohesion with the use of referencing and substitution (<i>I would advise you to visit our new 5D cinema...you’d really love to visit one of those...It is an exciting and unforgettable experience</i>).</p>
Language	4	<p>There is a range of vocabulary which is suitable for the task and which is used to good effect (<i>awesome waterslides; if you fancy; warm your bones; water dripping down; superb place; the most delicious cocktails</i>).</p> <p>There is a range of simple and complex grammatical forms used appropriately with control and flexibility.</p> <p>There are a some errors, but these are mainly related to the candidate attempting less common words or structures (<i>there will be performing; proof useful to you</i>) but these do not impede communication.</p>