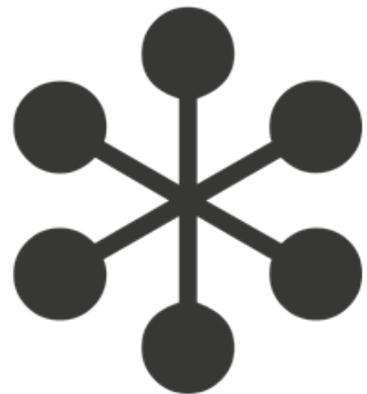
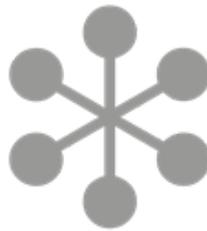
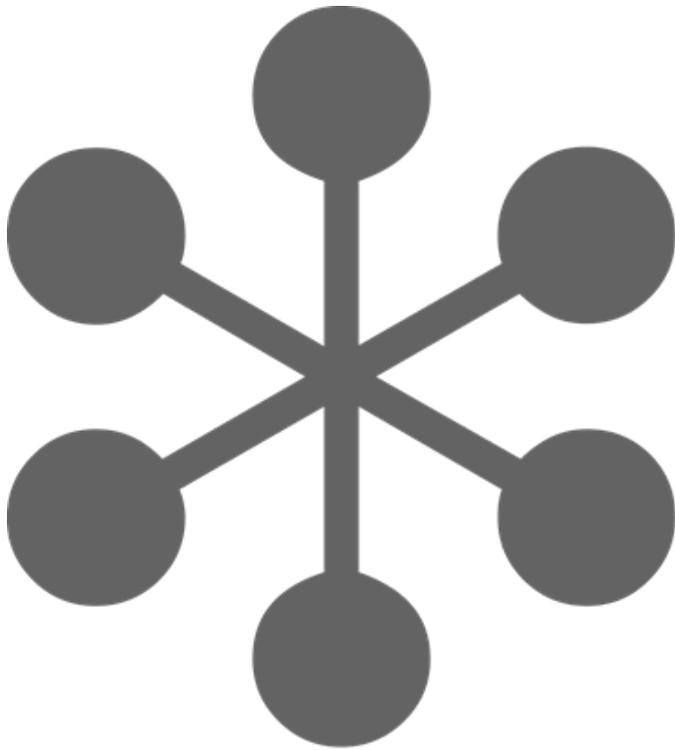




Cambridge English

Proficiency Writing Part 1



Task 1

Read quickly through the task. What is the Part 1 task?

Part 1

Read the two texts below.

Write an essay summarising and evaluating the key points from both texts. Use your own words throughout as far as possible, and include your own ideas in your answers.

Write your answer in 240–280 words on the separate answer sheet.

Does memory have a future?

A good memory is invaluable. The inability to make use of memory and past experience can be a severe limitation on how well we perform both mentally and physically. Nowadays, we rely on computers, mobiles and other electronic devices to store our most important information, which can be recalled at the touch of a button. However, some people are concerned that this reliance on electronic equipment may affect the development of our internal memory system in the future. It remains to be seen whether these concerns turn out to be true.

The role of memory

We like to think of our memory as our record of the past, but all too often memories are influenced by imagination. It is risky, therefore, to regard memory as a source of knowledge, because we will never be able to verify the accuracy of a memory fully. Although memory is an unreliable source of knowledge about the past, its importance in self-identity is unquestionable. When a person suffers memory loss as a result of accident or illness, one of the most distressing consequences is likely to be a loss of self. Indeed, it can be argued that a person's true identity resides in his or her collection of memories.

Write your **essay**.

Task 2

Read this candidate's answer. What's your overall impression?

Sample answer 1

The extensive use of electronic devices has had, and continues to have, an effect on our daily lives similar to that of the mechanical press back in Gutemberg's time: the ability to storage information somewhere other than our brains. This, though arguably positive, has a downside that some people have pointed out: we don't get, or at least we're not forced to, exercise our memory as much as our Facebook deprived ancestor's did.

Some might argue that this is not an issue worth losing sleep over, after all, the human brain is not divided in watertight compartments which we can put our memories in, and thus our imagination can easily influence our recollection of the past, to the point that said recollection is no longer entirely accurate. For example, a historian would much rather base his or her research on any physical record of a specific event than on the personal retelling of said event made by a witness.

However, losing the ability to accurately describe events form the past is not what those who have voiced their concerns about the overuse of electronics to storage information are worried about the most. In actuality, the most misfortunate consequence of a potential worsening of human memory would be the loss of resources to build and maintain a strong self-identity.

Of course, one is more likely to lose significant chunks of their memory by means of accident or illness, and claiming that an excessive use of electronics will inevitably lead to a collective crisis of identity would be blowing things out of proportion. But, at the same time, one can't help but wonder how this increasingly interconnected world will continue to sharpen our brains.

Task 3

Read through the question (Task 1) and the candidate's answer (Task 2, Sample answer 1) and decide the following:

- **Content**

What band would you award it for Content?

- **Communicative Achievement**

What band would you give it for Communicative Achievement?

- **Organisation**

What band would you give it for Organisation?

- **Language**

What band would you give it for Language?

Materials

- Sample answer 1
- C2 Assessment Scale

C2 Assessment Scale

C2	Content	Communicative Achievement	Organisation	Language
5	All content is relevant to the task. Target reader is fully informed.	Demonstrates complete command of the conventions of the communicative task. Communicates complex ideas in an effective and convincing way, holding the target reader's attention with ease, fulfilling all communicative purposes.	Text is organised impressively and coherently using a wide range of cohesive devices and organisational patterns with complete flexibility.	Uses a wide range of vocabulary, including less common lexis, with fluency, precision, sophistication, and style. Use of grammar is sophisticated, fully controlled and completely natural. Any inaccuracies occur only as slips.
4	<i>Performance shares features of Bands 3 and 5.</i>			
3	Minor irrelevances and/or omissions may be present. Target reader is on the whole informed.	Uses the conventions of the communicative task with sufficient flexibility to communicate complex ideas in an effective way, holding the target reader's attention with ease, fulfilling all communicative purposes.	Text is a well-organised, coherent whole, using a variety of cohesive devices and organisational patterns with flexibility.	Uses a range of vocabulary, including less common lexis, effectively and precisely. Uses a wide range of simple and complex grammatical forms with full control, flexibility and sophistication. Errors, if present, are related to less common words and structures, or occur as slips.
2	<i>Performance shares features of Bands 1 and 3.</i>			
1	Irrelevances and misinterpretation of task may be present. Target reader is minimally informed.	Uses the conventions of the communicative task effectively to hold the target reader's attention and communicate straightforward and complex ideas, as appropriate.	Text is well-organised and coherent, using a variety of cohesive devices and organisational patterns to generally good effect.	Uses a range of vocabulary, including less common lexis, appropriately. Uses a range of simple and complex grammatical forms with control and flexibility. Occasional errors may be present but do not impede communication.
0	Content is totally irrelevant. Target reader is not informed.	<i>Performance below Band 1.</i>		

Task 4

Read through the question and decide how it is different from the previous answer.

Sample answer 2

Memory is a fundamental aspect of human existence, a core of our personality, the gist of identity. It makes us what we really are. Only when we lose it, begin we to appreciate it fully as many ageing or disabled persons could attest. A mere injury or disease can strike at the roots of our being and change our internal landscape, so to speak, making us virtually incapable of functioning in our previous or professional roles.

Is such a memory loss, however, truly detrimental to those who suffer from it? If less extensive, its consequences could be far less damaging. What is more, most of us experience memory problems on a daily basis, for example when we forget someone's name or face. What is more, by its very nature memory is selective and easily distorted by confabulation, making it an unsteady basis or a bad starting point in our quest for truth. The concept of witness, so crucial to the law and justice, is a good example of this problem. How could we judge other people when we cannot really know their deeds? How to determine if a given person has really committed a crime or caused a traffic accident? Here the ingenious devices come to aid – this is where possibly unbiased evidence can be found. Behind the eye of the camera, an electronic matrix stores the 'real' image of that happened. This is where, supposedly, the truth about particular incidents lies. Electronic data storage seems to be a solution for our memory problems. However, here new problems arise. Not only are these contraptions prone to error, but they seem to impair our own memory. Suffice it to say, I do not remember as many telephone numbers as I did in the past before the invention of mobile phones. The people no longer pore over encyclopaedias or visit libraries to find that evades their memory. They learn it quickly – instantly – by browsing the internet but in the next minute they seem to forget what they have discovered or recalled.

To conclude, the electronic memory seems useful but its real role has to be confirmed in the future.