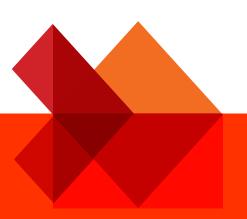
Language Cert



Assessing Writing Performance

Sample Scripts



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International ESOL for Schools
Sample Scripts

LanguageCert is an Ofqual-regulated Awarding Organisation responsible for the development and award of language qualifications. LanguageCert's mission is to offer high-quality language qualifications that are fit-for-purpose for the candidates they serve.

The aim of this handbook is to provide teachers and candidates with a practical overview of the assessment arrangements for the Writing section of the LanguageCert International ESOL for Schools exams. For more detailed information, please consult the Qualification Handbooks available online.

Assessing Writing Performance

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CEFR Writing descriptors

The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) 'can do' statements for writing are shown below:

Level	Can do statements
A1	I can write a short, simple postcard, for example sending holiday greetings. I can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering my name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form.
A2	I can write short, simple notes and messages relating to matters in areas of immediate needs. I can write a very simple personal letter or email for example thanking someone for something.
B1	I can write a simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. I can write personal letters and emails describing experiences and impressions.
B2	I can write clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects related to my interests. I can write an essay or report, passing on information or giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view. I can write letters highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences.
C1	I can express myself in clear, well-structured text, expressing points of view at some length. I can write about complex subjects in a letter, an email, an essay or a report, underlining what I consider to be the salient issues. I can select style appropriate to the reader in mind.
C2	I can write clear, smoothly-flowing text in an appropriate style. I can write complex letters, emails, reports or articles which present a case with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points. I can write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works.

Marking the Writing tasks

In the Writing section, candidates are assessed against four assessment criteria. Each writing task is assessed separately. Candidates may be awarded 0-3 marks per criterion – or up to 12 marks in total per writing task. Writing tasks are evaluated through the use of task-specific markschemes. Each level has its own task-specific markscheme with detailed descriptors for Task Fulfilment, Grammar, Vocabulary, and Organisation. Brief definitions of the assessment criteria follow in the table below.

Criteria	Description
Task Fulfilment	The extent to which the response produced by the candidate addresses the task in a direct and convincing manner, provides an answer that is relevant and meaningful, and satisfies task and genre specifications (e.g. word count).
Accuracy and range of grammar	The extent to which the response produced by the candidate is grammatically accurate, appropriate and adequate for the level and genre required.
Accuracy and range of vocabulary	The extent to which the response produced by the candidate is lexically accurate, appropriate and adequate for the level and genre required.
Organisation	The extent to which the response produced by the candidate is organized in an appropriate and coherent manner, in terms of paragraphing, cohesion and punctuation, as dictated by the level and genre required.

Spelling

American or British English spelling is accepted.

Over and under length answers

Where an answer fails to reach the minimum word length, this will be taken into account when awarding marks for Task Fulfilment.

Where an answer obviously exceeds the maximum word length, a candidate is bound to have produced a text of lower quality (i.e. to have made more mistakes) due to time constraints. No explicit penalty is to be imposed on over-length responses.

Off-topic answers

Candidates do not receive any credit for off-topic answers.



for levels A1-B2



MARKSCHEME





Write four sentences about your family.

Write about 30 words.

A gramma good. Have fun fish. My Cousin my gived toy. He have litle garben flowers.

Task Fulfilment

The candidate has produced two points on topic.

Accuracy and Range of Grammar

There is very little accurate use of A1 grammar. Many serious errors impede meaning.

Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary

Meaning is usually clear despite limited range and some serious errors with A1 vocabulary and spelling ("little garben").

Organisation

The candidate has produced a series of phrases and some sentences. Basic punctuation is accurate

Total: 6/12





Write a letter to your friend. He/she wants to visit your town.

Tell him/her about:

the weather

· what he/she can see

Write between 20-30 words.

Hi Jennie,

The weather is bright and sunny. You can see biutiful flowers in the park and there is a zoo next to my house. I can't wait you visit!

See you,

Carlos

3 Task Fulfilment

The candidate covers and communicates both points.

3 Accuracy and Range of Grammar

The candidate uses A1-level grammar accurately. Errors occur when language above the level is attempted: "I can't wait you visit!"

3 Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary

An adequate range of basic vocabulary is used to transmit meaning. There is only one spelling error which does not impede communication: "biutiful".

Organisation

The candidate has produced a text that is organized appropriately, with sentences, salutation and close. Basic punctuation is used correctly.

Total: 12/12



MARKSCHEME

	Task Fulfilment	Accuracy and range of grammar	Accuracy and range of vocabulary	Organisation
(m)	• covers all three content points, message is clear for recipient	 mostly accurate use of A2 grammar when language above level is attempted, errors occur 	 adequate range of A2 vocabulary and spelling to clearly transmit meaning when vocabulary above level is attempted, errors occur 	text organization is appropriatei.e. in sentencescoherent textaccurate basic punctuation
(~)	 covers 3 content points, message is mainly clear for recipient or covers 2 content points and these are clearly communicated 	 A2 grammar used, but with some serious errors meaning is still usually clear despite errors 	 meaning usually clear despite limited range of vocabulary and/or spelling some serious errors with A2 vocabulary and spelling 	 text organization mostly appropriate i.e. mainly uses sentences correctly mostly coherent mostly accurate punctuation
<u> </u>	 covers 2 content points, message is mainly clear for recipient or covers 1 content point 	 many serious errors often difficult to understand meaning 	 range and/or spelling so limited that it is often difficult to understand meaning many serious errors with A2 vocabulary and spelling 	a series of phrases, not sentencesmostly incoherentlittle correct punctuation
	doesn'tcommunicate oroff topic	• grammar so poor that message cannot be understood	 vocabulary usage and/or spelling so poor that message cannot be understood 	• no organization or coherence



Read the email from your friend, Nick. Write an email in reply. Write between 30-50 words.

Poor you! Sorry you hurt your leg.What happened?
How long were you in hospital? I'dlike to send you something as a present. Is there anything you would really like?

Let me know.

Get better soon!

Nick

Hi Nick,

I was very happy when I read your message. I fall down in school and I hurt my leg. I was in hospital a week and now I'm home. I want stikers and comic book please. You're so kind friend!

Bye,

John

Candidate: Riya

3 Task Fulfilment

The candidate covers all three content points and message is clearly communicated.

- **Accuracy and Range of Grammar**
- There are some errors with A2 grammar, but meaning is usually clear: "I fall down in school"; "I was in hospital a week".
- Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary
- An adequate range of A2 vocabulary is used to transmit meaning. Errors may occur, but these do not impede meaning: "stikers".
- 3 Organisation

The candidate has produced a text that is organized appropriately, with sentences, salutation and close. Basic punctuation is used correctly.

Total: 11/12

You want to study English. Write a letter to the director of a summer school.

- · Ask her about the courses.
- Tell her when you want to study.
- Tell her the kind of accommodation you want.

Write between 30-50 words.

Dear Miss Director

I want to study English on the August. Can I ask about the courses? I want accommodation to gramar and to know many words.

Thank you very much Annitta

Candidate: Riya

Task Fulfilment

The candidate clearly communicated two content points.

- Accuracy and Range of Grammar
 - There are some errors with A2-level grammar, but meaning is usually clear: "on the August".
- Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary

Meaning is usually clear despite the limited range of vocabulary or spelling errors: "gramar and to know many words".

2 Organisation

Text organisation is mostly appropriate, with sentences, salutation and close. Basic punctuation is used mostly accurately.

Total: 8/12



MARKSCHEME

and range Accuracy and range Organisation of vocabulary	 adequate range of very basic vocabulary to basic vocabulary to transmit meaning age above transmit meaning and cohesive devices level is attempted, errors occur 	s with B1 • meaning usually clear It generally despite a more limited using basic linkers and range of vocabulary some cohesive devices and/or spelling errors • some punctuation errors that don't impede communication	 us errors with to be and/or spelling too limited for B1 so that little use of cohesive devices and and at B1 spelling message often difficult to little use of cohesive devices organization and punctuation errors make text difficult to follow spelling 	erious that • vocabulary usage and/ ion fails • vocabulary usage and/ • no organization or coherence
Task Fulfilment Accuracy and range of grammar	communication of both is fully is fully achieved is fully achieved is attempted, errors occur	ints • covers both • some errors with B1 content points and grammar, but generally communication is good control mainly achieved • meaning is usually clear despite errors	ints • covers both • many serious errors with content points, but B1 grammar means communication often breaks down breaks down or • communication of one content point content point sala	communication fails communication fails or
Ta Task 1	• communication of all three content points is fully achieved	• covers 3 content points and communication is mainly achieved or communication of 2 content points is fully achieved	 covers 2 content points and communication is main-ly achieved or communication of one content point or three content points attempted, but minimal communication is achieved 	• communication fails or or

Read the college notice about student representatives.

Write an email to the principal applying to be a class representative. Say:

- why you're the best person to represent your class
- · what you'd like to improve about the college
- how much time you have available

Write between 70 and 100 words.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

Our college wants students' views and ideas. Representatives will attend weekly management meetings.

If you're interested in representing your class, please email your application to the principal by the end of the week!

To Principal

I want represente my class causa care college. Next schools and week ends, much time I have.

Can give time this importante job.

By Ramon

Candidate: Omid

O Task Fulfilment

Two content points are attempted, but minimal communication is achieved. The candidate's response falls below the word limit.

0 Accuracy and Range of Grammar

Errors are so serious that communication fails.

Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary

Poor vocabulary use and spelling render the message incomprehensible.

Organisation

The response lacks organisation and coherence, with an absence of cohesive devices.

Total: 0/12

Write a letter to a friend about your favourite day in the year and suggest what you could do together on this day.

Write between 100 and 120 words.

Dear Tomas,

I was thinking about my favourite day of the year and it's the first day of the summer! It's the best because there is no school, only sunshine and fun.

I had an idea. What you think we plan together a super adventure? We can go for camping to the woods, can make a fire or can tell crazy stories in the dark.

Do you like waking up with songs of birds and smelly pancakes when they cook on the fire? We can do haiking, swimming in the lake, and all staff.

What do you think?

See you,

George

3 Task Fulfilment

The candidate communicates both content points successfully.

- **Accuracy and Range of Grammar**
- Although there are occasional errors with B1-level grammar, the candidate demonstrates generally strong control. The meaning remains clear despite errors: "What you think we plan"; "and all staff".
- Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary

 Meaning is usually clear despite a more limited range of B1-level vocabulary and spelling errors: "do haiking"; "smelly pancakes".
- Organisation

Text is generally well-organised and coherent, using a variety of cohesive devices and punctuation to good effect.

Total: 10/12



MARKSCHEME

Accuracy and range of Organisation	 uses a range of and coherent, using a variety of cohesive devices errors do not impede appropriate to communication errors uses a range of and coherent, using a variety of cohesive devices organization is fully appropriate to text type errors few, if any, punctuation errors 	 uses a range of everyday vocabulary accurately, with occasional misuse of less common items errors do not impede meaning, but may cause re-reading using a variety of linking words and cohesive devices organization mainly appropriate to text type some punctuation errors that don't impede communication 	 uses everyday vocabulary generally appropriately, while overusing certain common items some serious basic errors with vocabulary impede meaning text is connected using basic linking words and a limited range of cohesive devices organization and/or paragraphing inappropriate punctuation errors 	 vocabulary usage little, or no, organization or coherence that communication
Accur	• uses a range of vocabulary, includingless common items, appropriately • errors do not impecommunication	 uses a range of everses vocabulary accurate with occasional missless common items errors do not impemeaning, but may cre-reading 	 uses everyday vocabulary generally appropriately, while overusing certain common items some serious basic errors with vocabular and/or spelling which impede meaning 	 vocabulary usage and/or spelling so pc that communication
Accuracy and range of	• uses a range of simple and complex forms with control and flexibility • errors do not impede communication	 uses simple and some complex forms with a good degree of control errors do not impede meaning, but may cause re-reading 	 uses limited range of simple forms with control some serious basic errors which may impede meaning 	• errors so serious that communication fails
Task Fulfilment	 fully addresses and communicates both content points genre and tone appropriate 	 covers both content points with some expansion and communication is mainly achieved genre and tone mostly appropriate 	 communication is minimally achieved or communication of only one content point 	• communication fails or • off tonic
Task Fu	• fully addresses and confidently communicates all 3 content points • genre and tone appropriate	 covers at least 2 content points with some expansion and communication is mainly achieved genre and tone mostly appropriate 	 communication of 2/3 content points is minimally achieved or communication of only one content point 	• communication fails or • off tonic
			<u> </u>	



You've seen part of an article in a music magazine. Write an email to the editor commenting on:

- · the results
- · the benefits of listening to music while studying
- your own personal preference

Write between 100 and 150 words.

According to a new study, people listening to their favourite music while studying, seem to be focusing better on their tasks. The study evaluated 100 volunteers. Each was monitored over a one-week period. Classical music topped people's preferences for improving their concentration, with pop music coming second. Chat shows were also among the popular choices but significantly less preferred.

Dear Editor

Candidate: Alexander

My favourite article is this with the ways to improve studying while listening to music, and I am writting you this to tell you my opinion.

Like the article say classical and pop music help concentration. I belive that the difficult course they can make more easy to do. It is something I have also experienced as a student when I do my homework.

Personally, its rythm give me the power to work better during studying.

I will contrinew read the articles you do because they are very interesting and full of new things. Thank you very much!

With faith

Stephan

1 Task Fulfilment

The candidate communicates two content points with limited expansion.

1 Accuracy and Range of Grammar

A limited range of simple forms is used with control. Some serious basic errors may impede meaning. "Like the article say"; "the difficult course they can make more easy to do".

1 Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary

Everyday vocabulary is generally used appropriately, but basic errors with spelling and vocabulary may hinder comprehension: "I will contrinew"; "and I am writing"; "I believe".

1 Organisation

The text exhibits punctuation and paragraphing errors alongside a dearth of avariety of cohesive devices, impacting its overall coherence and organisation.

Total: 4/12

You recently had a surprising experience. Write a letter to your friend in England, explaining why you were surprised, and saying how you felt about it afterwards.

Write between 150 and 200 words.

Hey there,

Candidate: Alexander

Guess what! The other day, when shopping at the mall, I met my all time favourite singer, Ted Meeran! I was walking at the street with my headphones and was listening to his latest song when I saw him there just casually drinking iced tea. I couldn't believe my eyes! I mean, Ted Meeran in our little town?!

So, I approached him and I asked for a photo. To my surprise, he was incredibly kind and sweet. We talked for a bit about music, and he even gave some advice for new musicians like me. It felt like a dream come true!

After that, I was extremely happy. To meet Ted was like a dream, and it made me admire him even more. He's not only an amazing singer but also a genuinely nice person. It's an experience I won't forget.

See you soon,

Emmanuel

3 Task Fulfilment

The candidate fully addresses and communicates both content points. Genre and tone are appropriate.

- Accuracy and Range of Grammar
 - A range of simple and complex forms is used with control and flexibility. Occasional errors do not hinder communication: "I was walking at the street with my headphones"; "my all time favourite singer".
- 3 Accuracy and Range of Vocabulary

The candidate uses a range of vocabulary, including less common items, appropriately.

Organisation

The candidate effectively employs a range of cohesive devices, resulting in a well-structured and coherent text. Punctuation is nearly error-free. Organisation is appropriate to text type.

Total: 12/12

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