

Unit 1 Part 2 A postcard

Notes

Content

The *postcard* should address the three bullet points given.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation; appropriate beginning and ending.

Register and format

Informal. Postcard.

Range

Describing a place; narrating past events.

Target reader

Friend.

You are on holiday. Write a postcard to an English friend.

In your postcard you should

- say where you are on holiday
- describe where you are staying
- talk about what you did yesterday

Write 35–45 words.

Examiner comments

Band 5.

All three content points are included in an appropriate way within the word limit, and the postcard is clearly understood. Tenses are accurate and there is a good range of vocabulary, including adjectives. The beginning and ending are appropriate for a postcard.

Dear Helen,

Greetings from Poros.

We are staying in a really nice villa on a hill surrounded by pine trees, overlooking the picturesque Askeli bay.

Yesterday, we went for a swim, then for a delicious meal at the Sailor Tavern.

Wish you were here.

Unit 2 Part 3 An informal letter

Notes

Content

The *informal letter* should describe the writer's new hobby or leisure activity.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation and paragraphing; appropriate beginning and ending.

Register and format

Informal letter.

Range

Describing a new activity (the main function); giving reasons.

Target reader

Friend.

This is part of a letter you receive from a friend.

I'm learning to dance salsa! It's really good fun. In your next letter, please tell me about something new that you're learning.

When do you do it? Why do you like it?

Now write a letter, answering your friend's questions.

Write your letter in about 100 words.

Examiner comments

Band 2.

The answer is of an appropriate length but does not adequately address the questions. The writer mentions three different things that he / she is learning, which makes the answer confusing and unfocused. There are a few mistakes, which on the whole, do not prevent the letter being understood. The writer has not finished the letter in an appropriate way.

Dear André,

I'm glad with you, salsa must be really good fun.
It's very important to learn new things, it make us feel alive.

I'm learning a lot of new things here in Cambridge.
I alread learned to speak some words in arabic,
italian and spanish with my friends I did here.

And I learned a lot of words in English too, of course
my objective here is learn English.

But I'm learning two things that I not expected
to learn here in Cambridge, play guitar and take
pictures.

I'm learning guitar with my homemater, he's turkesh
and plays guitar very well and he's teatching me.

Unit 3 Part 2 An email

Notes

Content

The *email* should address the three bullet points given.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation; appropriate beginning and ending.

Register and format

Informal email.

Range

Making arrangements and suggestions, describing.

Target reader

Friend.

You want to go shopping this weekend in your town.

Write an email to an English friend of yours.

In your email you should

- invite your friend to come with you
- say what you want to buy
- suggest a time and a place to meet

Write 35–45 words.

Examiner comments

Band 3.

The answer is far longer than the limit of 45 words. All three content points are included and well organised, and the beginning and ending are appropriate, but there are a number of spelling mistakes and some basic mistakes with tenses.

Hello Mike,

I hope that you are fine. I writte to you because I want invite you in shopping.

On Saturday the big shopping center is orgenaizing sale. We can buy very expensive brand in very good price. I'm going to buy present for my boyfriend and I think that you are the best person who help me.

If it's not problem for you we will meet opposite shopping center at 9 o'clock I'm looking forward to your answer.

Ela

Unit 4 Part 3 An informal letter

Notes

Content

The *informal letter* should describe a recent film the writer has seen.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation and paragraphing; appropriate beginning and ending.

Register and format

Informal letter.

Range

Describing; giving opinions and reasons.

Target reader

Penfriend.

This is part of a letter you receive from an English penfriend.

In your next letter, please tell me about a film you like.

What's it about? Why do you like it?

Now write a letter, answering your penfriend's questions.

Write your letter in about 100 words.

Examiner comments

Band 3.

The answer is only slightly over the word limit, but does not adequately say what the film is about. There is an attempt at some ambitious vocabulary, which is not always successful. The answer is not organised into coherent paragraphs, and the ending 'Bye, bye' is not appropriate for an informal letter.

Dear Paul,

Thanks for your last letter, I hope you are fine. I want to tell you about the last movie that I have watched.

I don't know if you remember that I love so much a fantasy movies, because I'm interesting to the special effects at the moment.

The most beautiful movie for me is "The Lord Of Rings". In this film the special effects are amazing and the scripture is very interesting and good.

The actor's quality is mixed greatly with the special effects.

I have been very fortunatly in my choice of to watch this film

I hope to see you as soon as possible Paul.

Bye, bye

Costantino

Unit 5 Part 2 An email

Notes

Content The <i>email</i> should address the three bullet points given.	Organisation and cohesion Clear organisation; appropriate beginning and ending.	Range Describing; suggesting arrangements.
	Register and format Informal email.	Target reader Friend.

You have heard about a new activity at your local sports centre. Write an email to an English friend of yours.

In your email you should

- describe the activity
- give details about the class
- suggest going together

Write 35–45 words.

Examiner comments

Band 2.

The answer is more than twice as long as required, and therefore includes a lot of irrelevant information. The writer has not understood the task properly and has therefore not addressed all the bullet points adequately. There are a number of basic errors with grammar and spelling, although these do not seriously interfere with understanding the text.

Dear Jim,

How are you?

I want to tell you that at moment I'm living in Cambridge and I'm studying at an English language school.

I would like to meet you, and togheter we should to go out, for example to the pub. I'm very happy at the school becouse my teachers are very professional and lovely, and the students are very friendly.

An also I'm going to the local sport centre where I practise more activity, but that I love so much it's a swimming pool.

I'm waiting your answrar Jim,

Bye, bye

Luis.

Unit 6 Part 3 An informal letter

Notes

Content

The *informal letter* should describe where the writer lives and their daily life.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation and paragraphing; appropriate beginning and ending.

Register and format

Informal letter.

Range

Describing a place; describing daily activities.

Target reader

Friend.

This is part of a letter you receive from your new English penfriend, Amy.

I live with my parents and my sister in a house in a big town. I often meet my friends and we go shopping and to the cinema.

Where do you live? What's it like? What kinds of things do you do?

Now write a letter to Amy, telling her about where you live.

Write about 100 words.

Examiner comments

Band 4.

The answer is only slightly over the word limit, and addresses all the points asked for adequately. The organisation is good, with use of linking words, which makes the text easy to read. There are a few mistakes, but these do not interfere with overall understanding, and there is some attempt at a range of vocabulary and grammar.

Dear Amy,

I've just received your letter. I live in Barcelona, the most important city in Catalonia (Spain).

It is a big city that has good and bad things. On one hand, it has a lot of cinemas, theatres, parks, shopping centre.

I like going to shopping centre because there are a lot of things and there I can find all that I want.

On the other hand, here there are a lot of cars, we have a low quality air because there are a lot of pollution and finally it's a noisy and stressful city.

In conclusion, I love my city and I can't live in another place.

I'm looking forward to hear from you.

Best Regards

Rony

Unit 7 Part 2 An email

Notes

Content

The *email* should describe a recent concert that the writer has recently attended.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation; appropriate beginning and ending.

Register and format

Informal email.

Range

Describing recent events; suggesting arrangements.

Target reader

Friend.

**Last weekend you went to a concert. Write an email to your friend.
In your email:**

- say how much you enjoyed the concert
- describe your favourite part
- suggest you meet up

Write 35–45 words.

Examiner comments

Band 2.

The answer is too long and contains some irrelevant information at the beginning, although it addresses all three bullet points adequately. There are some basic mistakes with spelling and grammar, although these do not seriously interfere with the message.

Hi Mike, I've just finished 18 years old! Oh! It's georgus to be adult!
Last weekend we went with Mark and Monica to a small concert
indie music. We celebriated my birthay. It was really fantastic!

The best part it was the one musician played alone on guitar.

I hope that you go next time with us, it'll be great.

We have to keep in touch.

Cheers

Agata

Unit 8 Part 3 A story

Notes

Content The <i>story</i> should narrate events appropriate to the title.	Organisation and cohesion Clear organisation and paragraphing; appropriate beginning and ending; use of linking words.	Range Narrating events; some description of the dangerous situation.
	Register and format Neutral / informal. Story.	Target reader Teacher.

Your English teacher has asked you to write a story.
Your story must have the following title:

A dangerous situation

Write about 100 words.

Examiner comments

Band 5.

The story is relevant to the title, is of the correct length and organised appropriately, although the ending is rather sudden. There is a good range of expressions and structures, and the few mistakes do not interfere with overall understanding.

While on holidays, my friend and I were driving over a steep mountain range admiring the views of the beautiful countryside.

We had driven most of the distance and by now we were just a few miles away from our destination.

Then, all of a sudden we heard a loud bang! A flat tire!

Shocked from the noise, the next thing we know is that the car is skidding towards the edge of the cliff! With great difficulty, I've just managed to take control, and stop the car centimetres away from the edge. The drop was huge! It was so dangerous!

Unit 9 Part 3 An informal letter

Notes

Content

The *informal letter* should give the writer's opinions of computer games and say what he / she uses a computer for.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation and paragraphing; appropriate beginning and ending.

Register and format

Informal letter.

Range

Giving opinions; describing.

Target reader

Friend.

This is part of a letter you receive from an English friend.

I've just bought a new computer game. It's fantastic.

What do you think of computer games? What kind of things do you do on your computer?

Now write a letter, answering your friend's questions.

Write about 100 words.

Examiner comments

Band 5.

The answer adequately addresses the points asked for, but is not organised into clear paragraphs and does not have an appropriate ending. There is a good range of language, but the text does not read as coherently as it could. The few mistakes do not generally interfere with understanding the text.

Dear Marcus,

Thank you for your letter. I hope you're well and still enjoying your new computer game.

Me too, I love computer games. My favourite at the moment is FIFA 09. Me and my friends can easily spend hours playing.

Have you got it? Because, if you do, did you know that we can play on line, from different parts of the world?

I also enjoy browsing the internet for information.

Sending and receiving emails.

If you do have an email address, may be we can correspond with each other by email. Gives you instant access, saving the cost of a stamp and better for the environment.

Unit 10 Part 3 A story

Notes

Content

The *story* should describe how the writer met their best friend.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation and paragraphing; appropriate beginning and ending; use of linking words.

Register and format

Neutral / informal. Story.

Range

Narrating past events in detail; describing.

Target reader

Teacher.

Your English teacher has asked you to write a story.

Your story must begin with this sentence:

I met my best friend on holiday last year.

Write your story in about 100 words.

Examiner comments

Band 3.

The story is an appropriate length. There is some irrelevant information, and the story lacks a conventional structure of a beginning, middle and end. There are a number of basic errors, particularly with verb forms.

I met my best friend on holiday last year. I was going to Italy with my family. It was a very nice holiday, because we staying there with the whole family.

We have been to rent a house on Toscana, a beautiful evironment of the country.

The second day, we have been to visit of Florence. When you was going in this city, you must seeing the cathedral.

In the cathedral, there was a place were you can choose a guide (in your own language). I was surprised to see my best friend there. She staying for 5 weaks in Florence and lead about many people in the cathedral.

I was very glad to see her and we have got a very good time there.

Unit 11 Part 3 An informal letter

Notes

Content

The *informal letter* should say what environmental problems there are in the writer's country and describe how he / she has helped.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation and paragraphing; appropriate beginning and ending.

Register and format

Informal letter.

Range

Describing; narrating events.

Target reader

Friend.

This is part of a letter you receive from an English friend.

We're doing a project on the environment at school. What are the environmental problems in your country? Have you ever done anything to help? What did you do?

Now write a letter, answering your friend's questions.

Write about 100 words.

Examiner comments

Band 4.

There is an attempt at some ambitious vocabulary and structures, which are on the whole successful. Organisation could be improved through use of more paragraphs, and the letter lacks an appropriate ending. Overall, the answer is coherent, and any mistakes do not seriously interfere with understanding the text.

Dear Kate,

In my country, we face a number of environmental problems. One of the most major ones, in my opinion is the forest fires. They seem to appear mostly in the summer, either due to the heat or to arson.

This is a terrible situation! I have personally helped by planting trees on the burned slopes. Also by providing people with information about prevention, such as how they should be careful to put out their cigarettes when they are in the countryside and to farmers, which they should burn the dry vegetation during the summer months.

Unit 12 Part 3 A story

Notes

Content

The *story* should describe a particular celebration that was a happy occasion.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation and paragraphing; appropriate beginning and ending; use of linking words.

Register and format

Neutral / informal. Story.

Range

Narrating past events in detail; describing.

Target reader

Teacher.

**Your English teacher has asked you to write a story.
Your story must have the following title:**

A happy celebration

Write your story in about 100 words.

Examiner comments

Band 3.

The answer is not strictly speaking a story. The text consists of a number of sentences, rather than organised paragraphs. However, the text is easy to read and contains some ambitious vocabulary. The last sentence is clearly inappropriate, as it is looking towards the future, rather than narrating past events.

This is the time of the year we celebrate Easter.

This is a massive date in our country's calendar.

Everybody gathers at their local church at night with candles in their hands.

By midnight the priest comes out and passes the holy light to light up the candles. By then, everybody's happy, kissing each other, under the loud bangs of the fireworks.

We're all ready for a massive feast.

Lamb on the spit red painted eggs and lots of other dishes are on the menu.

I'm looking forward to this happy celebration.

Unit 13 Part 2 An email

Notes

Content

The *email* should address the three bullet points.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation; appropriate beginning and ending.

Register and format

Informal email.

Range

Describing; making suggestions.

Target reader

Friend.

You saw a really good programme on TV last night.

Write an email to an English friend of yours.

In your email, you should

- say what type of programme it is
- describe what it was about
- suggest something else for your friend to watch

Write 35–45 words.

Examiner comments

Band 5.

The answer is well organised, and addresses all three points. There is appropriate use of tenses and a good range of vocabulary. The writer has not included an ending for the email, but overall the answer is more than adequate.

Dear Matt,

I watched this amazing program last night about dangerous jobs called Deadliest Catch. It is about crab fishermen in the icy waters of Alaska. These people are seriously risking their lives to earn a living! I would suggest you should also try Axe Men.

Unit 14 Part 3 A story

Notes

Content

The *story* should describe a time when the writer said the wrong thing and what happened.

Organisation and cohesion

Clear organisation and paragraphing; appropriate beginning and ending; use of linking words.

Register and format

Neutral / informal. Story.

Range

Narrating past events in detail; describing.

Target reader

Teacher.

Your English teacher has asked you to write a story.

Your story must have the following title:

The day I said the wrong thing.

Write your story in about 100 words.

Examiner comments

Band 3.

The answer is relevant to the title of the story, and has a clear introduction, middle and end. There are some basic errors with spelling and grammar, but also some ambitious attempts at complex structures, which are on the whole successful. There is also successful use of linking words.

My Aunt and uncle owned a large houses in the richest part of twon. Twice a year They went to Hong Kong for a holiday. Once while they were on Holiday I told my friends that my Aunt and uncle had gone on Holiday and that I was going to have a party that night. This was the wrong thing to say!

My friends told their friends and they told their friends. At 9pm there were 250 people in my Aunt and unlce house, when they got back everything had been destroyed. It was gave me a really horrible resulted so I decided to come to England to learn English.