

FEEDBACK ON MOCK WRITING TEST

Candidate number	Test Version	Scores: task 1/task 2	Overall score
001-17012017	Academic	6.0/5.5	5.5

The feedback includes analysis of:

- task completion (how well the task is completed)
- organisation (how appropriately the task is structured)
- grammar (analysis of grammatical structures and mistakes)
- vocabulary (comments on the use of vocabulary and analysis of mistakes)

It also contains:

- a band (mark) for each criterion and
- what to do to get a higher band for each criterion above
- strategies to use during the exam
- summary of the test

Task 1

Task Completion / Band - 5.0

The description generally addresses the task covering three types of export in the 3 years given. However, it does not address all the points in the task sufficiently. The response is a detailed description (254 words) rather than a summary required by the task with no a clear overview of trends or main features (*'Summarise the information by selecting and reporting main features...'*).

Excessive word count is caused by using lengthy descriptions, unnecessary details which are obvious and should not be included (e.g. *'It is quite possible to analyse Sounthland's main exports in the categories in 2000, 2016 and future projections for 2025'*) and repetitions.

There are some comparisons used (*'...the highest level'*, *'it was not the same situation'*) although this is not sufficient for band 6. Overall, the description focuses a lot on personalizing language (e.g. *'The description allows us to conclude'*) which is to be avoided. A more impersonal (=academic) style should be used (e.g. *'It can be seen from the description that'*). It is also important not to give personal view on a situation (e.g. as in conclusion.)

To get a higher band:

- ✓ include an overview of main features in the introduction
- ✓ write a shorter response without giving a lot of details (150-200 words will be sufficient)
- ✓ be sure to know what information to include and not to include in the description
- ✓ make use of more comparison
- ✓ use impersonal style of language
- ✓ give no personal opinion of figures and trends in a diagram

Organisation / Band 6.0

The ideas in the response are nicely connected throughout. Different linkers (basic and complex) are used to connect to connect sentences (*'for example';*) and paragraphs (*'it was not the same situation in...'; 'if we speak about...'*). Despite it, some linkers are used inaccurately (*'but'* at the start of a sentence, *'to sum up'* to introduce a conclusion).

The response is written in paragraphs which are marked clearly, but 7 paragraphs are too many for such a description. Some of them are rather short (1 sentence). It's important to use not more than 2-3 paragraphs in the main part, and to achieve it, combine shorter paragraphs into one.

To get a higher band:

- ✓ use a wider variety of complex linkers (e.g. however, moreover, to conclude)
- ✓ be sure to know how to use linkers correctly, especially for academic writing
- ✓ use paragraphs appropriately (e.g. combine shorter paragraphs into one where possible and avoid using a lot of them)

Grammar / Band 6.0

The response contains simple but extended sentences (e.g. *'The tendency of main exports in meat products is obviously decreased'*, *'Nowadays, it's approximately at the level of £9 billion per year'*) and more complex sentence structures as well (*'The description allows us to conclude that the highest level of international tourism ... could be in 2025'*). However, the majority of them are simple ones.

There are some grammatical errors that require attention and can be corrected while checking. Among them are verb tenses and word order:

- *'The main exports have greatly risen up in comparance with 2000'*
-> *The main exports rose greatly in comparison with 2000'*);
- *'The tendency of main exports in meat products is obviously decreased'*.

Other examples of problematic word order which make expressions awkward and cause difficulty for the reader are:

- *'It was not the same situation in such category in 2000'*
-> *The situation was not the same in this category in 2000;*
- *'It is described the way of...'* -> *The way of ... is described.*

Sometimes more attention should be paid to possessive case:

- *'exports's tendency'* -> *the tendency of exports.*

Good use of punctuation (commas after linkers and in lists)

To get a higher band:

- ✓ use complex sentence structures (with subordinate clauses) more
- ✓ check (reread) your response carefully at the end
- ✓ pay attention to verb tenses, word order, unclear expressions (caused by direct translation from the native language) and spelling.

Vocabulary / Band 6.0

A good range of vocabulary is used in the description with some less common academic vocabulary and collocations (*'are expected'*, *'in the development of international tourism'*, *'future projections'*, *'the tendency of main exports'*).

However, there are quite a few examples of inaccuracies:

- *'rising down'*
- *'it is firmly given that'*
- *'the level ... consists is 6 £ billion'*
- *'the-amount figure of 5 £ billion for 2025 is not so perspective'*
- *'influenced on the tendency'*

Spelling and word formation are appropriate, except for a rare case:

- ... 'was a little bit more ~~that~~ than 8 £ billion'
- 'analyze' -> analyze
- 'in comparance with' -> in comparison with
- 'unexpectedable' -> unexpected

It's a good idea to use more academic expressions:

- 'a little bit more' -> insignificantly higher

To get a higher band:

- ✓ use a wider range of academic and less common vocabulary
- ✓ pay attention to inaccuracies while checking your response
- ✓ learn academic collocation phrases that could be used in such descriptions, e.g. 'it is clear/evident that', 'insignificantly higher'

Strategies during the exam

- analyse the task first and then find main features
- plan your response carefully (e.g. make sure you know how to compare features and organise them appropriately)
- spend enough time on checking your writing
- use grammar and vocabulary you are sure about
- focus on important points or ideas (summary)

Summary

Although the response is generally nicely written, it contains too much detail and the task is not completed sufficiently. Work should be done on completing the task (write an overview, use more comparisons), style and paragraphing. Attention should be paid to checking the response after writing in order to correct mistakes that can be avoided (choice of appropriate words, spelling, word forms, awkward expressions, verb tenses and word order). More complex sentence structures are advised as well as less common vocabulary.