

Understanding L2 Writing

Dr Victoria Clark
Assessment Development Manager, East Asia
British Council
Victoria.Clark@britishcouncil.org.hk

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Content

Part 1: Writing skills and knowledge

Part 2: Model of writing

Part 3: Novice vs expert writers

Part 4: Writing tasks

Part 5: Assessing writing

Pre-session discussion

1. What kind of writing do you think most of us do nowadays?
2. Is writing in university and outside university different? Why?
3. What kind of things do we think about when we are planning and creating a piece of writing?

Possible answers

What kind of writing do you think most of us do nowadays?

Emails/letters, texts, messages, lists, maybe academic essays if studying, reports, ...

Is writing in university and outside university different? Why?

In university. we write to record and show learning but outside, we write for communicative purposes.

What kind of things do we think about when we are planning and creating a piece of writing?

Who we are writing to, why we are writing, what our message is, how long it needs to be, what we need to include in the writing,...

Writing skills and knowledge

ACTIVITY 1

What skills/knowledge are involved when we write?

E.g. grammar and vocabulary

Skills and knowledge involved in writing

Sentence structure

Paragraph/essay structure

Punctuation

Cohesion/coherence

Grammar

Spelling

Word usage (correct and appropriate)

Context: sociolinguistic knowledge

Register: formal/informal

Writing is a social/cultural phenomenon

Writing is “an act that takes place within a context, that accomplishes a particular purpose, and that is appropriately shaped for its intended audience” (Hamps-Lyon and Kroll, 1997:8)

Writer-responsible OR
reader-responsible
language?



Writing is a cognitive phenomenon

1. Writing involves different types of knowledge and mental operatives (cognitive processes).
2. L2 writers use many of the same processes as when writing in L1.
3. Expertise in writing in L1 **can** be transferred to L2.
4. L2 writers faces additional challenges that hamper their writing.

Writing model

Features of the task

- Stimulus, including visual support
- Topic
- Purpose
- Addressee/role
- Genre
- Style/degree of formality
- Medium
- Length
- Cognitive demands

Knowledge

- Topic /schemata
- World knowledge
- **Language knowledge**
 - Microlinguistic
 - Textual
 - Sociolinguistic

The **text**

Criteria for assessing

Processes

- Preparation
- Planning
- Monitoring
- Writing
- Using aids
- Revising

Features of tasks

Subject matter	self, family, university, technology, etc.
Stimulus	text, multiple texts, graph, table
Genre	essay, letter, email, advertisement
Rhetorical task	narration, description, exposition, argument
Pattern of exposition	process, comparison/contrast, cause and effect, classification, definition
Cognitive demands	reproduce facts, (re)organise information, apply, analyse, evaluate
Audience	self, teacher, general public, etc.
Tone	formal, informal, semi-formal
Length	number of pages, word number
Time allowed	minutes, hours
Choice of prompts	choice, no choice
Transcription mode	handwritten, on computer
Scoring criteria	content, organisation, grammar and vocabulary, task fulfilment, task response, coherence and cohesion, etc.

Novice vs. expert writers

Novice

- take less time to develop detailed plans before writing
- produce shorter texts
- focus mostly on surface errors only when revising
- less accurate

Expert

- spend more time on planning and revising
- take into account their audience
- focus on revisions are typically global in scope



Teaching approach

ACTIVITY 2

Taking into consideration the differences between novice and experts writers, is there any aspect of your teaching you would change?

Teaching writing: the process approach

Most process writing models include some (and in many cases all of) the following steps:

- planning
- generating ideas
- organising
- drafting
- pausing and reading
- revising
- editing

Designing writing tasks

ACTIVITY 3

What kinds of tasks are used to practice and assess writing?

Indirect tasks 1

A heated competition began between my brother and I after our mother suggested that she would give twenty dollars to whoever collected the most seashells from the beach. No error

The architect's research shows that even when builders
construct houses of stone , they still use the hammer
A B C
more than any tool . No error
D E

Indirect tasks 2

10 satiated for longer periods of time. These health benefits have prompted Greek yogurt's recent surge in popularity. In fact, Greek yogurt can be found in an increasing number of products such as snack food and frozen desserts. Because consumers reap the nutritional benefits of Greek yogurt and support those who make and sell **11** it, therefore farmers and businesses should continue finding safe and effective methods of producing the food.

10

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) fulfilled
- C) complacent
- D) sufficient

11

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) it, farmers
- C) it, so farmers
- D) it: farmers

Sentence reorganisation

Writing

Part 1

Questions 1-5

Here are some sentences about a holiday on a canal boat.

For each question, complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

Use no more than three words.

Write only the missing words on your answer sheet.

You may use this page for any rough work.

Example:

0 We had not been on a canal boat for two years.

It was two years **we had been on a canal boat.**

Answer:

0

since

1 It took us a long time to decide where to go.

We spent a long time **where to go.**

2 The boat did not move very quickly down the river.

The boat moved very **down the river.**

3 We could not fish in many parts of the river.

We were not **fish in many parts of the river.**

4 There was a small kitchen on the boat.

The boat **a small kitchen.**

5 The sun shone every day of the boat trip.

It was **every day of the boat trip.**

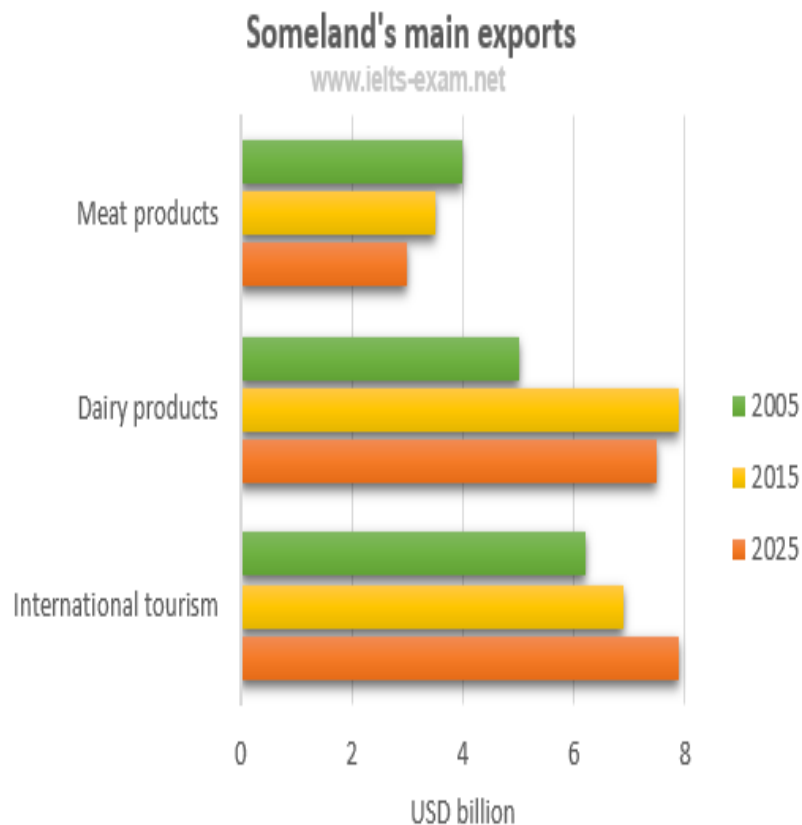
Direct writing task 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

The chart below gives information about Someland's main exports in 2005, 2015, and future projections for 2025.

Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.

Write at least 150 words.



Direct writing task 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.


Present a written argument or case to an educated reader with no specialist knowledge of the following topic.

Obesity rates among young children are growing. Parents are to blame for this because they have the strongest influence over their children's eating habits.

Do you agree or disagree?

You should use your own ideas, knowledge and experience and support your arguments with examples and relevant evidence.

Direct writing task 3

**Aptis**
Improve training
English learning

Component: Sample Paper

Candidate:

Question 1

Progress: ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐ 0%


Finish

1

2

3

4



WRITING

You want to join a sports club. Fill in the form. You have 3 minutes.

Aptis Sports Club

Full name:

Date of birth:
Day Month (write in full) Year

City / Town / Village:

First language:

Interests (list 3):

Preferences

Tutorial

Introduction

Previous

Flag Question

Next

Direct writing task 4

Questions 51-55

Read the notice and the email.

For questions 51-55, fill in the information in Isabelle's notes.

Dance Show

Friday

Starts: 1.00

Entrance is FREE
but please bring £10 to buy
our DVD of the show!

Call Mandy
02667 886221

From Fiona

To: Isabelle

Hi Isabelle
Would you like to go to the dance show I told
you about? We can go by bus and I can meet
you at the station. Phone me if you want to go.
My number is 7734667
Best wishes
Fiona

Dance Show

51. Day:

52. Begins at:

53. DVD costs:

£

54. Fiona will be at the:

55. Fiona's number:

Check your answer



You are in a history club. You have 5 messages from a member of the club.
Write short answers (1-5 words) to each message.

Example

How are you?

I'm fine, thanks.

What do you do?

What did you do
yesterday?

What's your favourite
colour?

What's the weather
like today?

What do you like
doing with friends?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



WRITING

You are a new member of a sports club. Fill in the form. Write in sentences. Use 20 - 30 words. You have 7 minutes.

Aptis Sports Club



Please tell us about the days and times you can come and activities you enjoy.

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



WRITING

..... You are a member of a sports club. You are talking to J. in the sports club chat room. Talk to J. using sentences.

Use 30 to 40 words per answer. You have 10 minutes.

Aptis Sports Club Chat



J: Hi! I hear you are a new member of our club. I have been a member for about 2 years after my friend gave me a year's membership as a gift. Why did you join?

J: I love it. How do you feel about the club?

J: I agree. What do you think about the swimming pool closing?

Preferences

Tutorial

Introduction

◀ Previous

🚩 Flag Question

Next ▶

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4



WRITING

You are a member of a sports club. On your last visit to the club you saw the notice below.

Dear Members,

We are sorry to tell you that from next month membership fees will go up by a minimum of 15%. Also, due to maintenance the club will close from 4pm on Wednesdays for the next four weeks. Please feel free to email us at kjmn@goodhealth.com

Write an email to a friend. Write your feelings about the notice and suggest possible alternatives. Write 50 words. You have 10 minutes.

Also write an email to the Customer Service Team, explaining your feelings about the notice and suggesting possible alternatives. Write 120-150 words. You have 20 minutes.

Preferences

Tutorial

Introduction

Previous

Flag Question

Next

Scoring writing tasks

ACTIVITY 5

How do you score your students' writing?

What factors/aspects of writing should we focus on in the scoring criteria? Why?

Rating scales/ rubrics

What are rating scales/rubrics?

Why use them?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of holistic and analytical scales?

Should the rubrics be task specific or general for all tasks?

Thank You

Victoria.Clark@britishcouncil.org.hk

Which marking scale?

ACTIVITY 7

Which type of rating scale would you use to score an informal email?

What about a book review? What about an academic essay?

Why?