



# Skills for Life

## Writing Entry 1 Examination Report

2008 – Test 077

## Skills for Life Writing Examination Report: Entry 1

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This report is based on candidate performance on one version of the Skills for Life Writing Entry 1 tests in 2007/8.

The report is intended as an aid to teachers and colleges in preparing candidates for future Cambridge ESOL Skills for Life Writing tests. It includes a number of sample candidate answers accompanied by examiner comments.

### Test 077

The three tasks in this test were a shopping list to buy things for a meal, a message to neighbours about shops nearby and a note to neighbours inviting them to dinner.

There were 27 marks available on the paper, 6 for Task 1, 9 for Task 2 and 12 for Task 3. The breakdown of marks available for each assessment focus (Text, Sentence and Word) is shown below:

	Text	Sentence	Word	Total
Task 1	0	0	6	6
Task 2	3	3	3	9
Task 3	6	3	3	12
Total	9	6	12	27

Candidates scored most highly on Word focus and found Sentence focus the most challenging.

#### Task 1 Supermarket list

Candidates generally performed very well on this task. A wide range of words were appropriate as 'things you need for a meal' and any items of food or drink were accepted. A number of candidates tried to answer in sentences and where appropriate they were rewarded for the 'word' element of these. Some stronger candidates produced more than 10 words and were rewarded for ambition rather than penalised if this resulted in a greater number of errors.

#### Task 2 Message to neighbours

Candidates generally had no problems with this task. For Text focus, candidates usually addressed all three bullet points although a few candidates were a little confused and asked the neighbour to buy things for them from the shop. The first point was usually answered with 'my name is...'. The second point often produced quite long strings of directions. This was rewarded in Sentence focus, but did produce some quite long answers. The third point also produced some long strings of 'produce' vocabulary.

In the Sentence assessment focus, this task provided better candidates with the opportunity to produce a variety of basic sentences – the second point producing the greatest range. Weaker students were able to use parts of the rubric to help them structure their sentences.

For Word focus, this task generally produced a good range of vocabulary. Better candidates were able to demonstrate range on what kinds of things they could buy in the shops.

#### Task 3 Invitation to dinner

This task was also done reasonably well. For Text focus, the note format was generally used by both weak and stronger candidates. Most candidates covered all bullet points but a number omitted the request to bring music. Candidates generally produced the required number of words with better ones producing many more.

For Sentence focus, the four bullet points provided the candidates scope to produce a range of sentences. The 'ask ...' points often produced simple modals and the 'say why...' enabled better students to produce compound sentences.

For Word focus, candidates were able to produce a good range of vocabulary. Weaker ones depended on the rubric and added basic words for days, times etc, while better candidates were able to elaborate on the reason for the party and what to bring.

## **Recommendations for Candidate Preparation**

All Cambridge ESOL Skills for Life tests are based on the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum and cover all the Basic Skills Standards in each mode at each level. Therefore, by following the Adult ESOL Core Curriculum, teachers will be preparing their students for the tests. Candidates can benefit from following the Dos and Don'ts from the Skills for Life Teaching Resource website:

[http://www.cambridgeesol.org/teach/SfL/Entry\\_1-3\\_Writing/About%20the%20paper/dos\\_donts.htm](http://www.cambridgeesol.org/teach/SfL/Entry_1-3_Writing/About%20the%20paper/dos_donts.htm)

## **Sample Scripts**

Sample scripts are provided for each task in the question paper. Please note that it is not possible to reproduce the candidate answers in the original handwriting, and so any references in the commentaries to quality of handwriting will not be reflected in the samples provided.

# Entry 1 (Test 077) Sample Scripts and Commentaries

## Entry 1 Script A Task 1

(About 10 minutes)

You want to cook dinner for your friends. You need to go to the supermarket.

Write your shopping list. Write what you need to buy for the meal.

Write about 10 things.

*eggs*

*butter*

1 Met            1 . k.g

2 onione        ½ k.g

3 genger        1 . gram

4 garlck        1 . gram

5 tomatos      ½ . k.g

6 chile podox 2 . k.g paket

7 solit           1 paket

8 Gireh paper ½ k.g

9 oil             1 liter

10 wather      1 liter

11 black paper 1 paket

12 corinder     1 paket

13 dry connder 1 paket

(Total: 6 marks)

**Entry 1 Script A Task 1**

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus		<b>Not assessed in this task</b>	
Sentence focus		<b>Not assessed in this task</b>	
Word focus	Although the candidate produces a good range of appropriate vocabulary, most words (many of them common words) are incorrectly spelt, although still recognisable.	2	<b>3</b>

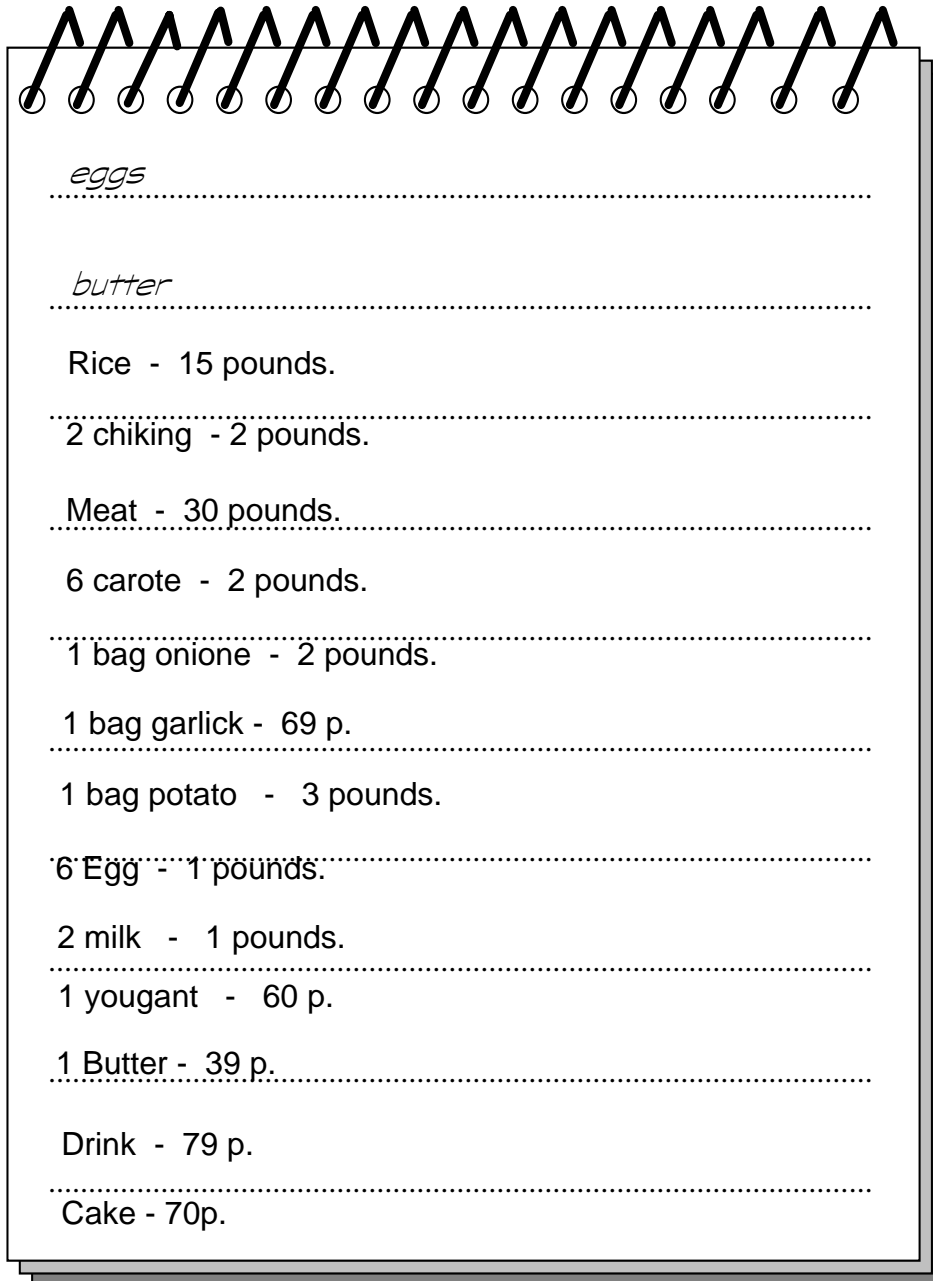
**Entry 1 Script B**  
**Task 1**

**(About 10 minutes)**

You want to cook dinner for your friends. You need to go to the supermarket.

Write your shopping list. Write what you need to buy for the meal.

Write about 10 things.



*eggs*

*butter*

Rice - 15 pounds.

2 chiking - 2 pounds.

Meat - 30 pounds.

6 carote - 2 pounds.

1 bag onione - 2 pounds.

1 bag garlick - 69 p.

1 bag potato - 3 pounds.

6 Egg - 1 pounds.

2 milk - 1 pounds.

1 yougant - 60 p.

1 Butter - 39 p.

Drink - 79 p.

Cake - 70p.

**(Total: 6 marks)**

**Entry 1 Script B Task 1**

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus		<b>Not assessed in this task</b>	
Sentence focus		<b>Not assessed in this task</b>	
Word focus	Clearly written list. Spelling usually correct.	3	<b>6</b>



## Entry 1 Script C Task 2

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus	Candidate attempted to cover all content points. However, the intended audience would have to work hard to understand the message, so it does not make the top band.	2	<b>2</b>
Sentence focus	Candidate uses simple sentences and full stops are sometimes used as sentence boundary marks.	2	<b>2</b>
Word focus	Misspelling of common words causes confusion. Indiscriminate use of upper and lower case.	1	<b>1</b>

**Entry 1 Script D**  
**Task 2**

**(About 15 minutes)**

You have some new neighbours. They want to know about the shops near you.

Write a message for your neighbours.

In your message

- tell your new neighbours who you are
- say where the shops are
- tell them what they can buy there.

Write 30-40 words.

Hi, I am your neighbours - my name is Sami
and I want know who you are.
If you want something from the
shops it's 15 minutes from your House.
you can buy some fruit, Drinks, meat.
Many things you can buy from There.
Thanks.
Your neighbours

**(Total: 9 marks)**

## Entry 1 Script D Task 2

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus	All content points are covered and candidate shows ability to organise text. Evidence of awareness of audience.	3	<b>3</b>
Sentence focus	Candidate shows evidence of ability to control basic verb tenses for the message to be communicated clearly. Sentence boundaries marked clearly.	3	<b>3</b>
Word focus	Candidate can spell familiar common words correctly and the handwriting is very clear.	3	<b>3</b>

**Entry 1 Script E**  
**Task 3**

**(About 15 minutes)**

You want to ask your new neighbours to come to dinner.

Write a note to them.

In your note

- ask your neighbours to come to dinner
- say why you want them to come to dinner
- tell them the day and the time of the dinner
- ask them to bring some music to the dinner.

Write 40-50 words.

Hi Hemed I want you today come to my  
house Please. I am happy you come my house  
I want you in the my house day 21 day/ 9 month /05  
Time 20,oclok.pm St et+ redy dinner.  
The dinner is for my weading I will be my  
Weading ti is very big and tow much people  
come to my weading.  
Pring coset music Please because somebody  
want losing to music and some body want dincing  
think you for come my weading from your friend  
Abdulganee.

**(Total: 12 marks)**

### Entry 1 Script E Task 3

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus	All task points covered with evidence of awareness of audience. Text is largely coherent, though it breaks down a little towards the end.	3	<b>5</b>
Sentence focus	Some evidence of control of sentence structure, though not always successful. Sentence boundaries not always used correctly e.g. 'The dinner is for my weading...come to my weading'.	2	<b>2</b>
Word focus	Evidence of ability to select appropriate vocabulary. Some difficulty with spelling which could cause confusion e.g. 'Pring coset music'.	2	<b>2</b>

**Entry 1 Script F**  
**Task 3**

**(About 15 minutes)**

You want to ask your new neighbours to come to dinner.

Write a note to them.

In your note

- ask your neighbours to come to dinner
- say why you want them to come to dinner
- tell them the day and the time of the dinner
- ask them to bring some music to the dinner.

Write 40-50 words.

Dear neighbours
Can you come to my dinner on Sunday
at 2.30pm on the evening. I will Make
The weekend Dinner with my friend.
I hope you will come and you can come
with your brother or your friend.
Can you bring some music with you to the dinner
If you have please.
Thank you
Sami your neighbours.

**(Total: 12 marks)**

**Entry 1 Script F Task 3**

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus	All points covered with some expansion, coherence and awareness of audience. Text is well organised with the use of paragraphs.	3	<b>6</b>
Sentence focus	Evidence of ability to use compound sentence structures. Sentence boundaries consistently used.	3	<b>3</b>
Word focus	Evidence of ability to select appropriate vocabulary with spelling largely accurate. Handwriting is legible.	3	<b>3</b>