



Skills for Life

Writing Entry 2 Examination Report

2008 – Test 077

Skills for Life Writing Examination Report: Entry 2

This report is based on candidate performance on one version of the Skills for Life Writing Entry 2 tests in 2007/08.

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 note to a friend offering sympathy and help after an accident, a questionnaire from a café and an email to a friend describing a trip.

There were 30 marks available on the paper, 12 for Task 1, 9 for Task 2, and 9 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	6	3	3	12
Task 2	0	6	3	9
Task 3	6	3	0	9
Total	12	12	6	30

Candidates performed most strongly in the Word and Text focus and found Sentence focus the most challenging.

Task 1 Note to Cristina

Candidates generally handled this task quite well. For Text focus, both weaker and stronger candidates used a note format although some candidates forgot the closing. All three points were usually addressed but some candidates confused 'say' with 'ask' in points 2 and 3. The majority of candidates produced answers of an appropriate length. In the Sentence assessment focus, candidates were able to produce a range of sentence types – the 'offer to help' often resulting in good compound sentences from better candidates. Weaker students were able to use the rubric to help them construct simple sentences. For Word focus, this task was accessible to both strong and weak candidates. Better candidates were able to demonstrate range with their 'offers of help'.

Task 2 Cafe Questionnaire

Candidates coped reasonably well with this task. For Sentence focus, although there were five questions in this task asking students to 'write in sentences', candidates typically wrote 5 simple sentences with only the more ambitious attempting compound sentences. For this reason, a smaller number of candidates scored in Band 3. The word 'service' in Question 4 also caused problems for some students. In the Word assessment focus, this task caused very few problems. Weaker candidates had the vocabulary to attempt the task and better ones had the scope to produce a range of vocabulary and use common adjectives.

Task 3 Email to Bilal

This was a question which was accessible to the full range of candidates. For Text focus, stronger candidates were able to demonstrate their ability to produce an organised text while weaker ones just answered the points. The third content point, 'say why you enjoyed...', was often answered implicitly and was rewarded appropriately. In the Sentence assessment focus, this task provided ample opportunity for

candidates to display a range of language with minimal lifting from the rubric. Stronger candidates were able to show control of past tenses and 'say why...' produced good compound sentences. For Word focus, there were again few problems. The task offered candidates the chance to use a range of vocabulary – especially when explaining what they did on the trip. Better candidates scored well here.

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

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 2 (Test 077) Sample Scripts and Commentaries

Entry 2 Script A Task 1

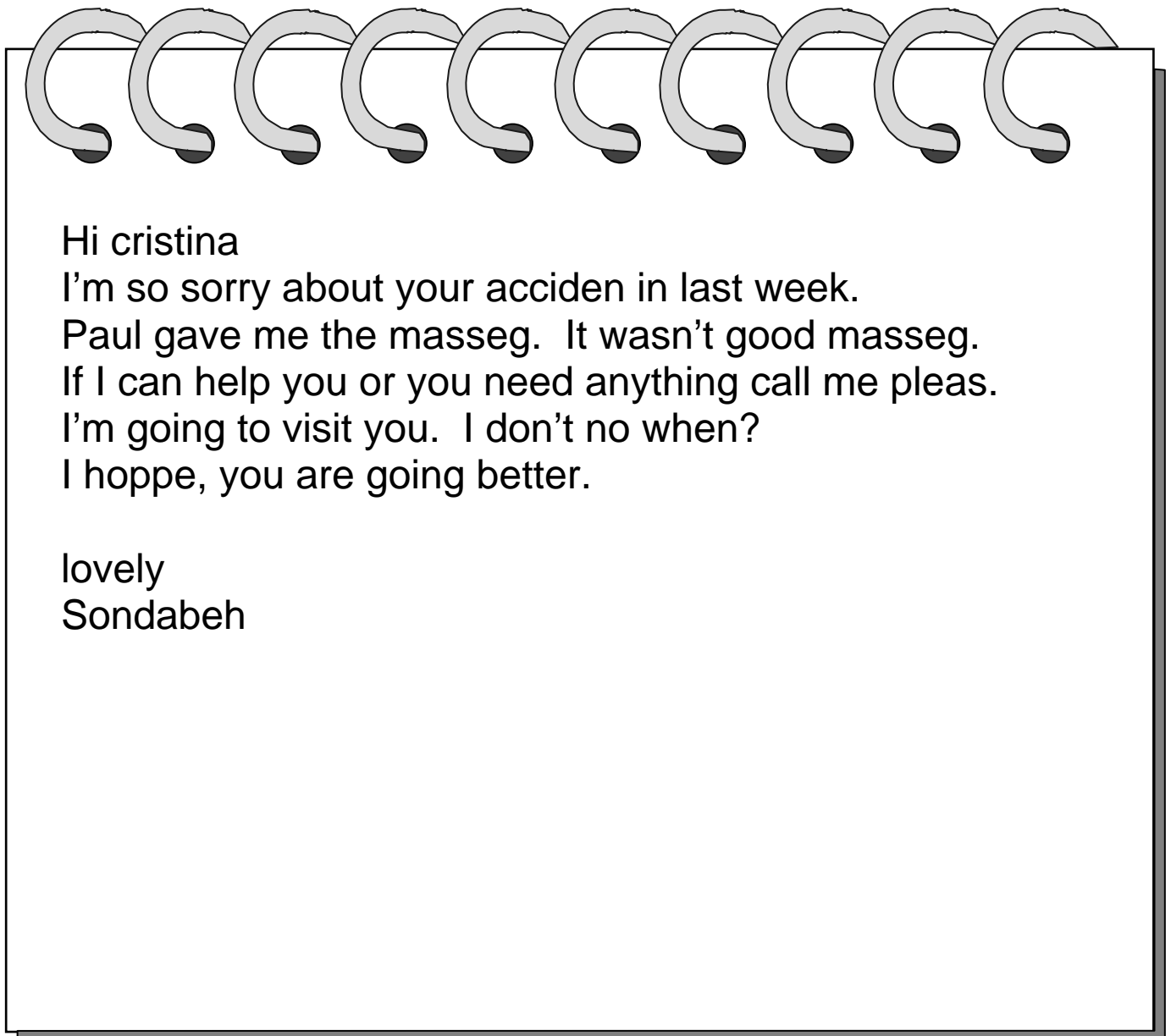
(About 15 minutes)

A friend from your class, Cristina, had an accident last week. Now, her doctor says she must stay at home for two weeks.

Write a note to Cristina. In the note:

- tell her you are sorry about her problem
- say what you can do to help her
- say when you can visit her.

Write about 50 words.



Hi cristina
I'm so sorry about your acciden in last week.
Paul gave me the masseg. It wasn't good masseg.
If I can help you or you need anything call me pleas.
I'm going to visit you. I don't no when?
I hoppe, you are going better.

lovely
Sondabeh

(Total: 12 marks)

Entry 2 Script A Task 1

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus	All points are addressed and opening and closing formulae are attempted. Text is coherent and 'natural' in the main.	3	5
Sentence focus	Candidate shows evidence of ability to construct compound sentences. Meaning is clear at all times.	2	2
Word focus	Handwriting is mainly legible. Most words are correctly spelt and where not, meaning is still clear.	2	2

Entry 2 Script B
Task 1

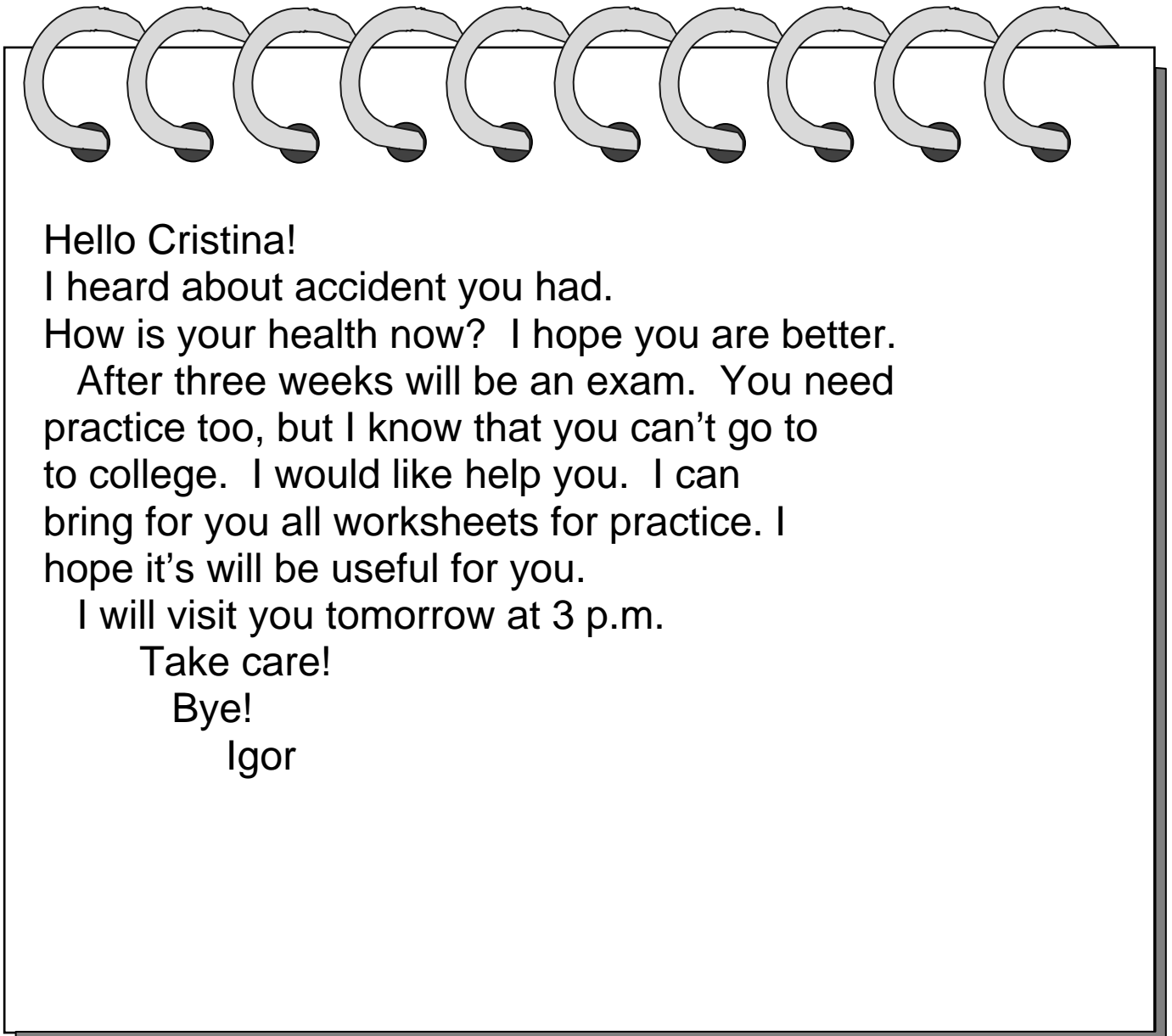
(About 15 minutes)

A friend from your class, Cristina, had an accident last week. Now, her doctor says she must stay at home for two weeks.

Write a note to Cristina. In the note:

- tell her you are sorry about her problem
- say what you can do to help her
- say when you can visit her.

Write about 50 words.



Hello Cristina!
I heard about accident you had.
How is your health now? I hope you are better.
After three weeks will be an exam. You need
practice too, but I know that you can't go to
to college. I would like help you. I can
bring for you all worksheets for practice. I
hope it's will be useful for you.
I will visit you tomorrow at 3 p.m.
Take care!
Bye!
Igor

(Total: 12 marks)

Entry 2 Script B Task 1

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus	All points clearly covered and attention is paid to organisation, cohesion and paragraphing. Opening and closing formulae are used successfully.	3	6
Sentence focus	There is clear evidence of ability to construct compound sentences and control over basic verb tenses. Punctuation is accurate.	3	3
Word focus	Handwriting is clear and spelling is accurate.	3	3

Entry 2 Script C
Task 2

(About 15 minutes)

You go to a café in town for lunch.

In the café the waitress gives you a questionnaire to fill in. Answer the questions.



SNACKBITES CAFÉ



NAME: SAJU MIAH

TEL. NO: 01202 - 399945

Answer all our questions and you can win a free meal.

Why did you come into town today?

(Write in sentences.)

I come to the town GoRlumel

How often do you come to this café?

(Write in sentences.)

I come to the cafie 4 Times.

What do you think of our food?

(Write in sentences.)

Yours food is delicious and tasty and best quality in this town.

What do you think of our service?

(Write in sentences.)

At all accilent, when I come here I took very good service allwayss

What do you think of our prices?

(Write in sentences.)

This café is good things is yours food is very good and also prices is very good or comfortable.

(Total: 9 marks)

Entry 2 Script C Task 2

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus		Not assessed in this task	
Sentence focus	Although candidate writes in sentences, grammar is just sufficiently controlled for message to be communicated. Meaning sometimes impeded.	2	3
Word focus	Candidate uses some appropriate vocabulary (including low frequency words e.g. 'delicious', 'quality'), although range is limited (e.g. 'good' x4)	2	2

Entry 2 Script D
Task 2

(About 15 minutes)

You go to a café in town for lunch.

In the café the waitress gives you a questionnaire to fill in. Answer the questions.



SNACKBITES CAFÉ



NAME: Sheida Abbassi

TEL. NO: (01202) 548662

Answer all our questions and you can win a free meal.

Why did you come into town today?

(Write in sentences.)

I come with my friend just for café in town for lunch.

How often do you come to this café?

(Write in sentences.)

2 times in the week.

What do you think of our food?

(Write in sentences.)

your food is very tasty and very fresh and so delicious.

What do you think of our service?

(Write in sentences.)

It's very good, and your waiters, is very kind.

What do you think of our prices?

(Write in sentences.)

I'm not happy about that, Because it's expensive.

(Total: 9 marks)

Entry 2 Script D Task 2

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus		Not assessed in this task	
Sentence focus	Sentence grammar is controlled for message to be communicated – good use of ‘so’ and ‘very’. However, not quite enough for top band.	2	4
Word focus	Good vocabulary appropriate to task and correctly spelt. Some inconsistency of upper and lower case.	3	3

Entry 2 Script E
Task 3

(About 20 minutes)

Last week you went on a trip with some students from your class.

Write an email to your friend, Billal. In your email:

- say where you went
- say what you did
- say why you enjoyed the trip.

Write about 80 words.

To:	billal@acu.ac.uk
Subject:	my trip

Hi Billal.
Last week I was on a trip with my class. We travelled by bus. We went to visit parliament. When I arrived I saw beautiful buildings, nice flowers around and I saw the one park near parliament. When I went inside every student's is interested to see inside because it is beautiful, I saw the corridor when the queen stayed, big picture and statue is very interesting.
After that together we went to eat in a restaurant and somebody can buy something as a souvenir.
I bought one pen and some sweets after parliament. I also visited one museum near parliament, but I didn't visit because it was 3pm. I picked up the children.
Best wishes

(Total: 9 marks)

Entry 2 Script E Task 3

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus	All points covered with a lot of expansion. Text is largely coherent but in a number of instances it requires considerable effort from the reader. A strong 4.	2	4
Sentence focus	Some evidence of ability to construct compound sentences and some control of structure at the beginning. However, this breaks down towards the end and meaning may be impeded.	2	2
Word focus		Not assessed in this task	

Entry 2 Script F
Task 3

(About 20 minutes)

Last week you went on a trip with some students from your class.

Write an email to your friend, Billal. In your email:

- say where you went
- say what you did
- say why you enjoyed the trip.

Write about 80 words.

To:	billal@acu.ac.uk
Subject:	my trip

Hello Billal!
How are you?
Last week I and my friends went on a trip by bikes.
It was really wonderful! We travelled for four days.
We went to forests and lakes. Every day was very interesting, because we travelled and lived in the wild places in forest. We made fire and food by our self. Sometimes our trip was dangerous, but we very enjoyed it.
We would like to go another trip next month.
Would you like to go with us?
Write me soon!
Bye!
Igor

(Total: 9 marks)

Entry 2 Script F Task 3

Commentary		Band	Mark
Text focus	All points covered clearly and with expansion. Text is coherent and well organised.	3	6
Sentence focus	Compound sentences are well constructed. There is control of basic tenses and word order. Sentence boundaries are accurately used.	3	3
Word focus		Not assessed in this task	