

WEB FORUM / DISCUSSION FORUM

Past-paper questions and model answers

This teaching handout compiles the Pearson Level 1 writing tasks supplied by the user. Model answers are original teaching examples, not official Pearson responses. Where fewer than five genuine questions were available, clearly labelled Pearson-style practice tasks have been added.

How to use this handout

Read each exam-style task first and plan your own answer. Then compare your work with the model response. Notice the format, paragraphing, tone, detail and how every bullet point is covered.

Exam reminder: Pearson Level 1 Writing assesses spelling, punctuation and grammar as well as how clearly and appropriately you communicate for purpose and audience.

Practice 1 - Pearson past paper

Source: Past Paper 1 - Task 1

Information

A discussion forum asks what you would do on your perfect day, where you would go and who you would spend it with.

Writing Task

Write your contribution to the web forum about your perfect day.

In your writing, you should:

- describe what you would do on your perfect day
- say where you would go and who you would go with
- explain why this would be your perfect day

You should aim to write about 200 to 250 words.

(21 marks)

MODEL ANSWER

My perfect day would be simple rather than expensive. I would start early with breakfast at home, then travel to the coast with my family. We are all busy during the week, so having a full day together without work or appointments would already make the day special.

I would choose a quiet seaside town rather than a crowded tourist resort. In the morning, we would walk along the beach and take plenty of photos. After that, we would have fish and chips for lunch and spend some time exploring small local shops. If the weather was warm, I would sit near the sea with a coffee while the children played nearby.

In the afternoon, we could visit a museum or take a short boat trip. I would not plan every minute because part of a perfect day is being able to relax without watching the clock.

I would spend the day with my closest family members because we do not often have enough time together. Good weather would be a bonus, but the most important thing would be enjoying each other's company and returning home with happy memories.

Other people may have different priorities, but I think the most important thing is finding a balanced and realistic approach.

Model answer word count: 210 words | **Target:** 200 to 250 words

Practice 2 - Pearson past paper

Source: Past Paper 4 - Task 1

Information

A web discussion includes opposite opinions about being famous. One person says it would be a nightmare, while another likes the idea of money and social-media followers.

Writing Task

Write a web forum contribution giving your views on being famous.

In your writing, you should:

- describe the advantages and disadvantages of being famous
- say whether or not you would like to be famous
- explain why you think this way

You should aim to write about 200 to 250 words.

(21 marks)

MODEL ANSWER

Being famous can look exciting from the outside, but I think it has both advantages and serious disadvantages. Famous people may earn a lot of money and get opportunities that most people never have. They can travel, meet interesting people and sometimes use their popularity to support charities or important causes.

However, fame can also remove a person's privacy. Celebrities are often photographed in ordinary situations, and strangers may comment on everything they do. Social media can make this even harder because negative messages can spread quickly. Famous people may also find it difficult to know whether new friends genuinely like them or are only interested in their status.

Personally, I would not like to be very famous. I would be happy to be successful in my career, but I would still want to go shopping, spend time with my family and make mistakes without becoming news.

I understand why some people dream about fame, especially because of the money and exciting experiences. For me, though, a comfortable private life would be more valuable than thousands of followers or constant attention.

Other people may have different priorities, but I think the most important thing is finding a balanced and realistic approach.

Model answer word count: 202 words | **Target:** 200 to 250 words

Practice 3 - Pearson past paper

Source: Past Paper 8 - Task 2

Information

A discussion forum asks people to describe their dream home and explain their reasons.

Writing Task

Write a contribution to the discussion forum about your dream home.

In your writing, you should:

- describe your dream home in detail
- explain the reasons for your choice

You should aim to write about 150 to 200 words.

(15 marks)

MODEL ANSWER

My dream home would be a medium-sized house on the edge of a small town. I would not want a huge mansion because it would be expensive to heat and difficult to clean. Instead, I would choose a comfortable three-bedroom house with plenty of natural light.

The kitchen would be large enough for a table because I enjoy cooking and eating with family. I would also like a quiet study where I could work or read without distractions. Outside, there would be a small garden with flowers, a vegetable patch and enough space to sit in the summer.

Location would be very important. I would like to live close to shops, a park and a train station, but not directly beside a busy road. That would give me the convenience of town life without too much noise.

My dream home is not about luxury. I mainly want somewhere peaceful, practical and welcoming where family and friends can spend time together.

Model answer word count: 160 words | **Target:** 150 to 200 words

Practice 4 - Pearson past paper

Source: Past Paper 9 - Task 1

Information

A forum includes different views about TV talent shows. Some people enjoy the auditions and performers, while others think contestants are showing off and are sometimes laughed at.

Writing Task

Write a contribution to the discussion forum giving your views on TV talent shows.

In your writing, you should:

- say why some people enjoy TV talent shows
- explain why other people dislike them
- give your own detailed views about these shows

You should aim to write about 200 to 250 words.

(21 marks)

MODEL ANSWER

TV talent shows are popular because they combine entertainment with competition. Many viewers enjoy seeing ordinary people perform and improve from week to week. The auditions can be funny or surprising, and successful contestants sometimes get opportunities that completely change their lives. People also enjoy discussing the judges' decisions with friends or voting for their favourite performers.

On the other hand, there are good reasons why some viewers dislike these programmes. Auditions may focus too much on people who perform badly, and this can feel cruel rather than entertaining. Some shows also seem more interested in emotional stories and arguments than in genuine talent. In addition, talented contestants do not always win because popularity can be more important than skill.

Personally, I watch talent shows occasionally. I enjoy strong singers, dancers and comedians, especially when their progress is clear. However, I switch off when the programme humiliates contestants or creates unnecessary drama.

In my view, talent shows can be enjoyable if they treat people fairly and concentrate on ability. Entertainment should be exciting, but it should not depend on embarrassing someone for an audience.

Other people may have different priorities, but I think the most important thing is finding a balanced and realistic approach.

Model answer word count: 204 words | **Target:** 200 to 250 words

Practice 5 - Pearson-style practice created for teaching

Source: Pearson-style practice - discussion forum

Information

A discussion forum asks whether people should work from home whenever possible. Some users value flexibility, while others miss contact with colleagues.

Writing Task

Write a contribution to the discussion forum giving your views on working from home.

In your writing, you should:

- describe advantages and disadvantages of working from home
- give your own view and explain your reasons

You should aim to write about 150 to 200 words.

(15 marks)

MODEL ANSWER

Working from home has become common, and I can understand why many people prefer it. One major advantage is that workers save time and money because they do not need to travel every day. It can also be easier to manage family responsibilities, and some people concentrate better in a quiet home environment.

However, there are disadvantages. People may feel isolated if they spend most of the week alone, and communication can be harder when every conversation has to happen online. Not everyone has a suitable desk or a quiet room, so home working may actually make some jobs more stressful.

My preferred option would be a mixture of home and workplace days. Working from home two or three days a week would provide flexibility, while regular office days would allow colleagues to discuss problems, share ideas and maintain good relationships.

I do not think one system suits everyone. Employers should consider the job, the individual worker and the needs of the team before deciding what works best.

Model answer word count: 168 words | **Target:** 150 to 200 words