

## The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS

### IELTS GENERAL TRAINING WRITING TEST

#### TASK 1 Page 299

Dear Sir or Madam,

I am writing this letter in support of my application to join the hospital as a volunteer worker. I would be most grateful if you would consider the following information favourably when deciding on my eligibility for this role.

I am currently a final-year college student preparing to enter medical school in the coming year, and I feel that working as a volunteer in this department will provide me with some much needed hands-on experience of the day-to-day responsibilities I might encounter while working in a medical context. As I already have taken some initial administrative and clerical roles in the past, I would be able to work on the reception desk, as well as assist the elderly, the disabled or young patients in transit to and from the various wards. I am also willing to assist medical staff with the preparation of medical equipment, and I am trained in sterilisation and general hygiene practice through an internship I took over the summer at a neighbouring hospital. I am also willing to undertake any other tasks that the management would consider suitable for my level of expertise and experience.

I will be available to accept any position if offered from early March, as I have to complete my final exams, but I am available for interview at all times throughout the week. I have enclosed my contact details, including my e-mail address and telephone number, in the resume attached to this letter.

I hope that you find my application suitable, and hope to be considered for the role.

Yours faithfully,

X

#### TASK 2 Page 299

There are a number of benefits to individuals and to society afforded by the institution of marriage. On a personal level, getting married brings with it a sense of security and commitment as the result of the solemn vows undertaken by both parties during the wedding ceremony. In the wider sense, married couples are more likely to provide stable homes for any children that might result from the union, sparing the family from undue pain and suffering and sparing the state from the financial burden of supporting single-parent families. However, the notion that there is a preferred age (suggested to be around 30) for a marriage to be regarded as optimally beneficial for both private and public interests is difficult to quantify, for the following reasons.

Firstly, there has been a change in the general health of the population as time has progressed. In the past, the life expectancy of individuals in our society hovered at around the sixty-mark. These days, due to advances in medical technology and an increased awareness of health-related issues, people are expected to live well into their eighties. In addition, due to the improvement of artificial insemination

methods, women are now able to have children well into their forties. As such, it is not immediately apparent why people should hurry to settle down and get married at around the age of 30 as there is no medical or biological reason why this should be the case.

In addition, due to changing economic conditions, many couples are saddled with debt well into their thirties, as they struggle to pay off student loans, mortgages, and other payments. As modern marriages are generally very expensive affairs, the added pressure that a wedding can bring on a household's finances may in many cases be too much to bear. With this in mind, it is potentially beneficial to postpone the wedding plans until a budding couple are more financially secure in their later years, before tying the knot.

While the benefits of marriage have been in no way diminished by the claims made above, there is certainly a case to be made that there should not be any established age limit beyond which the benefits of marriage may no longer be felt.

## IELTS GENERAL TRAINING WRITING TEST ANSWERS

### TASK 1 page 332

Dear Michael,

I am writing to inform you that due to circumstances beyond my control, I am no longer able to continue working in my current voluntary role as a community support officer. My role as a CSO entailed regular meetings with the homeless and other impoverished members of the local community, and passing on the information gained from these meetings to the local council's liaison for social improvement. I was also responsible for maintaining adequate provision of food, blankets and stocks of other essential items for the community's homeless outreach centres.

While I found the work incredibly rewarding, I have been offered a paid position as a secretary for the Social Affairs Department, and as such, I am now unable to commit to the number of hours that are required of a CSO. However, I believe that the current deputy CSO, Mr. David Swan, would be more than willing to accept a promotion to the role of full CSO, and would be able to accept this position at the earliest opportunity. Therefore, I request that Mr. Swan be hired as my replacement for the CSO position with immediate effect, in order to minimise any potential disruption to essential services.

I look forward to your response,

### TASK 2 page 332

The fashion industry continues to bombard society with a non-stop stream of powerful imagery, colours, sounds and styles, in order to make us part with our hard-earned cash. Keeping up with the latest trends may feel like a full-time job at times, and what may be fashionable one minute may be out of style the next. However, this does not stop people from buying and wearing new and expensive

items of clothing or jewellery in the pursuit of style, even if it is potentially to their detriment. This essay discusses why people strive to wear fashionable clothing, and why the pursuit of fashion may not always be a positive force in people's lives.

Humans are inherently social creatures, and it has often been recognised that people are able to feel 'included' if one is wearing clothes that are currently in fashion. For inclusion in certain socio-economic groups, wearing the 'appropriate' brands guarantees a sense of belonging and may act as a gatekeeper to membership within that group. With this in mind, it would be sensible to assume that there may be strong psychological factors underlying a person's choice of clothing that may have little to do with the actual garments.

However, as a corollary, people's behaviour may be strongly influenced by the perceived threat of social exclusion if one does not conform to acceptable notions of fashion. In fact, one might assume that the endless cycle of purchasing new and expensive clothes in order to remain 'fashionable' might be detrimental both to a person's bank balance as well as their sense of self, if such behaviour is driven mainly by the fear of becoming a social outcast. Such behaviour is well attested in studies on teenage girls in particular, for whom inclusion within a social structure is paramount to their developing sense of identity and self. This can cause a great deal of stress for parents who are not able to afford the latest trends and brands demanded by their children.

With the above in mind, while understandable on a basic level, one might conclude that the pursuit of fashion may well impact negatively on society as a whole, particularly if one has to manage to stay in fashion while on a budget. It would be preferable if fashion companies could promote trends that are more accessible to the wider population who may not have the time or resources to 'keep up with the Joneses'.