

Model writing answers

Unit 25

2.2

Picture A

Summers are mild and wet, but in winter it becomes cold and frosty and the temperature falls to below 0°C. The area is often cut off because of snow. The heavy snowfall in winter attracts skiers and tourists. Floods sometimes occur in July and August during the wet season and skies are often cloudy in the mountains, whether it is summer or winter.

Picture B

It is always hot and humid and, as it is near the Equator, there is little difference in temperature between the warmest and the coolest months. Rain falls nearly every day and there is no dry season. In the rainforest, as dawn breaks and the sun comes up, there is a clear blue sky but by mid-afternoon every day it pours with rain. Thunderstorms are also common but they soon clear up. The temperature at night is 20–25°C but during the day it rises to above 30°C.

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: email

Hi Joe

Here's some information about the climate in Germany to help you with your project.

First of all, our climate is not very extreme. The coast of Germany generally has warm summers and mild, cloudy winters. However, the centre of the country has a much greater range of temperatures: the summer can be very hot at times, and the winters cold and snowy. In the mountainous areas, the winters can be extremely cold, there is heavy snowfall, and we also have something special called the 'fohn' or warm wind, which is sometimes really strong. In autumn and winter we often get showers, thunderstorms and heavy rain across the country and it can rain even in summer too.

What I dislike about the weather is that you nearly always have to carry a raincoat with you because it rains so often. You also need a sweater or sweatshirt nearly all the year, as it's rarely hot for longer than a couple of weeks at a time. However, the snow that falls in winter means that a lot of Germans enjoy winter sports, especially skiing, and that includes me. I love all winter sports, including snowboarding.

All the best

Hans

Unit 26

Exam practice Writing Part 1: essay

Everyone is interested in ways of remaining fit and healthy. People of all ages are becoming aware that they have to make an effort if they want to avoid becoming overweight and suffering health problems.

Obviously, it is essential to have a healthy diet. You should consume food containing vitamins, such as fruit, vegetables and salad, choose fish and chicken rather than red meat, and keep away from junk food. Chips and chocolate should be occasional treats, not regular meals.

The next thing is to make sure you relax. The pace of life is fast, whatever you do, so you should also enjoy time with friends and family, and go out and have fun.

However, while both these ways of remaining healthy are important, in my opinion, taking exercise is really the best way of staying fit and healthy at any age, so join a team or go to the gym. If that's not to your taste, try swimming at your local pool. And if you really dislike all these activities, then get as much exercise as you can every day by walking everywhere and keeping yourself moving. You will certainly feel the benefits.

Unit 27

Exam practice

Writing Part 1: essay

Should everyone learn to play a musical instrument?

Learning to play music is wonderful, because it gives you a way of escaping. I've played the guitar for several years, and I can't imagine not playing a few songs every day. It's enjoyable because I totally switch off from all my problems.

I'm lucky, because I have some musical skills, and I didn't find it difficult to read music. I'm not sure if everyone has musical talent, though. There are some people who really are 'deaf' to music, and others who don't have the flexibility in their fingers to play an instrument, so for them learning to play one would simply be frustrating. However, I believe that they are in the minority.

The majority of people have enough ability to learn an instrument like drums. And if you play an instrument, you will learn lots of other skills, like how to be part of the 'team' that makes up an orchestra. It will give you confidence if you play in front of an audience, and practising for a performance will encourage you to be patient.

For these reasons, I think anyone who has some musical talent should learn to play an instrument, which means nearly everyone.

Unit 28

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: article

Happiness is ...

What makes me personally feel really happy? For me there is nothing like a beautiful warm, sunny day and being outdoors, in a garden or park, or better still on a beach. Why? To be honest, I feel completely content outdoors. I love doing outdoor activities, like walking and sailing. And to make things absolutely perfect, my family or friends would be there, so that we can have a picnic together, or some really great barbeque food.

Other things that make me happy are music and films. I get great enjoyment from going to concerts or outdoor music festivals with friends. And I'm always keen to catch a new release at the cinema, and grab a tasty snack on the way home. It's always fun just to sit and chat about the film after seeing it.

So these are the things which make me happy; they're certainly not complicated or expensive. You could call them the simple pleasures of life, couldn't you? Perhaps that's what we all need to be happy – some time outside and the people we like around us.

Unit 29

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: review

The Fitzwilliam Museum

I visited this museum while I was doing a course in Cambridge, and the building itself is extremely impressive. It was constructed in the nineteenth century, and it has lion statues outside. Inside, the first thing you see is a huge hall, with marble in fantastic colours, and again some outstanding statues.

In addition, you have a wonderful mixture of exhibits to look at. This is not one of the biggest museums in the world, but it has a very valuable and interesting collection. I personally loved the Egyptian section, where there are some wonderful 'mummies' and masks to see, as well as some very ordinary everyday items, which show you what life was like in Ancient Egypt. I had never seen anything like that before, and it was fascinating.

The other exhibits I would recommend are the paintings. There is a little of everything, including some early Italian pictures, and some very famous Impressionist paintings by well-known artists.

I would recommend this museum to everyone; there is certain to be something you will like and in addition there is a very pleasant café to relax in and a shop which sells good quality souvenirs.

Unit 30

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: article

What qualities do you look for in your friends?

As in other relationships, opposites often attract, so it may be that you have little in common with some friends, but you enjoy their company and never run out of things to say. I've concluded therefore, that the main thing about friends is that you get on well together, and that they are reliable and on your side when you need support. Apart from that, the more variety in personality and interests, the better!

As for my closest friend, he's called Massimo, and we've known each other for what seems like forever. He's quiet and thoughtful and definitely much more sensible than me. We're both studying science at university now, and last year we ran a marathon together. He really kept me going during the training, making sure I did enough and encouraging me not to give up when I felt bad. Then I made sure he finished the race on the day by constantly encouraging him, and we crossed the finish line together. He's more like a brother than a friend to me now, and I hope we will go on laughing together for many years. He's played a major part in my life.

Unit 31

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: email

Hi Michael,

Here's some information to help you with your sports project. I think football is probably the most popular sport in England, but tennis, golf and cricket are all extremely popular as well.

People love football because they like supporting a particular team and they often enjoy playing the game themselves as well. In England, most schools and colleges have football teams. Some boys – and a few girls too – spend lots of time outside school playing football. That's because they dream about becoming stars and earning lots of money like the top professionals, but they also love the sport for itself.

As for me, I like playing tennis throughout the year. It's a bit cold in winter, but I still enjoy it then. It keeps me physically fit and I've made several friends through it. Personally, I prefer doing sports to watching them, but if there are big matches on, I watch them with my brothers. I watch tennis of course, but also cricket, football, rugby – any really exciting national or international games.

I hope that tells you what you need to know. Good luck with the project!

Katie

Unit 32

Exam practice

Writing Part 1: essay

I believe the first issue to discuss is what exactly is meant by 'strict'. If you mean that it's good to have some rules and routine in your life, then certainly I think that's true. All children like to know where they stand and they need to be taught how to behave. I have always been given clear rules by my parents, and it makes me feel safe.

On the other hand, it is equally important that parents are not so strict with their children that they rebel. Young people need to be able to experience the world for themselves and learn from their mistakes. If they don't do this, they will never be able to deal with the world as adults.

However, I think all parents should also provide love and support. Children need help with problems connected with school, friendships and exams. They should certainly feel able to talk to their parents about the difficult situations they face in their lives.

In conclusion, I believe that while there must be some rules, it is vital that good parents should also give their children freedom, love and support.

Unit 33

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: article

The longest journey

Have you ever been on a journey that you thought would never end? I have! It was when I went to San Francisco three years ago. We were going to visit friends we hadn't seen for ages. We took a taxi to the airport, but the traffic on the motorway was crawling along, so the driver decided to take another route. That meant going round lots of winding country roads. After a few miles we all felt as sick as parrots!

We made it to the airport just in time and joined a long queue to check in. Then we went through security and passport control, only to discover there was a delay on our flight.

Three hours later we boarded the plane, which was hot and crowded and full of grumpy passengers, including us. The flight took ten hours, and we got more fed up all the time. But, eventually we arrived, and saw our friends waiting for us and we felt happy and excited.

The sun was shining as they drove us across the famous Golden Gate Bridge. I knew then that it was going to be a great visit ...

Unit 34

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: email

Hi Karen

Here's the information you wanted about hobbies:

In general, Polish teenagers do a lot of browsing and surfing on the net and spend time chatting to friends, or playing online games. But we also like to get outside when the weather is good, and walking in the countryside and cycling are both very popular. My whole family often goes for a hike together, and whenever we can, we go to the mountains where the scenery is fantastic. That leads to another popular hobby, which is photography. A lot of people I know take really great photographs, and store them on their computer, or use them as pictures on the walls at home. Finally, two other activities I believe are very typically Polish are singing and dancing. I've always sung in a choir, and I love it.

So what new hobby would I advise you to try? Well, if you've never done it, why not try singing? It makes you feel happy and cheerful and you meet lots of different people. In addition, you learn lots of new skills, like reading music and learning to sing in harmony.

Good luck!

Magda

Unit 35

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: article

My city: Bologna

I live in a historic university city in the north of Italy called Bologna. It is famous for its twin towers, which lean to one side, like the one in Pisa!

Its attractions are mainly old. In fact it has the oldest university in the world, where many famous scientists and musicians have studied. The ancient buildings are made of orange and yellow bricks and they always have red roofs. Bologna is beautiful and well preserved, with museums, galleries and many churches, so it is a pleasure to walk around it.

It has fewer new attractions. There are modern residential areas away from the centre which are not beautiful, but we have good sports facilities and lots of music venues and events. You will also find wonderful food here: everything you buy, from a cake to an evening meal, will be absolutely delicious. And if you want to go shopping, we have everything from shops for designer clothes to outdoor markets.

I love my city and the way of life here; it is a fantastic place to live. I would recommend it to anyone who appreciates historic towns that are beautiful, friendly and not too big.

Unit 36

Exam practice

Writing Part 1: essay

As children in Cyprus 50 years ago, my grandparents ate simple food that their family could grow themselves: vegetables, fruit, olives. In addition, they raised chickens, caught fish and made bread. Most people now would think this is a very healthy way to eat.

Today, our island has been invaded by junk food, which is really unhealthy. Everywhere there are burger bars, pizza stalls and ice cream kiosks, all selling huge portions, full of fat and sugar. If you live on large quantities of this kind of food, it causes poor health and makes you overweight. Therefore, I would say that if you live on junk food, what you eat in Cyprus today is definitely worse than fifty years ago.

However, looking at the overall picture, you can also say that in the past there were poor people who didn't have enough to eat, and there are fewer of those today, so the situation has improved. Finally, if you are talking about people who eat a balanced diet of traditional food, and there are still a lot of those, my view is that our diet in Cyprus is good, and very much the same as 50 years ago.

Unit 37

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: review

Tatort

One of the most popular and long-running TV shows in Germany is *Tatort*, which first appeared about forty years ago! It's a cop show where detectives work to solve a crime.

The series is made in Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and always in a city, like Berlin. About ten episodes are made in a particular location, and there are key characters in each place, including a police inspector. Then the programme is moved on to a new location with new leading characters. I personally think this is a very clever idea, and perhaps the main reason why the show has remained popular for so long.

I have watched these programmes with my family since I was about 15, and although they are not suitable for very young children, I know people of different ages watch this show every Sunday evening because the stories are interesting, the acting is good and you get a very clear impression of different cities.

I am sure this programme would be popular with viewers in different countries. You would need subtitles, but I think in Europe at least, people are used to this idea, and crime shows are popular everywhere.

Unit 38

Exam practice

Writing Part 1: essay

Is it better to live in a house or an apartment?

In my country people generally live in houses in the country or apartments in town. Many families with children prefer a house in the country, and the parents get used to commuting into work. In contrast, single people and couples live in flats in town, where they can go out in the evening and enjoy the nightlife.

In addition, houses are usually bigger than apartments, and have more bedrooms, and a garden where children can play. On the other hand, apartments are usually smaller and more modern, but often very convenient for transport or walking to work.

However, everything will also depend on your budget. Small houses away from the city centre are often relatively cheap to rent or buy, whereas attractive flats in the centre can sometimes be surprisingly expensive. This is probably the main consideration for many people, whatever their circumstances.

Therefore, in conclusion I would say that whether it is better to live in a house or an apartment depends on what your family circumstances are and what you can afford. Ideally, it's better to live in an apartment when you are young and single, and in a house when you marry and have children.

Unit 39

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: letter

Dear Alice

You asked whether my college is environmentally-friendly, and it definitely is. You see, we're lucky to be in a modern building designed just five years ago, so our college is well-insulated and warm, and has big windows to let in the daylight. Another feature is that all the lights go out when there is no one in the room, and the head is very proud of this, because it saves a lot of energy!

We also have huge bins at the back of the school for all our recycling. We all get involved. We collect everything – bottles, cans, paper, even old clothes and shoes. All the waste from our cafeteria is recycled too, and ends up as fertiliser in the vegetable garden. There is also a nature area at the back of the college, with a pond and some lovely plants.

Finally, we are strongly discouraged from coming to college by car. We are expected to walk, cycle or use public transport. As a result of all this, there is a very peaceful and pleasant atmosphere in and around the college. Perhaps some of these ideas can be tried at your college?

Love

Tania

Unit 40

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: review

The Paris Winter by Imogen Robertson

The most interesting book I've read recently is a historical novel called *The Paris Winter*. It is a wonderful story about a very poor girl called Maud who goes to study art in Paris in the early 1900s. She is one of the first female art students, and conditions are very harsh. She is always cold and often hungry, so she goes looking for work, finally finding employment looking after the semi-invalid sister of a wealthy man. At first everything seems perfect, but then there is the most horrible twist in the story. I won't say any more, as that would spoil the plot for you.

The story and the characters are interesting, there is a lot of background information about art and political and social events at the time, and there is a fantastic account of the Paris Floods. I knew nothing about them, but the descriptions are so vivid that you can really picture the furniture from the flooded houses and cellars flowing down the river Seine.

I would recommend this book to everyone who likes reading a good story and learning interesting things at the same time. You won't be disappointed!

Unit 41

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: story

As soon as she walked into her room, Susanna knew that something was wrong. Her silver necklace was missing, and the window was open. What had happened? Susanna was certain she had put her necklace down on the dressing table that afternoon. She was playing in a hockey match and didn't want to wear it in case it got broken. It was a birthday present from her older sister, and it meant a lot to her. And she knew she'd closed the window. Perhaps someone had come in through it and stolen the necklace? She started to cry.

Suddenly she heard the front door bang downstairs. Her mother was back. Susanna rushed to tell her what had happened. When her mother finally understood what she was trying to say, she apologised.

'I'm so sorry Susanna, I took the necklace because I wanted to find one exactly the same for your sister. She told me she loved it!'

Susanna sighed with relief. 'But what about the window, Mum?'

'Well, I found a bird in there and I opened the window so it would fly out, but then I must have forgotten to close it!'

Unit 42

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: story

Richard could not believe what he saw when he looked out of the classroom window. There was water rushing past in the school playground. Where had it come from?

Suddenly he remembered what he'd heard on the local radio station last night. The river was about to burst its banks. And if it did, the water might reach the school.

He looked at Mr Brown the geography teacher, still talking about deserts and droughts! He put his hand up and shouted 'Mr Brown – look!' Mr Brown was horrified, but then sensibly told everyone to collect their coats and bags and walk calmly upstairs to the first floor. He then knocked on all the other downstairs doors and told everyone what was happening.

In the end they were upstairs for about five hours, rather fed up and hungry once the excitement had died down. So they were all very happy when some policemen came by to say that they could leave by the back exit and walk across the temporary bridge they had built using bags of sand. Rescued at last!

Unit 43

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: letter

Dear Mrs Okawa

I saw your advertisement for volunteers on building projects, and I would like to apply.

I am about to take my final exams at university, and I have the summer free before starting a teacher training course. I do a lot of sport, so I am physically fit and able to cope with hard work. I am also very keen to do something that would help people in another country, and very happy to work as part of a team. Working in a team is always much more enjoyable than working alone, as everybody has different skills, and you can help each other and learn a lot.

I am also very enthusiastic about travel, I spent last summer working for Camp America in the States, which was a very positive experience. They have given me a reference which I can send to you if you wish.

Finally, I should tell you that I speak fluent Spanish and fairly good French as well as English. I believe this may be useful.

I would be very happy to attend for an interview if you think I am suitable.

Yours sincerely

Ray Robertson

Exam practice

Writing Part 2: report

Report on art course: still life painting

Description

The course lasted four days and was designed for people who were already painting but had no formal training in art. The aim was to improve our realistic painting of still life and then to introduce us to a more abstract approach to painting.

What I learnt

On the first two days we discussed how to get a balanced arrangement of objects and how to show the reflection of light. That was extremely difficult and I had never attempted it before, so I learnt a huge amount in terms of technique.

On the other two days we looked at lots of examples of abstract paintings by famous artists before attempting to produce an abstract version of the still life we had done before. Most of us found it challenging, but we learnt a lot about both theory and technique.

Possible improvements

It was an excellent course, and I would recommend it to other amateur artists. It would, however, have been useful to receive a written summary of what we covered on the different days. I wrote some notes and have my pictures, but I know I will forget some of the detail quite quickly.