IELTS Academic

Lesson Plan: Writing

This lesson plan accompanies *Cambridge IELTS 11 Academic* Writing Test 4 Task 1.

This lesson is suitable for lower intermediate to intermediate level students who are familiar with the IELTS test format.

Lesson Goals

1. **To raise students' awareness of the recommended structure and content of an IELTS Task 1 written answer.**
2. **To develop students' ability to plan an answer for IELTS Writing Task 1 by reading the instructions carefully, analysing the data, deciding on the number of paragraphs to write and selecting relevant information to include.**
3. **To improve the students' use of synonyms in Task 1 answers.**

Activity (see brackets for resources required)	Time needed	Interaction
Warmer	5 mins	
• Ask students to work in pairs and tell each other what they know about the IELTS Academic Writing Task 1. Set a time limit of 2 minutes. (Optional: display or read out relevant prompts such as time, word count, task, kinds of visual data, structure of answer, task weighting of Task 1 versus Task 2.)	2 mins	**S-S**
• Get feedback from students. If they give any wrong information guide them to the correct answers.	3 mins	**S-T then T-S**
Main activity 1 (IELTS 11 Test 4 Writing Task 1 and Resource 1 and 2 for individuals, Resource 3A for strong, confident groups or individuals, or Resource 3B for pairs or individuals requiring further support)	30 mins	
Task Analysis, Planning to Write and Group Writing • Ask pairs to discuss the process they (would) use to answer an IELTS Writing Task 1 question. Ask them to identify the different stages of the writing process.	1 min	**S-S**
• Conduct feedback and write ideas on the board (possible answers: read the instructions carefully, analyse the task/question, look at the data, decide how many paragraphs to write, select information to include in each paragraph, write the answer, check for mistakes).	2 mins	**S-T**
• Ask students how many minutes they should spend planning for Task 1 (answer: about 3-4 mins).	1 min	**T-S**
• Ask why it is important to plan before writing (answer: planning	1 min	**T-S**

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should ensure students write faster and produce a well organised answer which includes all the important information).
• Direct students to Writing Task 1. Display the following instructions on the board:
   o Identify the key words in the task instructions
   o Name the two formats used
   o What does the data tell you?
Ask students to work in pairs to discuss their ideas.
	2 mins	**S-S**

• Conduct whole class feedback and clarify with learners what the question is asking them to do.	2 mins	**S-T**
• Next ask learners to consider how they would structure their answer (how many paragraphs, what would be in each paragraph). Use the suggested plan in **Resource 1** to guide them.	2 mins	**S-S** **then T-S**
• Distribute or display **Resource 2** (information search) and set a time limit of 4 minutes for pairs to find the answers to the questions. Monitor and help with any problems. Stop the activity after 4 minutes and distribute or display the answers.	4 mins	**S-S** **then T-S**

• Select one of the below options as appropriate:
   o <u>Option A, Group Writing</u> (for stronger groups)
      Distribute **Resource 3A** (Gap fill). Students work in small groups and collaboratively write an answer to the task in 15 minutes. They can use the writing frame and their information search answers to help them. Groups should discuss each sentence and agree on the content and grammar before writing it.
   o <u>Option B, Partially Jumbled Text</u> (for groups needing more support)
      Distribute **Resource 3B** (Partially Jumbled Text). Students work in small groups to unjumble the nine sections of text so that the sentences make sense according to the table and the pie charts. Set a time limit of 12 minutes and then 3 minutes to compare their answers.
	15 mins	**Ss-Ss**

Main Activity 2 (Resource 4 and 5 for groups)	15 mins	
Text Analysis • Distribute **Resource 4** (cut up model answer). Set a time limit of 3 minutes for groups to read and sort the cut ups into the correct order.	3 mins	**Ss-Ss**
• Groups who completed Resource 3A can then compare their answers to the model answer and identify strengths and weaknesses in their own answers and give feedback. Groups that did Resource 3B can check their answers with the model answer.	3 mins	**Ss-Ss**
• Tell students that they are now going to analyse the model answer. Distribute or display **Resource 5** (text analysis) to each group. Set a time limit of 6 minutes for groups to answer the questions. Monitor and help groups.	6 mins	**Ss-Ss**

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• Stop the activity after 6 minutes and allow groups to compare and discuss their answers. Distribute or display the answers. Answer any questions.	3 mins	**Ss-Ss then T-S**
Extension Activities (Copies of Resource 6 for individuals)	10 mins	
• Distribute **Resource 6** (synonyms) to each student and ask them to work in their groups to think of synonyms or paraphrases for the 12 words and phrases which are underlined. Set a time limit of 6 minutes.	6 mins	**Ss-Ss**
• Ask students to compare and discuss their answers in pairs.	2 mins	**S-S**
• Stop the activity and distribute or display the suggested answers and be ready to accept or reject others offered by the students.	2 mins	**T then S-T**

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Resource 1

Task Analysis and Planning to Write

Suggested writing plan:

1. **Introduction** (paraphrase the statement on the question paper to describe what the table and charts show)

2. **Overview** (identify key features i.e. major changes)

3. **Description of table** (detailed information about the table – dates/figures/changes)

4. **Description of pie charts** (detailed information about the pie charts – dates/figures/changes)

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Resource 2

Information search

a) What information does the table give?	
b) What do the pie charts illustrate?	
c) Which years is the data taken from?	
d) Which year had the highest number of visitors?	
e) Which year had higher levels of visitor satisfaction?	
f) What is the difference in the number of people went to the museum before and after it was refurbished?	
g) How can you express this change as a percentage or fraction?	
h) What proportion of visitors felt very satisfied or satisfied before and after the renovations?	
i) How many people were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied before and after the improvements?	
j) What proportion of visitors did not respond to the survey in both years?	

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Resource 2 Answer Key

Information search

a) the number of visitors to Ashdown Museum

b) The level of visitor satisfaction

c) The years before and after its refurbishment

d) The year after

e) The year after

f) 18,000

g) an increase of roughly / just under / almost …. 25% / a quarter

h) 45 % before and 75% after

i) 50 % before and 20% after

j) 5%

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Group Writing

Work in a small group. Use the results from the information search to help you fill in the gaps below and write an answer to the task.

The table gives _____while the

pie charts _____.

The statistics _____.

It is noticeable that _____

and _____.

Looking at the figures in the table, _____

_____.

This is _____.

Turning to the pie charts, _____

_____.

Conversely, _____

_____.

Finally, _____

_____.

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Resource 3B

Partially Jumbled Text

In the model answer below, nine parts of the text have been jumbled. Put the words in the correct order.

The table gives information about the number of visitors to Ashdown Museum **[1] illustrate level of charts while the pie the visitor** satisfaction. **[2] from and are before the the statistics taken The years after** refurbishment of the museum.

It is noticeable that in the year following **[3] to people went museum more improvements the the** and they generally **[4] felt their after satisfied more** visit.

Looking at the figures in the table, visitor **[5] 92,000 after went up the to from numbers 74,000** renovations. This is a significant increase of 18,000, or just under 25 %.

Turning **[6] to that see it felt pie is who the very charts, interesting visitors to** satisfied or satisfied **[7] from it considerably before refurbished rose 45% was to 75%** after. Conversely, the proportion of those who were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied more **[8] changes from to the before 50% than 20% halved,** after. Finally, the proportion of visitors who did **[9] remained the to at respond unchanged not survey** just 5% in both years.

163 words

1) illustrate level of charts while the pie the visitor

2) from and are before the the statistics taken The years

3) to people went museum more improvements the the

4) felt their after satisfied more

5) 92,000 after went up the to from numbers 74,000

6) to that see it felt pie is who the very charts, interesting visitors to

7) from it considerably before refurbished rose 45% was to 75%

8) changes from to the before 50% than 20% halved,

9) remained the to at respond unchanged not survey

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Resource 4

Model Answer Strips

The table gives information about the number of visitors to Ashdown Museum while the pie charts illustrate the level of visitor satisfaction. **(E)**
The statistics are taken from the years before and after the refurbishment of the museum. **(C)**
It is noticeable that in the year following the improvements more people went to the museum and they generally felt more satisfied after their visit. **(G)**
Looking at the figures in the table, visitor numbers went up from 74,000 to 92,000 after the renovations. **(H)**
This is a significant increase of 18,000, or just under 25%. **(B)**
Turning to the pie charts, it is interesting to see that visitors who felt very satisfied or satisfied rose considerably from 45% before it was refurbished to 75% after. **(F)**
Conversely, the proportion of those who were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied more than halved, from 50% before the changes to 20% after. **(A)**
Finally, the proportion of visitors who did not respond to the survey remained unchanged at just 5% in both years. **(D)**

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Resource 4 Answer Key

Model Answer Strips

1. E 2. C 3.G 4.H 5.B 6.F 7.A 8.D

Model Answer

The table gives information about the number of visitors to Ashdown Museum while the pie charts illustrate the level of visitor satisfaction. The statistics are taken from the years before and after the refurbishment of the museum.

It is noticeable that in the year following the improvements more people went to the museum and they generally felt more satisfied after their visit.

Looking at the figures in the table, visitor numbers went up from 74,000 to 92,000 after the renovations. This is a significant increase of 18,000, or just under 25%.

Turning to the pie charts, it is interesting to see that visitors who felt very satisfied or satisfied rose considerably from 45% before it was refurbished to 75% after. Conversely, the proportion of those who were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied more than halved, from 50% before the changes to 20% after. Finally, the proportion of visitors who did not respond to the survey remained unchanged at just 5% in both years.

163 words

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Resource 5

Text Analysis

1) How many paragraphs are there?

2) How many sentences are there in each paragraph?

3) Which sentence paraphrases the statement given in the task outline on the question paper?

4) What tense is used in the introduction? Why?

5) What other information might you need to include in the introduction?

6) What tense is used to describe the figures in the table and charts? Why?

7) Which paragraph is a summary of the key features of the data with no statistics?

8) Which paragraphs contain statistics?

9) Are all of the figures accurate?

10) What language is used to show comparisons?

11) Which phrase informs us that a figure is not exact?

12) How many synonyms are used for 'refurbished'? What are the synonyms?

13) Does the answer use a variety of sentence structures and linking devices?

14) Is the answer organised logically and is it easy to read and understand?

15) What band score would you award this answer? Why?

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Resource 5 Answer Key

Text analysis

1)   4

2)   2 / 1 / 2 / 3

3)   The first sentence

4)   Present tense is used to state facts

5)   Units of measurement

6)   Past simple tense

7)   The second paragraph (the overview)

8)   The third and fourth paragraphs

9)   Yes

10)   more people/ more satisfied

11)   just under

12)   4: refurbishment / improvements / renovations / changes

13)   Yes

14)   Yes

15)   at least 8

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Resource 6

Synonyms

Look at the twelve words and phrases that are underlined in the text. Can you think of alternatives that could be used instead of them without changing the meaning? Write your ideas in the box below the text.

The table [1] gives information about the number of visitors to Ashdown Museum [2] while the pie charts illustrate the level of visitor satisfaction. The statistics are taken from the years before and after the refurbishment of the museum.

 It is [3] noticeable that in the [4] year following the improvements more people went to the museum and they generally felt more satisfied after their visit.

Looking at the figures in the table, visitor numbers [5] went up from 74,000 to 92,000 after the renovations. This is a [6] significant increase of 18,000, or [7] just under 25%.

[8] Turning to the pie charts, it is interesting to see that visitors who felt very satisfied or satisfied rose considerably from 45% before it was refurbished to 75% after.[9] Conversely, the proportion of those who were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied more than halved, from 50% before the changes to 20% after. Finally, the [10] proportion of visitors who did not [11] respond to the survey [12] remained unchanged at just 5% in both years.

163 words

Possible synonyms:

1.	2.
3.	4.
5.	6.
7.	8.
9.	10.
11.	12.

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Resource 6 Answer Key

Synonyms

(other answers may be possible)

1) gives – presents /displays /shows / provides

2) while – whereas /whilst / and

3) noticeable – striking / apparent / clear / obvious

4) year – 12 months / 12 month period

5) went up – increased / rose / jumped / grew

6) significant – considerable / substantial / sizeable

7) just under – just below / almost / nearly / just short of

8) turning to – moving on to

9) conversely – on the other hand / however

10) proportion – percentage / number

11) respond to – reply to / answer / fill in / complete

12) remained – stayed / was / continued
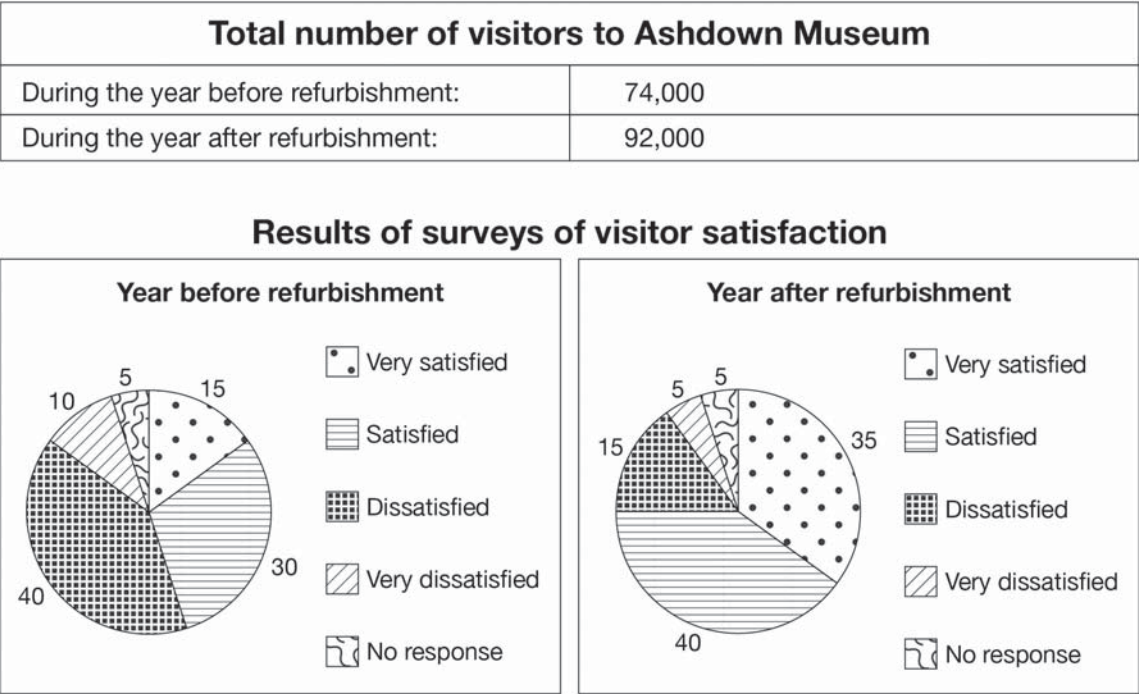
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WRITING

WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task.

> *The table below shows the numbers of visitors to Ashdown Museum during the year before and the year after it was refurbished. The charts show the result of surveys asking visitors how satisfied they were with their visit, during the same two periods.*
>
> *Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features, and make comparisons where relevant.*

Write at least 150 words.

Total number of visitors to Ashdown Museum	
During the year before refurbishment:	74,000
During the year after refurbishment:	92,000

Results of surveys of visitor satisfaction

Year before refurbishment

10, 5, 15, 30, 40

Very satisfied
Satisfied
Dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied
No response

Year after refurbishment

5, 5, 15, 35, 40

Very satisfied
Satisfied
Dissatisfied
Very dissatisfied
No response

TEST 4, WRITING TASK 1

SAMPLE ANSWER

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 7** score. Here is the examiner's comment:

> The candidate covers the main features of the table and charts, and gives a satisfactory overview of the data. The information is logically organised with a clear progression in the way points are presented. Cohesive devices are used effectively (*during the same two periods*), but not always accurately (*on a contrary*). A range of vocabulary is used flexibly (*shows a negative pattern, illustrates that, an upward trend, has reached its aim*), but there are occasional errors in word choice (*the amount of visitors, It is obviously*). The candidate has used a variety of complex structures (*the charts that show the result of surveys asking people how satisfied they were with their visit*, *after the refurbishment from 74,000 before the reconstruction to 92,000 after it had been done*). There is good control of grammar, although there are a few minor errors (*there is the charts*). Punctuation is generally well controlled, but full stops are missing at the end of the first and final paragraphs and there are a few minor errors (*lets look*).

The table below shows the amount of visitors to Ashdown Museum during the years after and the year before it was modernized. After the table there is the charts that show the result of surveys asking people how satisfied they were with their visit thos museum, during the same two periods

It is obviously that the numbers of visitors significantly increased after the refurbishment from 74,000 before the reconstruction to 92,000 after it had been done. Now lets look at the charts. The year before refurbishment shows a negative pattern: the results of survey illustrate that only 15% of visitors were very satisfied and the number of dissatisfied people was 40%. The year after refurbishment illustrates that the number of dissatisfied visitors declined and became 15%, on a contrary, people who were very satisfied increased to 35%. Comparing the amount of satisfied visitors we can also see an upward trend (it increased from 30% to 40% after the refurbishment).

To sum up, we can say that all work that has been done to attract new visitors to Ashdown Museum has reached its aim