
Writing – Academic

Sample Question 2

Writing Task 2

International Tourism

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

International tourism has brought enormous benefit to many places. At the same time, there is concern about its impact on local inhabitants and the environment.

Do the disadvantages of international tourism outweigh the advantages?

Give reasons for your answer and include any relevant examples from your own knowledge or experience.

Write at least 250 words.

Two sample responses to this task, with scores and examiner comments, can be found on pages 53-54.



Sample response

Band score awarded and examiner comments

Task 2 International Tourism – Response B

Band 7

'Tourism' – friend or foe?

Tourism is a very big industry in the modern time and is growing quite rapidly. Thousands of people travel everywhere to various destinations every year.

Arguments have come up regarding the benefits and negative impacts of tourism in places and on its local inhabitants and environment; however, I believe there are more advantages than disadvantages of international tourism.

People travel for various reasons; they travel for business purpose, holidays, visit friends and relatives etc. Travelling is mostly seen as a recreational activity. Tourism has many advantages. Tourism can play a tremendous part in a country's economy, the more tourists visit a country and spend money there the better it is for the country; in that way more money is circulated within the country and even the stability of their currency rate of exchange persists if not improve. Vendors and shops get to sell more goods and ~~earn more~~ make an income. Tourism also has its non-monetary advantages; it brings cultures and people closer. People from all around the world get to share their culture with each other and even learn more. This is a good opportunity in education.

Tourism seems to have some disadvantages too; however, I believe the problems caused by tourism ~~are~~ are not something that cannot be solved or prevented.

A lot of people believe that tourism can destroy or deviate culture and cause quite an impact ~~on~~ on visited locations, such as pollution and littering.

People can ~~not~~ adhere to their own beliefs and way of life if they want to; no one can really forcefully influence someone to change from their morals and ethics. Pollution can be avoided by increasing usage of environmental friendly vehicles used for tours and rents, warnings and visual education on littering and smoking. Specific times can be allocated for tours to certain areas, such as peak times where local inhabitants feel uncomfortable due to too many foreigners.

Where there are problems there can always be solutions. Tourism brings great amount of advantages for any place in many ways and is a 'win-win' exchange process. The very ^{few} problems caused can always be avoided or taken care of. I believe tourism should be highly promoted, specially in ~~more~~ traditional and poor countries with natural beauty such as Bangladesh.

The test taker addresses both aspects of the task and presents a clear position throughout the response. Main ideas are generally clear and relevant, although some supporting ideas lack focus (as in the opening of paragraph 2).

Ideas are generally well organised and there is a clear overall progression, but there are lapses where points are not well integrated into the argument. A range of cohesive devices is used effectively, but some under-use of connectives and substitution and some lapses in the use of referencing are noticeable.

A good range of vocabulary is used with flexibility and precision. The test taker has a good awareness of style and collocation, and although awkward expressions or inappropriacies in word choice occur these are only occasional and do not limit the rating for this criterion.

Likewise, a good range of sentence structures is used with a high level of accuracy resulting in frequent error-free sentences. Minor systematic errors persist, however, and punctuation is unhelpful at times.

The strong lexical resource compensates for flaws in the organisational features, so overall this response is a good example of Band 7.