

IELTS General Training Writing Task 1 & 2: Resources for Teachers and Candidates

IDP Resources

IELTS Essentials blog (global)

The global IDP IELTS website and the regional site in Canada house very comprehensive blogs, which are both updated with new posts regularly. The advice for writing task 2 essays is applicable to both Academic & General training modules.



IELTS General Training, Writing Task 1: How to write a letter

Published on December 16, 2019

Learn how to write a letter as part of IELTS General Training, Writing Task 1. Learn about all the important features you need to include to reach a band 7.



IELTS General Training - Writing Task 1 - How to write a letter of complaint

Published on October 29, 2018

This article will look at some of the common letters and give some advice on how to approach each. There are many different types of letters that appear on the test (asking for or giving advice, applying for work, declining an invitation, etc.). One



The art of apologizing - General Training Writing Task 1

Published on December 10, 2018

Sorry seems to be the hardest thing to say sometimes, but it doesn't have to be - especially on the IELTS General Training test. In this blog post, we'll consider two apology tasks (one personal and one more formal), discuss how to approach each and



Writing letters - How do I write about a situation that I don't understand?

Published on September 17, 2018

Finding a subject or situation in an IELTS letter writing task that you have nothing to say about is very rare. Even if you do come across something that seems unusual to you, you can still complete the work if you keep your wits about you.

General Training Writing blog posts can be found here:

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/en/blog/category/writing>

IELTS General Training, Writing Task 1: How to write a letter

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/en/blog/category/ielts-general-training>

IELTS General Training, Writing Task 1: How to write a letter of complaint

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/10/29/ielts-general-training-writing-task-1-how-to-write-a-letter-of-complaint>

The art of apologizing - General Training Writing Task 1

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/12/10/the-art-of-apologizing-general-training-writing-task-1>

General Training Task 1: Writing letters - How do I write about a situation that I don't understand?

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/09/17/writing-letters-how-do-i-write-about-a-situation-that-i-dont-understand>



3 simple things to remember when writing letters on the IELTS General Training test

Published on July 16, 2018

You are getting ready for the IELTS General Training test and you know that you will be given a short (150 word) letter writing assignment. Are you ready for that?



What's the difference between the two types of IELTS tests?

Published on February 12, 2018

As you may be aware, there are two types of IELTS tests: the IELTS Academic and the General Training test. Before registering for your IELTS test, one important consideration to keep in mind is which one of these tests you will take.



A good strategy for writing IELTS letters: the job application

Published on May 6, 2019

Preparing to write or talk about your work skills and experiences is a very good use of your time if you are planning to sit for the IELTS test.



Advice for IELTS General Training Task 1 Letters

Published on July 25, 2017

If you are preparing for the IELTS General Training test, you will be asked to write a letter to a fictional person or organization. The reason for writing the letter and the details you need to include will be given to you.

IELTS GENERAL TRAINING WRITING

ADVICE FOR WRITING A COMPLAINT LETTER



When is the last time you complained about something? Probably not long ago. One just has to look at crowd-sourced review sites like Yelp or Amazon to see that millions of people post complaints every day. Given the amount of griping that goes on, it's likely that you have some experience in this area BUT do you know how to write a formal complaint letter?

Writing Task 2: Dealing with Task Input

© February 1, 2018 by  Andrea Castro

If you're reading this post, chances are you're already somewhat familiar with the different parts of the IELTS, including the Writing module. But in case you're just getting started and still don't...



General Training Writing Task 1: 3 simple things to remember when writing letters

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/07/16/3-simple-things-to-remember-when-writing-letters-on-the-ielts-general-training-test>

General Training Task 1: What's the difference between the 2 types of test

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/02/12/whats-the-difference-between-the-two-types-of-ielts-tests>

Good strategy for writing IELTS letters - the job application

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/05/06/a-good-strategy-for-writing-ielts-letters-the-job-application>

General Training Writing Task 1: Advice for IELTS general training task 1 letters

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2017/07/25/advice-for-ielts-general-training-task-1-letters>

On the IDP Canada blog:

- **General Training advice for writing a complaint letter**

<https://ieltscanadatest.com/2018/10/ielts-general-training-writing-advice-for-writing-a-complaint-letter/>

- **Dealing with Task Input:**

<https://ieltscanadatest.com/category/writing-prep/>

Getting to Know the IELTS Writing Band Descriptors



Writing Descriptors and What You Need to Know

© June 15, 2018 by Lyta Hage

If you've read previous blog posts on this site, you'll no doubt know the importance of understanding how you'll be evaluated on the IELTS exam. One important aspect of evaluation is getting to know [...]



Writing Task 2: Why can't I get a band 8?

Published on December 2, 2019

Getting the score you need in IELTS Writing Task 2 is achievable when you know the criteria examiners mark against. Our IELTS experts have put together a guide on what you need to do right and what you might be doing wrong when writing your essay.



IELTS Writing Task 2: 7 steps towards a band 7

Published on November 29, 2019

For many of you, achieving that magic number in your IELTS Writing test can be a big challenge. Sometimes, all you need is a mentor who could guide you on how to approach the test. Here are 7 important steps that will help you easily achieve a band 7



Writing Task 2: Reading and analysing the task

Published on January 29, 2018

Writing Task 2 is the second section of your IELTS Writing test. It requires you to write an academic-style essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem. You're expected to write at least 250 words and it is recommended that you spend



IELTS Writing Task 2: 8 steps towards a band 8

Published on November 25, 2019

Find out how to get a band 8 in IELTS Writing Task 2. Let our IELTS experts walk you through the 8 steps to get you there.



IELTS Writing skills: the paragraph

Published on September 5, 2019

If you want to improve your IELTS writing score, you're going to have to write paragraphs like an expert. If it's for work emails, for school assignments, or for IELTS tasks, here are five tips to help you ace* your paragraphing.

Categories Writing

Continue Reading



Referencing in IELTS writing

Published on August 28, 2019

Today, we'll be focusing on an important aspect of coherence and cohesion known as referencing, in the IELTS Writing test.

Getting to know the IELTS Writing Band Descriptors:

<https://ieltscanadatest.com/2018/06/writing-descriptors-and-what-you-need-to-know/>

Writing Task 2 Blogs

Writing Task 2: Why can't I get a band 8

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/12/02/writing-task-2-why-cant-i-get-a-band-8>

Writing Task 2: 7 steps towards a band 7

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/11/29/ielts-writing-task-2-7-steps-towards-a-band-7>

Writing Task 2: Reading and analysing the task

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/01/29/writing-task-2-reading-and-analysing-the-task>

Writing Task 2: 8 Steps towards a band 8

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/11/25/ielts-writing-task-2-8-steps-towards-a-band-8>

Writing Task 2: Writing skills the Paragraph

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/09/05/ielts-writing-skills-the-paragraph>

Writing Task 2: Referencing in IELTS writing

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/08/26/referencing-in-ielts-writing>



Clear and Effective Paragraph Writing on the IELTS

Published on August 22, 2018

One aspect of the IELTS writing exam that is very important is writing paragraphs that are clear, effective, and easy to follow. This blog post will provide information on how to write well-organized and well-written paragraphs on your exam.



Problem solution essay

Published on June 17, 2019

Are you trying to understand and prepare for the essay writing section on the IELTS test? Do you want to make sure you avoid typical errors? Would you like a simple template for one of the more challenging essay structures? If any of the above

Categories [Writing](#)

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What to do before you start writing your IELTS essay

Published on April 23, 2018

If you want to make sure you know how to approach the essay section of the Writing section of IELTS, you are in the right place. Often people who write the test jump to writing too quickly and end up with a beautiful essay on the wrong topic.



How to finish the IELTS writing tasks on time

Published on March 12, 2018

You have an hour to complete two writing tasks and that takes great time management skills. If you know how to use those 60 minutes well, you should be able to complete both sections and get a higher rating.



IELTS Writing Task 2 (Essay) - Developing examples, explanations & ideas

Published on February 5, 2018

Writing a 250 word essay in 40 minutes is no easy task. And if you aren't allowed to use the internet, ask for help, or even use your computer, this can be a real challenge. Learn how to brainstorm ideas for the Task 2 of the IELTS Writing test.



Strategies for writing a good introduction in Writing Task 2

Published on January 7, 2019

Writing an effective introduction for Writing Task 2 can be a tricky task. We have put together a list of strategies that you can use to write an effective introduction for Writing Task 2.

Categories [Writing](#)

[Continue Reading](#)



IELTS Task 2 essay formulas to make your life easier

Published on April 8, 2019

If you want to do well on your IELTS test, it's a good idea to prepare and bring some writing tools to help you save time on test day. Let's look over the common essay questions and then focus on a simple formula for the discussion essay as an

Writing Task 2: Clear and effective paragraph writing

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/08/22/clear-and-effective-paragraph-writing-on-the-ielts>

Writing Task 2: Problem solution essay

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/06/17/problem-solution-essay>

Writing task 2: What to do before you start writing your essay

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/04/23/what-to-do-before-you-start-writing-your-ielts-essay>

Writing Task 2: How to finish writing tasks on time

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/03/12/how-to-finish-the-ielts-writing-tasks-on-time>

Writing Task 2: Developing examples, explanations & ideas

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/02/05/ielts-writing-task-2-essay-developing-examples-explanations-ideas>

Writing task 2: Strategies for writing a good introduction

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/01/07/strategies-for-writing-a-good-introduction-in-writing-task-2>

Writing Task 2: IELTS Task 2 essay formulas to make life easier

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/04/08/ielts-task-2-essay-formulas-to-make-your-life-easier>



Writing Task 2: How to organise an 'agree or disagree' essay

Published on June 4, 2018

When writing for task 2 of the IELTS Writing section, you have 40 minutes to identify the key question, come up with an answer, find examples to support your ideas and then write a well-organized response. If you want to save time and make sure the

Categories Writing

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Organizing your writing on the IELTS

Published on March 11, 2019

If you have done some research about IELTS, you know that it is very important that writing responses be organized. This blog post will provide some tips to keep in mind to help organize your writing on the IELTS test.

Categories Writing

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Strategies for writing a good conclusion in Writing Task 2

Published on February 19, 2019

Let's look at some strategies that can help you to make a positive final impression on your Writing Task 2.



Punctuation and the IELTS Writing test

Published on October 16, 2018

When writing in English, it is common for students (and native speakers) to focus on using correct grammar and vocabulary. Quite often, very little attention is given to other features of writing such as punctuation, which is a mistake. Using

Categories Writing

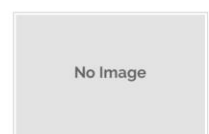
Continue Reading



IELTS Writing Task 2: 7 mistakes preventing you from a band 7

Published on November 18, 2019

Need some help in preparing for IELTS? We've got your back! Read on to understand 7 common mistakes that might prevent you from reaching a band 7 in IELTS Writing Task 2.



IELTS grammar study guide future forms

Published on July 29, 2019

Welcome to the fifth and final part of our IELTS grammar study guide blog series. In the previous posts, we looked at relative clauses, the passive voice, modal verbs, and conditionals. Today, we'll be focusing on future forms.

Writing Task 2: How to organise an 'agree or disagree essay'

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/06/04/writing-task-2-how-to-organise-an-agree-or-disagree-essay>

Writing Task 2: Organising your writing on the IELTS:

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/03/11/organizing-your-writing-on-the-ielts>

Writing Task 2: Strategies for writing a good conclusion

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/02/19/strategies-for-writing-a-good-conclusion-in-writing-task-2>

Writing Task 1 & 2: Punctuation and the IELTS Writing Test

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/10/16/punctuation-and-the-ielts-writing-test>

Writing Task 2: 7 mistakes preventing you from a band 7

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/11/18/ielts-writing-task-2-7-mistakes-preventing-you-from-a-band-7>

IELTS Grammar Study Guide:

- **Future forms**

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/07/29/ielts-grammar-study-guide-future-forms>



IELTS grammar study guide conditionals

Published on June 29, 2019

Have you been following our blog series on IELTS grammar? If you've answered yes to this question, then you're probably already familiar with a variety of complex grammatical structures that you can use on your IELTS.



IELTS grammar study guide: modal verbs

Published on May 27, 2019

If you've been following our IELTS grammar study guide series, then you already know how important it is to use a wide range of grammatical structures on your IELTS.

Categories Speaking, Writing

[Continue Reading](#)



IELTS grammar study guide: the passive voice

Published on April 29, 2019

Welcome back! In this five-part series, we're exploring a variety of complex grammatical structures that you can use on your IELTS.



IELTS grammar study guide: relative clauses

Published on March 25, 2019

Grammar is one of the four categories that you'll be assessed on in the Speaking and Writing sections of the IELTS test. When assessing your use of grammar, examiners will not only focus on whether your language has errors or not, but they'll also



Improve your IELTS vocabulary on "Transportation"

Published on May 21, 2018

Welcome back to our series of posts on improving your IELTS vocabulary. In this post, we'll be focusing on expanding your vocabulary on transportation.



Improve your IELTS vocabulary on "Health"

Published on September 4, 2018

In this series, we've looked at how to expand your vocabulary for your IELTS by creating vocabulary sets on common IELTS themes. So far, we've explored the topics of education, transportation, environment and travel & holidays. In this fifth and



Improve your IELTS vocabulary on "Environment"

Published on July 3, 2018

Today, we'll be looking at improving your IELTS vocabulary on the topic of the environment. We'll start by exploring relevant sub-topics that you can use to create your own vocabulary sets. Then, we'll go over a few nature and environment idioms that

Conditionals

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/06/29/ielts-grammar-study-guide-conditionals>

Modal verbs

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/05/27/ielts-grammar-study-guide-modal-verbs>

The passive voice:

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/04/29/ielts-grammar-study-guide-the-passive-voice>

Relative clauses

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2019/03/25/ielts-grammar-study-guide-relative-clauses>

Writing Task 2: Vocabulary

Improve your IELTS vocabulary on 'Transportation'

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/05/21/improve-your-ielts-vocabulary-on-transportation>

Improve your IELTS vocabulary on 'Health'

<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/09/04/improve-your-ielts-vocabulary-on-health>

Improve your IELTS vocabulary on 'Environment'

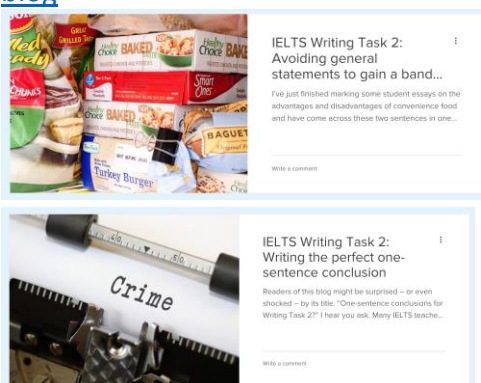
<https://www.ieltsessentials.com/blog/2018/07/03/improve-your-ielts-vocabulary-on-environment>

IELTS Europe Resources

IELTS Europe Blog

Range of articles on different topics, including many on Writing Task 2. New blog posts are normally posted once a fortnight.

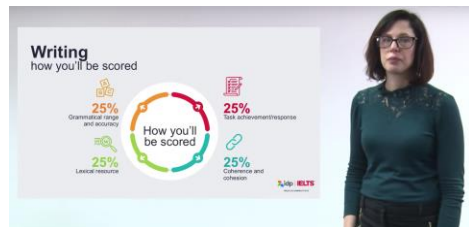
<https://www.ielts-europe.org/ielts-europe-blog>



Blog posts relevant to Writing Task 2 currently include:

- Spelling and IELTS
- Avoiding General Statements
- Test Day Observations – Writing
- Writing the Perfect One Sentence Conclusion
- Think Before You Write & Planning Well

Masterclass on Writing Task 2




From a series of one-hour videos focusing on each part of the test. Our IELTS experts describe the structure of the test and marking criteria; explain the types of questions to expect followed by a detailed look at how to tackle them. They include tips on test techniques and skills development as well opportunities to practise.

The Writing Task 2 Masterclass is available via the 'Preparation blog' section of the IDP Europe website: <https://www.ielts-europe.org/ielts-europe-blog>

In this 1-hour video Masterclass on Writing Task 2, we look at how to approach the questions in Task 2 in both the Academic & General Training writing papers, providing tips and tools needed to improve candidates writing scores.

We also cover:

- How to plan and structure an essay
- How to answer the different question types
- The marking criteria in detail, so candidates know exactly what the examiner is looking for
- Do's and don'ts for this part of the test
- Interactive sections to allow you to try out our tips and advice

 <p>Lesson Plans for teachers with cover sheets summarising content and skills focus. The principles are applicable to both AC + GT modules.</p> <p><small>IELTS Lesson Plans for Teachers Produced by IDP IELTS Europe</small></p> <p>www.ielts-europe.org/ielts-teachers-area</p>	<p>Those relevant to Writing Task 2 for both Academic and General training modules include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Writing Task 2: Writing Introductions 2. Writing Task 2: Writing topic Sentences 3. Writing Task 2: Avoiding generalisations 4. Writing Task 2: Cohesion & Coherence 5. Writing Task 2: Exploiting Texts 6. Writing Task 2: Using Descriptive Vocabulary
<p>IELTS Study Forum Intended mainly for IELTS candidates but open to all, to post questions about the test.</p> <p>https://www.ielts-europe.org/ielts-study-forum</p> <p>Candidates and teachers can add questions to the forum at any time for a speedy response from an IELTS expert. We also host live 1-hour forums on a particular skill; during which our experts answer questions within a few minutes. All questions and answers remain for future visitors to view and possibly leave comments or questions.</p>	<p>All questions and answers for the Writing Forum can be found here: https://www.ielts-europe.org/ielts-study-forum/ielts-writing</p> <p>A file which details all questions from the last Writing study forum is also attached.</p>

Instagram

One of IDP Europe's social media channels which includes regular posts on tips (visuals or video extracts), test dates, events, testimonials and more:

https://www.instagram.com/idp_ielts_europe



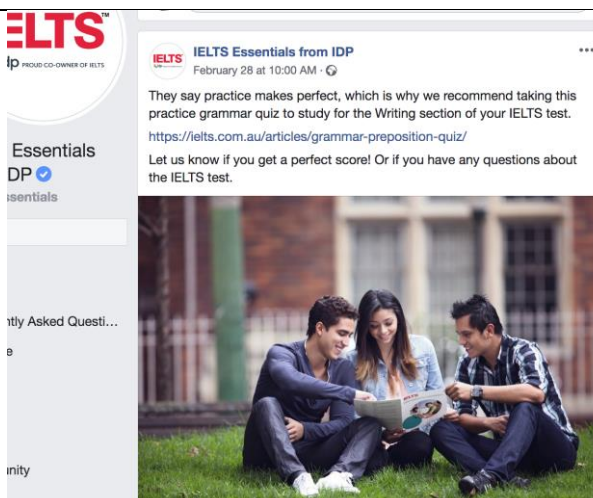
A variety of posts providing tips and strategies for Writing Task 2.



Facebook

Another of IDP Europe's social media channels which includes regular posts on tips (visuals or video extracts), test dates, events, testimonials and more:

www.facebook.com/IELTS.IDP.Europe



IELTS Essentials YouTube channel

Videos providing tips and advice for candidates.



Videos of relevance to Writing Task 2 include:

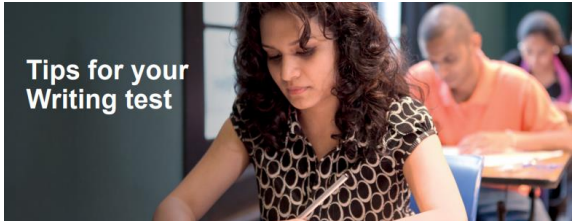





- **IELTS Advantage** - featuring more than 40 minutes of IELTS tips, presented by IELTS Expert, Don Oliver, including FAQs on the Writing Test
- **Writing Test Tips** for Computer Delivered IELTS (CDIELTS) – various videos available
- **IELTS Writing Assist** – an introduction to this service which allows candidates to practise their writing skills and receive a personalised action plan to improve their score [Paid for service]
- **Handy tips to help with your Writing test on a computer!** - Explaining IELTS on computer
- **Understanding the IELTS assessment criteria**



Free IELTS Practice tests
Available from the IELTS Europe website:

<https://www.ielts-europe.org/ielts-esercitazioni-pratiche>

Specific General Training Writing papers are available for both the paper-based and computer delivered test formats.

<p>IELTS Support Tools</p> <p>A booklet, available online, which provides an overview of the IELTS test and some tools and advice to help candidates prepare.</p> <p>https://77de0ed6-5bda-4a8d-9bfc-a94787902305.filesusr.com/ugd/2a2ab1_6e194e9077c940d8bec10a11c4e04b1e.pdf</p>	<p>The document includes tips for the Writing test, alongside the marking criteria.</p> 
<p>IELTS Progress Check</p> <p>IELTS Progress Check provides access to full online IELTS practice tests marked by IELTS experts. You will receive an indicative band score for each section of the IELTS test and an indicative overall band score. This service needs to be paid for.</p> <p>https://www.ieltsessentials.com/prepare/ielts-progress-check</p>	<p>There are four different practice tests available, each one containing a General Training Writing Task component.</p> <div>  Practice all 4 IELTS test sections  All tests are marked by official IELTS markers </div> <div>  Receive your indicative band score in 5 working days  Receive an official feedback report in 5 working days </div>
 <p>IELTS Guide for Teachers</p> <p>Provides further information about the test, detailed descriptions of test scores and resources to assist in preparing students for IELTS.</p> <p>It also has information about the professional development opportunities for teachers offered by IELTS examining and research.</p> <p>https://77de0ed6-5bda-4a8d-9bfc-a94787902305.filesusr.com/ugd/2a2ab1_7ab7ee731d204b57bf8167647862f53f.pdf</p>	<p>To support teachers in preparing candidates for the Writing Paper, this document provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of each part of the test • A breakdown of the marking criteria for each skill • Tips from teachers on preparing candidates for each part of the test • The Writing Task 1 marking criteria.

Other resources

The following **websites** provide useful advice and resources to help prepare candidates for all aspects of the IELTS test.

IELTS.org – the main IELTS website includes a teacher's section with YouTube video teaching tips for the classroom: <https://www.ielts.org/teaching-and-research/ielts-for-teachers>

- www.ielts-simon.com – a valuable source of advice and mini lessons on different areas of the IELTS exam with a section dedicated to General Training module with sample answers and other tips on how to approach this part of the test.
- <http://ieltsliz.com> - tips, lessons and other useful information from a UK-based IELTS teacher, Liz. She also has a very comprehensive YouTube channel and a website section dedicated to General Training Task 1.
- <http://www.ieltsbuddy.com> - online lessons, practice for all papers, vocabulary, grammar and sample reports and essays with a section dedicated to Writing.

Here is a selection of good **Self Study books**, which also provide a good source of supplementary material for use by teachers in a classroom situation.

- **Action Plan for IELTS** – by Vanessa Jakeman & Clare McDowell [Cambridge University Press 2006]
- **The Official Cambridge Guide to IELTS** by Pauline Cullen, Amanda French, Vanessa Jakeman [Cambridge University Press & UCLES 2014]
- **Ace the IELTS – IELTS General Training Module** by Simone Bravermann 2015
- **Vocabulary for IELTS** by Pauline Cullen [Cambridge University Press 2008]
- **Grammar for IELTS** by Diane Hopkins with Pauline Cullen [Cambridge University Press 2007]