

IELTS Academic Writing Task 1 Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. What is the recommended approach to data selection in Task 1?**
 - A. Select only the most significant data points**
 - B. Describe every data point**
 - C. Include everything, even trivial figures**
 - D. Focus on negative data exclusively**

- 2. Which phrase would you use to indicate that a data category did not change?**
 - A. Remained constant**
 - B. Levelled off**
 - C. Plateaued**
 - D. Stayed the same**

- 3. How can you describe a data point that reached a peak?**
 - A. It reached a peak of X, the highest point, the maximum value of X**
 - B. It fell to zero**
 - C. It remained unchanged**
 - D. It fluctuated irregularly**

- 4. Which term refers to a picture of a vertical cut through an object showing its internal structure?**
 - A. A cross-section**
 - B. An extrusion**
 - C. A correlation**
 - D. A mechanism**

- 5. Which word means to say what you think will happen in the future (verb)?**
 - A. Forecast**
 - B. Estimate**
 - C. Project**
 - D. Predict**

- 6. What is essential about tenses in Task 1?**
- A. Use future tense exclusively**
 - B. Use incorrect tenses to emphasize changes**
 - C. Use correct tenses to describe data**
 - D. Use present perfect exclusively**
- 7. Which conjunction means 'despite the fact that' (also: though; even though)?**
- A. Although**
 - B. Whereas**
 - C. Whilst**
 - D. Meanwhile**
- 8. Which statement describes a characteristic that would not be appropriate for an IELTS Academic Writing Task 1 response?**
- A. Includes an introduction**
 - B. Includes an overview**
 - C. Includes data**
 - D. Includes opinion**
- 9. Which verb means to turn something upside down or change the order of two things?**
- A. Cross-section**
 - B. Double**
 - C. Invert**
 - D. Mechanism**
- 10. Which adjective means to be in a particular place?**
- A. Situated**
 - B. Located**
 - C. Sited**
 - D. Lying**

Answers

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1. A
2. B
3. A
4. A
5. D
6. C
7. A
8. D
9. C
10. A

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Explanations

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1. What is the recommended approach to data selection in Task 1?

A. Select only the most significant data points

B. Describe every data point

C. Include everything, even trivial figures

D. Focus on negative data exclusively

In Task 1 you want to present a clear, cohesive overview by focusing on the most meaningful data. Selecting the key values and changes lets you reveal the overall trend and the main comparisons without drowning the reader in every figure. This keeps the description concise, well-organized, and easy to follow within the word limit. Describing every data point or including trivial figures would create clutter, and focusing only on negative data would bias the picture and miss important context.

2. Which phrase would you use to indicate that a data category did not change?

A. Remained constant

B. Levelled off

C. Plateaued

D. Stayed the same

Describing a trend that has stopped moving and settled at a stable value is the key idea here. When you say that something has levelled off, you're signaling that the data stopped changing after a period of movement and then stayed at about the same level. This makes it a natural, precise way to describe a plateau in a chart or table. The other phrases can fit in some situations, but they don't capture the idea of a change that has ceased after movement as cleanly. "Remained constant" or "stayed the same" suggest no change throughout the entire period, which can feel too static if the chart showed a prior rise or fall before leveling. "Plateaued" is close and common in science, but can sound more technical or imply a longer, sustained flat period. Levelled off strikes a balanced, everyday-English way to indicate that values have stopped changing and are now stable.

3. How can you describe a data point that reached a peak?

A. It reached a peak of X, the highest point, the maximum value of X

B. It fell to zero

C. It remained unchanged

D. It fluctuated irregularly

When a data point reaches its maximum value, you describe it as having peaked at that value. Saying it reached a peak of X clearly communicates that X is the highest value observed in the data, and adding "the highest point" or "the maximum value" reinforces this idea in precise, standard terms. This makes the description unambiguous for the reader. The other options describe movements that do not indicate reaching a maximum: falling to zero points to a bottom, remaining unchanged shows no peak, and fluctuating irregularly implies variability without confirming a peak. So the best way to convey a data point that hits the top is to say it reached a peak of X. You can also say the value peaked at X for a concise alternative.

4. Which term refers to a picture of a vertical cut through an object showing its internal structure?

- A. A cross-section**
- B. An extrusion**
- C. A correlation**
- D. A mechanism**

A cross-section is a view created by cutting the object along a plane that reveals its inner features. This kind of picture lets you see inside—like layers, cavities, or internal supports—that aren't visible from the exterior, and you can imagine a vertical cut to show how things vary from top to bottom. The other terms describe different ideas entirely: extrusion is shaping material by pushing it through a die, correlation is a statistical relationship between variables, and a mechanism is how parts work together. So the term that best captures a picture of the interior revealed by a vertical slice is a cross-section.

5. Which word means to say what you think will happen in the future (verb)?

- A. Forecast**
- B. Estimate**
- C. Project**
- D. Predict**

This item tests your ability to express a future expectation with a simple verb. To say what you think will happen in the future is to predict. It directly communicates a statement about future events or outcomes, often based on reasoning, evidence, or patterns. Forecast is close and common in formal writing, especially about weather or data-driven trends, but it's typically more specific and data-driven than a general statement about the future. Estimate focuses on approximating numbers or quantities, not on declaring what will happen. Project is about planning or projecting future outcomes, often in business or research contexts, and can carry a sense of calculation based on trends, rather than a straightforward forecast of what will occur. Example: Scientists predict that temperatures will continue to rise in the coming decades.

6. What is essential about tenses in Task 1?

- A. Use future tense exclusively
- B. Use incorrect tenses to emphasize changes
- C. Use correct tenses to describe data**
- D. Use present perfect exclusively

In Task 1 the tenses you use must reflect when the data in the graph, chart, or diagram is describing. Start with present simple to state what the chart shows in general or to describe current features, for example: The chart shows that sales rise in the early years and then level off. Use past simple to describe changes that occurred within the time period shown, such as: Sales rose from 2012 to 2015 and then fell in 2016. If you want to connect past data to a present situation or highlight a result that still matters, you can use present perfect, like: Exports have increased over the period shown, reaching the highest level in 2020. The key is accuracy and clarity about timing. Using only future tense would misrepresent the data, since Task 1 is about describing what happened or what is true within the data you're given. Using tenses to deliberately emphasize changes or using one tense exclusively would make the description feel biased or incomplete. By combining appropriate tenses—present simple for general descriptions, past simple for completed changes, and present perfect for relevance to the present—you give a precise, neutral, and coherent account of the information shown.

7. Which conjunction means 'despite the fact that' (also: though; even though)?

- A. Although**
- B. Whereas
- C. Whilst
- D. Meanwhile

Concession is shown when you acknowledge a fact and then present a contrasting result. Although directly means "despite the fact that," so it naturally introduces a contrasting idea in one clause and a still-true situation in the other. That makes it the best fit to express the idea of "despite the fact that." For example: Although the forecast predicted a decline, sales remained steady. The other options don't carry the same concession sense: whereas signals a contrast between two facts, not necessarily a concession; whilst (British spelling of while) can be used similarly but is less formal and can mean time as well; meanwhile refers to something happening at the same time, not a contrasting concession.

8. Which statement describes a characteristic that would not be appropriate for an IELTS Academic Writing Task 1 response?

- A. Includes an introduction
- B. Includes an overview
- C. Includes data
- D. Includes opinion**

Task 1 is about describing visual information in a neutral, data-driven way. The statement that would not fit is including opinions. In this task you paraphrase the prompt in your introduction, present an overview of the main trends or features, and support what you describe with specific data from the chart or diagram. Personal opinions or judgments don't belong here because the goal is to report what the visuals show, not to evaluate or argue about it. You can discuss data points, make comparisons, and mention changes over time, but you should avoid language that reflects your personal beliefs. The other elements—the introduction, the overview, and data-driven details—are exactly what Task 1 expects.

9. Which verb means to turn something upside down or change the order of two things?

- A. Cross-section
- B. Double
- C. Invert**
- D. Mechanism

Invert is the verb that exactly captures turning something upside down or reversing the order of elements. When you invert a container, you flip it, and when you invert the order of two items, you swap their positions. The other terms don't fit this sense: cross-section is a noun describing a cut or view, not a flipping action; to double is about making two copies or doubling in size, not changing orientation or order; mechanism is a noun for a system of parts, not a verb for flipping.

10. Which adjective means to be in a particular place?

- A. Situated**
- B. Located
- C. Sited
- D. Lying

Situated directly conveys being placed in a specific location. It's a natural, formal way to describe where something is, and you'll see it often in written descriptions like maps or IELTS-style tasks. For example, "The village is situated on a hillside" communicates that the village is located in a particular place. Located is close in meaning and commonly used, but it's a bit more neutral and everyday. Sited is more technical, usually about planned placements in construction or development contexts. Lying is more about posture or horizontal position and isn't the typical way to express being in a place.

Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://ieltsacademicwritingtask1.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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