



**Overall score**    **5**    **4+5+5+6**

[TA](#) [C&C](#) [LR](#) [GRA](#)

[Model](#)

### IELTS WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task

*The table below shows the proportion of different categories of families living in poverty in Australia in 1999.*

*Summarise the information by selecting and reporting the main features and make comparisons where relevant.*

You should write at least 150 words.

Family type	Proportion of people from each household type living in poverty
single aged person	6% (54,000)
aged couple	4% (48,000)
single, no children	19% (359,000)
couple, no children	7% (211,000)
sole parent	21% (232,000)
couple with children	12% (933,000)
<b>all households</b>	<b>11% (1,837,000)</b>

**Original student's answer - study this before you look at the next page**

The table gives information about the percentage of households who lived in poverty in Australia in 1999. Data is shown for 6 types of households: single aged person, aged couple, single with no children, couple with no children, sole parent, and couple with children.

There were 11% of 1,837,000 households in Australia living in poverty in 1999. While some types of families made up small figures, some others presented considerably higher. As regards the first, the proportion of families with single aged person who lived in poverty was 6% of 54,000 this household type. It means, there were only 3240 people of this household type living in poor conditions. Likewise, the proportion of aged couple type was 4% of 48,000 households.

By contrast, other family types made up higher numbers of households and also higher proportions of people living in poverty. The percentage of poor people who were single and had no children was 19% of 359,000, there were about 68,210 people. The proportion of people from couple with children and sole parent type in turn were 7% of 211,000, and 21% of 232,000. Especially families of couple with children were 12% of 933,000, it means, the number of people is about 111960.



**Overall score 5 4+5+5+6**

**TA – Task Achievement** nb – GRA and LR errors have not been corrected

**Band score 4**

The overview is not clear. Mention some differences as well as the total. This would limit your score to 6

Information is presented with a limited range so structures. Note the phrases in **bold**.

Although you presented all the information, you confused some important details. Even though many figures were described correctly, the fact that some features were confused will limit your score to 4.

4

- attempts to address the task but does not cover all key features / bullet points; the format may be inappropriate
- (General Training) fails to clearly explain the purpose of the letter; the tone may be inappropriate
- **may confuse key features** / bullet points with detail; parts may be unclear, irrelevant, repetitive or inaccurate

#### RECOMMENDED LAYOUT FOR TASK 1 ANSWERS

- Write an introduction paraphrasing the information provided. If possible, change the structure from a noun phrase to a noun clause (change *the chart gives information about **the number of*** to *the chart shows **how many** [...]* ).
- Write a clear overview of the main trends, differences, and stages. If there are trends and differences (ie if there are changes over time), give some information about both. If there are only



differences, as in questions with no time scale, provide differences of more than one type.

- Put the overview after the introduction in a separate paragraph. Don't hide it in the introduction or at the end, as it's the first thing the examiner looks for.
- Separate your paragraphs with blank lines. It looks better and there can be no doubt that it is a new paragraph.
- Write one or more paragraphs about the information itself and organise it logically. Use signposting phrases to show your organisation to the examiner. Eg *Looking first at the most popular reasons, [...]*
- It's not necessary to write a conclusion, because you've already given the information in an overview.





The table gives information about the percentage of households who lived in poverty in Australia in 1999. Data is shown for 6 types of households: single aged person, aged couple, single with no children, couple with no children, sole parent, and couple with children.

There were 11% of 1,837,000 households in Australia living in poverty in 1999. While some types of families made up small figures, some others presented considerably higher. As regards the first, the proportion of families with single aged person who lived in poverty was 6% of 54,000 this household type. It means, there were only 3240 people of this household type living in poor conditions. Likewise, the proportion of aged couple type was 4% of 48,000 households.

By contrast, other family types made up higher numbers of households and also higher proportions of people living in poverty. The percentage of poor people who were single and had no children was 19% of 359,000, there were about 68,210 people. The proportion of people from couple with children and sole parent type in turn were 7% of 211,000, and 21% of 232,000. Especially families of couple with children were 12% of 933,000, it means, the number of people is about 111960,



**Commented [TG1]:** OK introduction, although it's not necessary to list all the family types. See LR

**Commented [TG2]:** If this is the overview, make it clear by using the word overall, and put it in a separate paragraph. You should also mention some differences between the categories.

**Commented [TG3]:** This is too general; you need specific information – [see mine](#)

**Commented [TG4]:** This is incorrect. 6% represents 54,000 households. This error is repeated below

**Commented [TG5]:** Lots of sentences have a similar structure *the proportion of families [...] was x%*

**Commented [TG6]:** All the information is provided, but there's a limited range of structures



**C&C - Cohesion and Coherence** nb GRA and LR errors have not been corrected

**Band score 5**

It is much better to put the overview in its own paragraph after the introduction, as it's the first thing the examiner looks for. It is also more logical as the intro gives the highest level information, and the overview gives the next highest. Your overview is not clearly separated from the rest of the answer. Also, use the word *overall*.

The organisation is not clear. You seem to have given the information in the sequence shown in the table, but it would be better to group similar features, eg

Looking first at single people, in percentage terms, they had the highest levels of poverty, at around 20%, which accounted for to almost a quarter of a million one-parent families, while for single people without children, the figure was about 350,000.

- presents information with some organisation but there may be a lack of overall progression

**Band score 5 C&C**

It is repetitive – eg this structure is repeated many times: **7% of 211,000,**

- may be repetitive because of lack of referencing and substitution

**Band score 5 C&C**

The table gives information about the percentage of households who lived in poverty in Australia in 1999. Data is shown for 6 types of households: namely single aged person, aged couple, single with no children, couple with no children, sole parent, and couple with children.

**Commented [TG7]:** Better than using the colon



Overall, There were 11% of 1,837,000 households in Australia living in poverty in 1999. While some types of families made up small figures, some others presented considerably higher ones.

**Commented [TG8]:** Put it in a separate paragraph

As regards the first old people, the proportion of families with single aged person who lived in poverty was 6% of 54,000 this household type. It means, there were only 3240 people of this household type living in poor conditions. Likewise, the proportion of aged couple type was 4% of 48,000 households.

**Commented [TG9]:** [...], which means would be better and it would be a complex sentence.

By contrast, other family types made up higher numbers of households and also higher proportions of people living in poverty. The percentage of poor people who were single and had no children was 19% of 359,000, there were about 68,210 people. The proportion of people from couple with children and sole parent type in turn were 7% of 211,000, and 21% of 232,000. Finally, Especially families of couple with children were 12% of 933,000, it which -means, the number of people is about 111960.

**Commented [AWG10]:** good – or *similarly* – more academic

**Commented [AWG11]:** good

**Commented [TG12]:** Don't start a sentence with especially – better to use *more specifically* or *Looking in more detail*,

**Commented [TG13]:** See above

**LR- - Lexical resource** nb Some GRA errors have not been corrected**Band score 5**

There are far too many errors and not enough flexibility to get a 6.

There is limited flexibility in the use of lexis, as seen in the overreliance on the headings used in the question.

- uses a limited range of vocabulary, but this is minimally adequate for the task

Band score 5 LR

The table gives information about the percentage of households who lived in poverty in Australia in 1999. Data is shown for 6 types of households: single aged ~~person~~ people, aged ~~couple~~ couples, single people with no children, ~~couple~~ couples with no children, sole ~~parent~~ parents, and ~~couple~~ couples with children.

There were 11% ~~of~~ or 1,837,000 households in Australia living in poverty in 1999. While some types of families made up small figures, some others presented considerably higher. As regards the first, the proportion of ~~families with single aged person~~ single old people who lived in poverty was 6% ~~of~~ or 54,000 ~~this household~~ households type. It means, there were only 3240 people of this household type living in poor conditions. Likewise, the proportion of ~~aged couple type~~ aged couples was 4% of 48,000 households.

By contrast, other family types made up higher numbers of households and also higher proportions of people living in poverty. The percentage of poor people who were single and had no children was 19% ~~of~~ or 359,000, ~~there were about 68,210~~ people. The proportion of ~~people from couple~~ couples with children and ~~sole parent type~~ single parents in turn were 7% of 211,000, and 21% of 232,000. ~~Especially~~ More specifically, ~~families of couple~~ 12% of couples with children were 12% of

**Commented [TG14]:** Countable nouns should be here

**Commented [TG15]:** See C&C

**Commented [TG16]:** Better saw higher levels of poverty

**Commented [TG17]:** 19% of single people with no children were poor





or 933,000 people, it means, the number of people is about 111960.  
Were poor



**GRA - Grammatical range and accuracy** nb Some LR errors have not been corrected**Band score 6**

It is difficult to separate errors in vocabulary from grammatical errors. However, there is evidence of the ability to produce correct structures in the first few sentences.

There are too many errors and repetitive structures.

It is not correct to say **families of couple with children were 12% of 933,000** See my suggestions under LR.

You need to understand run-on sentences. You cannot link two clauses with a comma. See [here](#)

The table gives information about the percentage of households who lived in poverty in Australia in 1999. Data is shown for 6 types of households: single aged person, aged couple, single with no children, couples with no children, sole parent, and couple with children.

There were 11% of 1,837,000 households in Australia living in poverty in 1999. While some types of families made up small figures, some others presented considerably higher ones. As regards ~~the first~~ former, the proportion of ~~families with~~ single aged ~~person~~ people who lived in poverty was 6% , representing of 54,000 ~~of this households type. It which~~ means, there were only 3240 people of this household type living in poor conditions. Likewise, the proportion of aged couples type was 4% ~~of, or~~ 48,000 households.

By contrast, other family types made up higher numbers of households and also higher proportions of people living in poverty. The percentage of poor people who were single and had no children was 19% ~~of, or~~ 359,000 ~~families, there~~ There were about 68,210 people. The proportion ~~of people from~~ couples with children and sole parents type in turn were 7% of 211,000, and 21% of 232,000. Especially, families of couple-couples with children were 12% of 933,000, ~~it, It~~ means, the number of people is about 111960.

**Commented [TG18]:** Run-on sentence

**Commented [TG19]:** This is a run-on sentence

**Commented [TG20]:** See C&C

**Commented [TG21]:**  
Why not say "12% of couples with children, or almost a million families were living in poverty #Tony at this time"

**Commented [TG22]:** Run-on sentence

**Commented [Tony23]:**  
Run on sentence

**Commented [TG24]:** See LR





### Model Answer

The table gives information about *levels of poverty* in six different family types in Australia in 1999, in terms of the percentage of each family type *living in poverty* and *the actual number of families*.

**Overall**, 11% of the population, or over 1.8 million people were in poverty at this time. *Single people, with or without children were the most likely to be poor, while, the elderly were the least likely.*

**Looking first at single people**, in percentage terms, they had the highest levels of poverty, at around 20%, which accounted for almost a quarter of a million one-parent families, **while** for single people without children, the figure was about 350,000.

**With regard to couples**, 12% of couples with children, or nearly a million households, and only 7% of childless couples (just over 200,000 households) **were living below the poverty line.**

**Finally, as for senior citizens**, both single elderly people and couples showed relatively low poverty levels, with 6% and 4% **respectively being classified as poor**, both groups comprising around 50,000 households.

#### Commented [Tony25]:

Clear overview – mention at least 2 features

#### Commented [Tony26]:

The family types must be plural

#### Commented [Tony27]:

Signposting – make it easy for the examiner to see your clear organisation

#### Commented [Tony28]:

Signposting

#### Commented [TG29]:

Signposting