

WRITING TASK 2

You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.

Write about the following topic:

*Some people say that no one **should be allowed to work after the age of 65.***

Others say that people should be allowed to work for as long as they want.

Discuss both views and give your opinion.

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

Write at least 250 words.

Commentary

Some lower level candidates fail to understand the phrase in red. The question is about compulsory retirement, and not about whether people *should* retire – ie choose to retire at 65. You must write a paragraph about *compulsory* retirement.

The other common mistake students make is to write one paragraph about the benefits of compulsory retirement and then one about being allowed to work as long as they like, followed what looks like a random conclusion. If your position is not clear throughout, you won't get a 7 for TR.

- presents a clear position throughout the response

Band score 7 TR

In a *discuss both views* question, I always try to agree with both views, because if I do, my conclusion is easy – it's not necessary to reconcile two contrasting views. However, in this question about compulsory retirement, it is not possible to agree with both views as the two

propositions are *mutually exclusive* – if you agree with compulsory retirement, you cannot possibly agree that people should work for as long as they want.

Note how my position is clear throughout the answer and not just in the introduction and the conclusion. The phrase The idea of compulsory retirement at 65 is advocated by people on the grounds of fairness clearly suggests that this is not my view. Similarly, However, the above arguments can be rejected because [...] makes it absolutely clear that I agree with the – the second – main body paragraph.

Also note that the ideas in main body paragraph 2 *refute* those in main body paragraph 1 – ie they explain why they are wrong.

Model Answer

KEY **C&C bold**
 LR italics
 GRA underlined

Colours show the relationships between ideas

Opinions are divided on whether people should be allowed continue working after they reach the retirement age of 65. I believe people should be free to work **after 65** if they choose to do so.

The idea of *compulsory retirement* at 65 is *advocated* by people on the grounds of fairness, and the fact that old people deserve it. **With regard to the former**, the belief is that young people at *the start of their working lives* should be given every opportunity to find work and *begin their careers*. **This would be made easier if the positions were made available** as a result of compulsory retirement of older workers. **It is also**

Commented [TG1]: *Opinions are divided* is my favourite introduction for a *discuss both views* question

Commented [TG2]: ie it's not my opinion

Commented [TG3]: clearly stated main idea in the topic sentence, anticipating 2 supporting ideas

Commented [TG4]: ie I'm writing about *fairness* - excellent referencing

Commented [TG5]: ie it's not my opinion

Commented [TG6]: key vocabulary for this question

thought that, *after a lifetime of hard work, the older generation deserve to be given the chance to relax with their families and to be free from the daily grind of the 9 to 5 rat race.*

Commented [TG7]: ie it's not my opinion

However, *the above arguments can be rejected* because mandatory retirement *would be unfair to old people.* **As far as making way for young people is concerned,** although this might be considered "fair" for young people, *it would be grossly unfair to someone who reaches 65 and is still capable of doing a good day's work.* If *discrimination in favour of one group* harms another group, it *cannot be considered* fair.

Commented [TG8]: ie – this is my opinion

Commented [TG9]: ie *compulsory*

Commented [TG10]: clearly stated main idea in the topic sentence

Commented [TG11]: this refers to the first argument in main body paragraph 1

As for the idea that old people deserve a long and happy retirement, **while this** may be true, they do not deserve to be forced into **retirement** at an *arbitrary age* *decided* by the government. They *should be given the right to retire* at *whatever age they wish,* in accordance their *personal financial and family circumstances.*

Commented [TG12]: referencing to the second supporting argument in main body paragraph 1

Commented [TG13]: good phrase

In conclusion, I reject the idea that people should be forced to retire at 65. *It would be unfair* and it would *represent a loss of their personal freedom.*

Commented [TG14]: the best way of starting your conclusion

304 words

Additional argument (not used because the above answer is long enough at 300+ words)

It is also claimed that old people do not have the ability to learn new skills, while young people are very adept at new technology. While this may be true, not all jobs require the use of technology, and in many jobs work experience is a far more important requirement than learning new skills.