



**OVERALL BAND SCORE 6 4+6+7+7**

[SEE BELOW C&C LR GRA](#) [MODEL](#)

### WRITING TASK 1

You should spend about 20 minutes on this task

*You are unhappy about a plan to make your local airport bigger and increase the number of flights.*

*Write a letter to your local newspaper. In your letter*

- *explain where you live*
- *describe the problems*
- *give reasons why you do not want this development*

Write at least 150 words

You do **NOT** need to write any addresses.

Begin your letter as follows:

Dear Sir/Madam

**Your answer**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to inform about the government's decision to expand Kazan International airport and to express my personal abysmal concern and dissatisfaction.

I live in Queen's that is unfortunately located in the vicinity of the aerodrome. As a consequence, not only do we experience severe lack of parking spots in our town, but significant traffic jams, air and noise pollution.

Following the expansion plan, the airport authorities have recently announced changes in standard arrival and departure procedures for airplanes, that means that all aircraft will follow the new tracks right above Queen's. This fact will definitely affect atmosphere and the overall level of life in the neighborhood. Furthermore, a construction of the new terminal to the south of the town has already began involving dozens of heavy lift vehicles moving through our neighborhood until late evening.

On behalf of our community, I would like to respectfully ask you to highlight the issue by all available means. It would be great if you could contact me as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for all your efforts to make our life better.

Yours Faithfully

Rupert Baxter



**OVERALL BAND SCORE 6 4+6+7+7**

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

**Band score 4**

There is a clear purpose, but note my comment.

The tone is appropriate for a letter to a newspaper, although if you're officially writing on behalf of the community you should say so in the introduction. As you're probably not writing with the knowledge and approval of the community, it seems strange the you asked the paper to contact you. Letters to newspapers are more for the benefit and interest of other readers.

Bullets 1 and 2 are presented clearly and suitably extended.

Unfortunately, you failed to cover the final bullet. If you omit a key feature or bullet point the examiner has no choice but to award you a 4 for TA.

- attempts to address the task but does not cover all key features/bullet points; the format may be inappropriate

**Band score 4 TA**

#### ADVICE ON BRAINSTORMING FOR GENERAL TRAINING TASK 1

As you're planning and writing your answer, **remember to constantly ask yourself if you're answering the question.** Check back to the question a few times as you think of ideas to make sure they're directly relevant. Your goal should be to make it easy for the examiner to give you a high score

- Make sure your first paragraph states the purpose, eg *I am writing to inform you about [...]* If you're writing to complain, or to ask a favour, or to inform somebody about some news or



information, mention this in the first paragraph. eg *I'm writing to inform you of my decision to resign from my position as [...]*

- Make sure you've answered each of the bullet points, and put them in separate paragraphs. Make sure you answer all the bullets directly, and do not give the examiner any chance of saying you covered them inadequately. Ask yourself whether it's possible that a strict examiner could think you've not answered the question, or one aspect of the question.
- Be especially careful if you've answered similar question before; there will always be important differences.

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to inform about the government's decision to expand Kazan International airport and to express my personal abysmal concern and dissatisfaction.

I live in Queen's that is unfortunately located in the vicinity of the aerodrome. As a consequence, not only do we experience severe lack of parking spots in our town, but significant traffic jams, air and noise pollution.

Following the expansion plan, the airport authorities have recently announced changes in standard arrival and departure procedures for airplanes, that means that all aircraft will follow the new tracks right above Queen's. This fact will definitely affect atmosphere and the overall level of life in the neighborhood. Furthermore, a construction of the new terminal to the south of the town has already began involving dozens of heavy lift vehicles moving through our neighborhood until late evening.

**Commented [TG1]:** This is strange as the local newspaper would already be aware of the plans, and would undoubtedly have written about them. You're writing to say why you're not happy; not to inform the paper of the plans

**Commented [TG2]:** Clear purpose

**Commented [TG3]:** Bullet 1 covered

**Commented [TG4]:** The assumption in the question is that there is a chance of preventing the plans from being carried out

**Commented [TG5]:** Bullet 2 covered



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**Commented [TG6]:** Bullet 3 is not covered. This paragraph should be about why you don't want it to go ahead

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

#### **Band score 6**

The overall organisation of the paragraphs is ok, although you could use signposting to indicate your organisation, as in my suggestions.

There are some errors in cohesion, notably in your use of that instead of which. See [here](#)

▪ arranges information and ideas coherently and there is a clear overall progression

**Band score 6 C&C**

▪ uses cohesive devices effectively, but cohesion within and/or between sentences may be faulty or mechanical

**Band score 6 C&C**

#### PARAGRAPHING FOR GENERAL TRAINING WRITING TASK 1

In a GT letter, I recommend that your first paragraph state the purpose of your letter, and there should be 3 other main body paragraphs, as indicated below. That's 4 main paragraphs altogether, plus a final one for a closing remark, like *I look forward to hearing from you*.

Even if you're writing to a friend, make it easy for the examiner to see the purpose with a sentence like *I'm writing to let you know that [...]*



*and that [...]*. To be sure of getting a 7 or higher for TA, you should mention one or of the bullet points, depending on the question.

**Write one paragraph per bullet point, and organise them in the same sequence as the bullets in the question.** Write 40-60 words for each. If you just minimally cover one of the bullets, you cannot assume that it's ok just to write extra for the others. You need to fully cover them all to get a high score. Note that it's ok to have relatively short paragraphs in Task 1. It is only in Task 2 that you need topic sentences and supporting ideas.

There must also be a closing formula, like *Many thanks*, and you **must sign your name**.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE CORRECT SIGNPOSTING PHRASES FOR GENERAL TRAINING WRITING TASK 1 QUESTIONS, NOT NECESSARILY THIS ONE**

Phrase	Example
With reference to With respect to	<b>With reference to our phone call [...]</b>
As far as [...] is concerned,	<b>As far as my experience is concerned,</b>
With regard to	<b>With regard to my wallet,</b>
As for	<b>As for the reason why I can't make it, [...]</b>
Regarding	<b>Regarding my idea, [...]</b>
The [...] in question	<b>The article in question was my Rolex watch, which [...]</b>
You could also use <i>cleft structures</i> as follows	
<b>The reason for my concern is that</b> I was anxiously awaiting the card, [...]	
<b>What happened was,</b> as I went through the baggage security check, [...]	



Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing ~~to you~~ to inform you about the government's decision to expand Kazan International airport and to express my personal abysmal concern and dissatisfaction.

**Commented [TG7]:** Redundant and definitely wrong in a letter to a newspaper

I live in Queen's, ~~that~~ which is unfortunately located in the vicinity of the aerodrome. As a consequence, not only do we experience severe lack of parking spots in our town, but we also have significant traffic jams, along with air and noise pollution.

**Commented [TG8]:** Much better than *that*, and you need the comma

**Commented [TG9]:** good

**Commented [TG10]:** good

As for the problems that will arise, ~~Following the expansion plan,~~ the airport authorities have recently announced changes in standard arrival and departure procedures for airplanes, ~~that~~ which means that all aircraft will follow the new tracks right above Queen's. This ~~fact~~ will definitely affect atmosphere and the overall level of life in the neighborhood. ~~Furthermore~~ To make matters worse, a construction of the new terminal to the south of the town has already began, involving dozens of heavy lift vehicles moving through our neighborhood until late evening.

**Commented [TG11]:** Much better than *that*

**Commented [TG12]:** better

I believe the plans should be rejected because [...]

**Commented [TG13]:** I would delete this and insert another para below

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Yours Faithfully

Rupert Baxter

**LR - Lexical resource** ~~nb~~ Some GRA errors have not been corrected.**Band score 7**

The vocab is generally good throughout with some flexibility and precision. There is enough correct less common vocabulary for a band score 7.

Note my suggestions which show the accuracy and precision you need for a higher score.

- uses a sufficient range of vocabulary to allow some flexibility and precision

**Band score 7 LR**

- uses less common lexical items with some awareness of style and collocation

**Band score 7 LR**

- may produce occasional errors in word choice, spelling and/or word formation

**Band score 7 LR**

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to inform you about the government's decision to expand Kazan International airport and to express my personal ~~abysmal~~ concern and dissatisfaction.

I live in Queen's that is unfortunately located in the vicinity of the ~~aerodrome~~. As a consequence, not only do we experience severe lack of parking spots in our town, ~~but significant traffic jams, air and noise pollution.~~

**Commented [TG14]:** Airport is better – aerodromes are very small

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

~~Following the~~ In accordance with the expansion plan, the airport authorities have recently announced changes in standard arrival and departure procedures for airplanes, that means that all aircraft will follow the new ~~tracks~~ flight paths ~~right~~ directly above Queen's. This fact will definitely affect atmosphere and the overall ~~level~~ quality of life in the neighborhood. Furthermore, a construction of the new terminal to the south of the town has already began involving dozens of heavy ~~lift~~ lifting vehicles moving through our neighborhood until late evening.





On behalf of our community, I would like to respectfully ask you to highlight the issue by all available means. It would be great if you could contact me as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for all your efforts to make our ~~life~~ lives better.

Yours Faithfully

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## GRA - Grammatical range and accuracy nb Some LR errors have not been corrected

### Band score 7

There is a range of complex structures with sufficient accuracy to get a band score 7. Be careful with tenses.

You need a higher level of accuracy for an 8 for GRA.

- uses a variety of complex structures

Band score 7 GRA

- has good control of grammar and punctuation but may make a few errors

Band score 7 GRA

- produces frequent error-free sentences

Band score 7 GRA

Dear Sir/Madam

I am writing to you to inform you about the government's decision to expand Kazan International airport and to express my personal abysmal concern and dissatisfaction.

I live in Queen's ~~that~~ which is unfortunately located in the vicinity of the aerodrome. As a consequence, not only do we experience a severe lack of parking spots in our town, but we also have significant traffic jams, air and noise pollution.

Following the expansion plan, the airport authorities have recently announced changes in standard arrival and departure procedures for airplanes, ~~that~~ which means that all aircraft will follow the new tracks right above Queen's. This fact will definitely affect the atmosphere and the overall level of life in the neighborhood. Furthermore, ~~a~~ the construction of the new terminal to the south of the town has already ~~began~~ begun, involving dozens of heavy lift vehicles moving through our neighborhood until late evening.

On behalf of our community, I would like to respectfully ask you to highlight the issue by all available means. It would be great if you could contact me as soon as possible.

**Commented [TG16]:** Comma before the participle phrase



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**Model answer**