



ECCE-Writing Samples with Commentary

About the Test

The ECCE Writing test measures test takers at the B2 level of English on the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR). Test takers have 30 minutes to write a response from a choice of two options: an email/letter or an essay.

How to Practice

To practice for the ECCE Writing test, use the additional prompts provided. Write about one page in response to the prompt in the time allotted.

To evaluate your performance, please refer to the Sample Responses and Commentaries below.

Prompt 2 – Email

Dear Teachers,

Our school is sometimes a little bit boring for many students. This is because we do the same things all the time, and we do the lessons the same way every time. So many students decided to give you some ideas to make our school better. I think our ideas are very good, and I appreciate that you want to hear them.

Our first idea is about how to do lessons. We think that reading books and doing exercises aren't very interesting, and we were thinking of doing some games that contain the most important information from the unit. Doing the lesson this way is very useful and smart because kids love playing games. If the games contain information from the unit, students will learn it better. One more idea for the lessons is, not to give many tests because children have to study more. This makes them more anxious, and they can't write as well as when they are relaxed. When we take tests, we often think that we haven't learned many things because we look only at the grades.

Another idea we had is to go on trips and see theatre plays based in history, ancient tragedy, and others. Like when we are studying Shakespeare, we could go see Romeo and Juliet at a famous theatre. This is a great way for us to visit and learn about new places as well as learn history and drama. These are important subjects that we would have fun learning about if we go on trips, and of course books are not as exciting as trips.

A final idea is that we would like to design our classroom. For example, we would like to paint the walls a different color so we feel more relaxed, and we want to place our desks wherever we want. If we could put them in a circle, it would make the classroom feel more welcome.

In conclusion, we need to do fun things while we learn about new subjects, like play games or go to the theatre. We also need a better design for our classroom so it will be easier and more comfortable to learn. I think we can do these things, and they will make our school more interesting.

We hope you like our suggestions for our class! Thank you for taking the time to ask us how we could make our school better.

Thank you,

Sergio

Commentary

- The writer presents several ideas about how school could be improved in three areas: lessons, going on trips, and the design of the classroom. Each idea is supported by original details that provide the logic behind the request.
- The writer doesn't rely solely on traditional connecting words and is able to use varied cohesive devices to link the ideas within his response, including connectors like "Our first idea" and pronoun referents like "These are important subjects" (referring back to history and drama). Ideas flow smoothly within the email.
- The email demonstrates a good range of grammar and vocabulary. The writer uses simple, compound, and complex sentences effectively with only occasional errors. Vocabulary used is appropriate, though it could benefit from more specificity (e.g., in paragraph 1: "do the same things all the time, and we do the lessons the same way every time"). However, this email still displays a good variety of language.
- Context is established well in paragraph 1 of the email as the writer sets up the background that some students find school boring at times, so he is writing with ideas about how to make

it more interesting. The writer shows a keen awareness of audience as displayed in the final sentence of paragraph 1 (“I appreciate that you want to hear them”) as well as in the final paragraph (“Thank you for taking the time to ask us how we could make our school better”). Appropriate register is used throughout the email.

- ▶ **This test taker is well prepared to take the ECCE Writing section.**

Prompt 2 – Email

Dear Teachers,

My name is Mariana and I am a student on the third grade of Junior High school. I write this email because I have some ideas about this situation.

It is true that many students are bored in class and one reason is the school and more specifically the teachers. In my opinion of doing the class more interesting is that you can do the lessons with a funny way. for example the History lesson for many students is boring, but if you teach them with a different way like showing them videos about this days lesson they maybe concentrate more at the history and not in other things apart from history.

If I wanted to come to a conclusion I would say that teachers must do the students to love their class and the best way to teach them the days lesson is to play online games that is about history.

Thank you for giving me the chance to express my viewpoint.

Your sincerely

Mariana

Commentary

- The argument in this email is inadequately developed. The writer provides one suggestion about how classes can be more interesting: “you can do the lessons with a funny way.” However, this idea is not supported beyond the example of “showing them videos.” In paragraph 3, the writer introduces the idea of playing online games about history, but no further support is presented.
- Ideas within this email are adequately organized. The writer uses standard connectors to link ideas: “In my opinion,” “for example,” “If I wanted to come to a conclusion.”
- The writer displays a sufficient range of grammar and vocabulary to fulfill the task. The writer has some difficulty controlling more complex sentences: “In my opinion of doing the class more interesting is that you can do the lessons with a funny way.”
- The writer attempts to establish the context for writing in paragraph 1 but is only partially successful as she does not mention what “this situation” refers to. However, the reader is generally able to follow the text because the following paragraph mentions that “many students are bored in class.” In addition, an adequate sense of audience is displayed as the writer states: “Thank you for giving me the chance to express my viewpoint.”

▶ **This test taker is on track but should continue to prepare for the ECCE Writing section.**

Prompt 2 – Essay

There are many ways to exercise such as team sports or sports that you do alone.

I think that the best way to exercise is by doing a sport that you are alone. Firstly in team sports you might not play all the time period of the game, so you don't exercise a lot. Secondly when you do a sport that you are alone the trainer looks almost all the time what you are doing, so if you make a mistake the trainer corrects you so you don't learn something not right. Finally if you are not good at a sport, the other people that play in your team might make fun with you, something that can affect you and not play good or feel bad.

In my opinion I think that the best way to exercise is to do sports alone.

Commentary

- The writer states her argument in the first sentence of paragraph 2: "I think that the best way to exercise is by doing a sport that you are alone." The rest of the paragraph provides three reasons and one supporting detail per reason to support the argument. The writer's argument is adequately developed.
- Ideas are clearly organized in this response. The writer uses standard connectors a bit mechanically: "Firstly," "Secondly," "Finally." The connection of ideas within this essay is adequate.
- The writer uses a range of grammatical structures in this essay. Errors are present in the more complex sentences, but they do not interfere with the reader's ability to comprehend the message. Vocabulary is generally related to the task ("game," "trainer") and is sufficient to complete the task requirements.
- The writer briefly establishes her context for writing in the first sentence of the essay. This demonstrates that she has an adequate sense of the purpose for writing. The register is appropriate for the essay-writing task. The reader is able to follow the text.

▶ **This test taker is adequately prepared to take the ECCE Writing section.**

Prompt 2 – Essay

I agree with the playing team, of basketball or the football. But I disagree because you can excercise you can better when you are your team. Why specific reasons? Because you are not axotic when you are own. Because you can better when you are own. When you are with your team you are axotic sometimes and sometimes no. When you are with your team you can not do good exercise because sometimes her or him coach see you sometimes or see you enithynk. Now I agree with playing teams because you can have friends. You can have an expirience. for example with your team you can go a travelling, you can have metalic. But disagree with this because when you are own you can better for exercise. For example you can se your self in every exercise you can do. That's my opinion.

Commentary

- The writer's argument is unclear as he states "I agree with the playing team," but then he discusses that there are both positive and negative aspects of exercising alone and playing a team sport. Therefore, the writer's argument is inadequate, and the content that follows is limited.
 - This essay contains minimal organization. Some connectors are used ("for example;" simple coordinating conjunctions: "and," "but"); however, the connection between ideas within this essay is not apparent.
 - Nearly every sentence contains grammar errors: "Because you can better when you are own;" "you can better for exercise." Vocabulary errors are also present: "axotic," "enithynk," "metalic." These mistakes make it difficult to understand what the writer is trying to say and cause significant confusion for the reader.
 - The writer seems to understand that he should be writing about preferred ways to exercise; however, his lack of a clear position on the topic has a negative effect on the reader and interferes with the reader's ability to comprehend the text.
- ▶ **This test taker is not prepared and should work on developing their writing skills before taking the ECCE Writing section.**