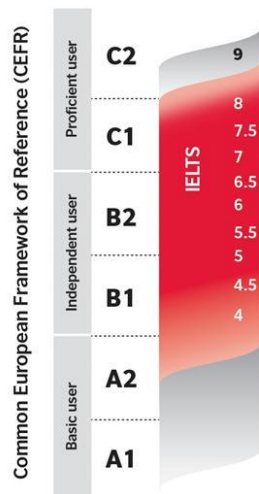


IELTS Band Descriptors



Band 7: Good user:

Has operational command of the language, though with occasional inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings in some situations. Generally handles complex language well and understands detailed reasoning.

Band 6: Competent user:

Has generally effective command of the language despite some inaccuracies, inappropriacies and misunderstandings. Can use and understand fairly complex language, particularly in familiar situations.

Student output sample 1

Read the following essay written by a student taking the IELTS exam. How far off is this student is from achieving the above statements, and thus being of a level suitable for UoL study? What writing skills are (not) evident?

What transport problems do modern cities face? What are the solutions to these problems?

The transport has been one of the most important problem for the last two centuries. The problem began with the development and the growing of the cities.

Before the eighth century the people lived in small villages or towns and did not have necessity to go too far. The people did not worry about the time to arrive in some where.

Nowadays the situation changed. Many cars on the streets and many people need to go to any place. The numbers of cars has increased and as a result there are many problems: pollution, noise, car accident, insufficient car park and petroleum problem.

On the other hand, people use car to go anywhere: to work, to travel, to spent holiday and to amusement. Meanwhile the car is important the cities must have another solution. It is important to organise its using and to meet alternative ways.

In big cities there are some alternatives like undergrounds (metro), coach, train and bicycles. In China and Cuba for example they use a lot of bicycles for substituting the cars or coaches.

It would be better to think about others different kinds of transports. In Brasil the government has talked about transport on the rivers. In this country there are many rivers where it is possible to go to different places. In general they are flat rivers.

Another kind of transport is car that uses solar energy. Probably they don't have pollution problem and it is cheaper than others car.

In conclusion, the transport is a social problem in big cities but its solution depend on new technologies, others kind of energy and political aspects.

Student output sample 2

Here is an extract from a longer essay written by a student who was exiting the preessional programme. What skills are displayed here that a direct entry student (like the one on the previous page) may not have?

Algorithms: What are they? What uses do they have? Why are they useful?

In the field of computing, algorithms, according to Corment et al (2001), can be defined as logical and clear steps to enter identified inputs and then process them to have outputs by using computer programs. Corment et al (2001) states that almost all problems related to the computer science are solved by right algorithms. The specification is a fundamental requirement to solve any difficulties in the computing field by algorithms (Corment et al, 2001). There is an example of an algorithm in Harel (2004) which is to sum employees' salaries in any company or institution. The function of this algorithm, which can be run by using a computer, is to account the salaries of all employees. In addition, there are some controlled conditions such as loops to repeat the calculation until calculate all salaries, and accept any input number even in minus. This algorithm is suitable for any company with any number of employees. From the definitions which have been mentioned above, it can be noticed that algorithms are based on three steps which are input, processes and output, whatever these steps includes.

Each algorithm has a beginning, a controlling (process) and ending. Skiena (2006) states that there is a various number of algorithms to solve a problem. Harel (2004) supports Skiena's view, and although he states that there are many different designs, forms and ways to present algorithms in addition to writing them down, and the flowchart diagram is a well-know for algorithmic design.

Useful links

English Language Teaching Unit: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/eltu>

UoL English language requirements: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/study/english>

UoL Proofreading rules: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/assessments/proof-reading>

Virtual Self Access Centre sign up instructions: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/eltu/learn/vsac>