

B2 First Writing Part 2

Teacher's notes

Aims of the lesson	<p>to familiarise students with Part 2 of Writing paper</p> <p>to raise students' awareness of the different text types found in Part 2</p>
Time needed	35–40 minutes
Materials required	<p>Student's worksheets 1 and 2 (one per student)</p> <p>Student's worksheets 3 and 4 cut up (one per group of 2/3 students)</p> <p>Student's worksheet 5 (one per student)</p>

Procedure

- 1 Ask students to brainstorm in pairs/small groups what types of texts they usually write for pleasure or for business/study (e.g. email, letter), either in English or their own language. Collect some feedback, writing the different text types on the board as a spidergram.
- 2 Now ask students how often they write each different text type. Ask them, for example, which they write most/least.
- 3 Explain to students that they are going to look at the type of texts that they may have to write in Part 2 of the B2 First Writing test. Divide students into pairs and give out **Student's worksheets 1 and 2**. Ask them to complete **worksheet 2** by looking at the sample questions.
- 4 Check the answers in class (see key), and deal with any queries. Go through the different types of task focus.
- 5 Tell students that they are going to look at some opening excerpts from each of the different written texts that are found in the exam.
- 6 Still working with a partner, give each pair a copy of **Student's worksheets 3 and 4** which have been cut up. Ask students to match the excerpts to the headings and discuss which features of each helped them to decide.
- 7 Check answers in class (see key).
- 8 Give out **Student's worksheet 5**. Ask the students to complete the texts with the words in the box then check answers in class (see key).
- 9 Ask students to work in pairs again and to choose their favourite question. Let them discuss which text they would feel most confident about writing and why.

For homework

Ask students to do some work on their favourite question. They can:

- write a short text about which is their favourite question and why it would be the easiest to write about
- write a plan for the answer, and make some notes about what they would put in their answer (this can be used in a future lesson to talk about planning answers and structuring texts).

Suggested follow-up activity

Give students the B2 Assessment Scale from the B2 First Handbook and a copy of each of the sample answers which are also in the Handbook, with the 'Marks awarded' comments blanked out.

In a large class, give each student/pair one sample answer each, otherwise give 2–3 answers to each student/pair. Go through the simplified Mark Scheme in class and then ask them to read their sample answer and predict which mark their answer would receive.

Ask them to justify their answers, before telling them which mark each was awarded.

Student's worksheet 1

Part 2

Write an answer to **one** of the questions **2 – 4** in this part. Write your answer in **140 – 190** words in an appropriate style on the separate answer sheet. Put the question number in the box at the top of the answer sheet.

- 2 You see this announcement in your college English-language magazine.

Book reviews wanted

Have you read a book in which the main character behaved in a surprising way?

Write us a review of the book, explaining what the main character did and why it was surprising. Tell us whether or not you would recommend this book to other people.

The best reviews will be published in the magazine.

Write your **review**.

- 3 You see this announcement on an English-language website.

Articles wanted

The most useful thing I have ever learned.

What is the most useful thing you have learned?
Who did you learn it from? Why is it useful?

Write us an article answering these questions.

We will publish the best articles on our website.

Write your **article**.

- 4 You have received this email from your English-speaking friend David.

From: David

Subject: touring holiday

Some college friends of mine are visiting your area soon for a week's touring holiday. They would like to travel around and learn about your local area and its history.

Can you tell me about some of the places they could visit? What's the best way to travel around – car, bike or coach?

Thanks,

David

Write your **email**.

Student's worksheet 2

How much do you know about Part 2 of the B2 First Writing paper? Answer the following questions.

In Part 2:

1 how many questions do you have to answer?

.....

2 how many questions can you choose from?

.....

3 what type of texts can you choose from? There are three on the sample paper, but there are another two that you might get in this part of the test – can you guess what they are?

.....

4 how many words must you write?

.....

5 is there any extra information, apart from the question, to help you write your answer?

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Student's worksheet 3 (✂ cut up into the separate text types)

Article

Email

Letter

Review

Report

Student's worksheet 4 (✂ cut into the separate parts)

A. Dear Andrew,

How are you doing?

B. Keeping Healthy In Bratislava

This report includes advice on how to stay in good shape while living in Bratislava, with practical suggestions on where to eat and where to do sport.

C. To: Sara Martins

Subject: Restaurant

I just received your message and ...

D. I recently went to the cinema to see a film. It was the best film I have ever seen. This was probably because of the fact that ...

E. Top Teacher Tania!

I'll never forget the first day I met Tania. She looked at me and said, "You must be Pablo". I really felt that she was talking to me, and I knew my eyes were shining with happiness. From that moment on, she was my favourite teacher.

Student's worksheet 5

Read the following texts and complete with the words from the boxes.

Article

comment engage eye-catching opinion

The main purpose of an article is to interest and _____ the reader, so there should be some _____ or _____, and an _____ heading will help.

Email

situation reader grammatically accurate punctuation

An email is written in response to the situation given in the question. Candidates should write _____ correct sentences with _____ spelling and _____ in a style suited to the _____ and target _____.

Letter

organisation known reader individual

An informal letter, which would be written to a _____ reader, e.g. a penfriend, and would usually be intended to interest the _____ in some way. A formal letter would be written to an _____ or an _____, e.g. to apply for work.

Report

sections neutral headings formal well organised

A report may be _____ or _____ in style, but the style should be consistent. It should be _____, with clear _____. _____ can help make the report easy to read.

Review

website opinion newspaper describe

A review is usually written for an English language magazine, _____ or _____. The main purpose is to _____ and express a personal _____ about something which the writer has experienced (e.g. a film, a product, a holiday, a website, etc.).

Answer keys

Worksheet 2

Q. no.	Part 2
1	1
2	3
3	review, article, email (<i>and, not on sample: letter, report</i>)
4	140–190 words
5	Yes – input material is specified in no more than 70 words, and should help students determine the target reader of the text and the required register.

Worksheets 3 and 4

Article: E	Email: C	Letter: A (could be an email)	Report: B	Review: D
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Worksheet 5

Article: engage, comment, opinion, eye-catching

The main purpose of an article is to interest and engage the reader, so there should be some opinion or comment, and an eye-catching heading will help.

Email: grammatically, accurate, punctuation, situation, reader

An email is written in response to the situation given in the question. Candidates should write grammatically correct sentences with accurate spelling and punctuation in a style suited to the situation and target reader.

Letter: known, reader, individual, organisation

An informal letter, which would be written to a known reader, e.g. a penfriend, and would usually be intended to interest the reader in some way. A formal letter would be written to an individual or an organisation, e.g. to apply for part-time work.

Report: neutral, formal, well organised, sections, headings

A report may be neutral or formal in style, but the style should be consistent. It should be well organised, with clear sections. Headings can help make the report easy to read.

Review: website, newspaper, describe, opinion

A review is usually written for an English language magazine, newspaper or website. The main purpose is to describe and express a personal opinion about something which the writer has experienced (e.g. a film, a product, a holiday, a website, etc.).