

B1 Preliminary Writing Part 2 article – Teacher’s notes

Description

Learners look at samples of article responses appropriate to the B1 level before being asked to create their own tasks for each other to work from.

Time required: 50 minutes

Materials required:

- Student handouts 1 and 2

Aims:

- to introduce students to the format and features of articles for B1 Preliminary Writing Part 2
- to write an article appropriate for B1 Preliminary Writing Part 2

Procedure

1. As a warmer, introduce the topic of ‘films’ to learners. Below are some suggestions:
 - give learners the names of well-known films and ask them to describe them to a partner or the wider class
 - give learners a set of film posters with the title and details removed and learners have to compete to identify as many as possible
 - play a short series of clips of people talking about a film (i.e. of the kind used to promote films on release) and learners try to guess what the film is
 - play some music from a film and the learners have to guess the film from the music (instrumental)

Whatever activity is used, it should try to elicit some common lexis connected to watching films (e.g. cinema, actors, action, adventure etc.) and ask learners to categorise them, i.e. types of films, people, adjectives, places etc.

2. Write the questions on the board:

What’s your favourite film?

Why did you like it?

Where did you watch it?

Learners then tell the person next to them what their answers are. Ask some pairs to report back what they found out.

3. Ask learners to look at **Handout 1**. This is a Part 2 article task from B1 Preliminary Writing on the subject of films. This activity is to get learners thinking about the nature of the Part 2 writing task to

help them develop strategies for B1 level. Give students time to look at the questions and think about their answers, then they discuss with a partner, then elicit various answers from the class.

4. Ask learners to read the two sample answers on **Handout 2**. Put students in small groups and ask them to discuss the questions below the scripts. Allow some time for this and then discuss with the whole class and see if they agree or disagree on some of the answers and encourage discussion.

The two samples here were scored as follows:

Candidate A: Content 5, Communicative Achievement 4, Organisation 4, Language 4

Candidate B: Content 5, Communicative Achievement 3, Organisation 3, Language 3

You may want to share these with the students if useful or appropriate.

5. Now ask learners to write their own answer to the 'films' task then pass to a peer for feedback. Set a clear time limit for this task of 20 minutes (as this will help them prepare for the real exam experience).
6. As a closing for the activity, elicit class-wide feedback as to the things they liked/disliked, found easy or difficult about writing responses to the article task.

Suggested follow-up activity

Ask the learners to look again at the way the article task on 'films' is phrased and structured. Get them thinking in more detail about what each question is trying to elicit. For example 'What kind of films do you enjoy?' is focused on a personal response but the 'Why' connected to the second question invites a reason to be given for choosing (in this case watching films at home or in the cinema).

Write some possible topics for an article task on the board, for example:

Free time
Food
Money
Friends
Music

Then ask learners to suggest questions they would like to be asked in articles on these topics. Collate them on the board and then ask learners individually or in groups to write answers to one of the tasks created by learners. The learners can then pass their responses to another peer and they have to work out what the 2–3 original questions were.

B1 Preliminary Writing Part 2 article Student handout 1

Look at the sample Part 2 article task below.

Question 2

You see this notice on an English-language website.

Articles wanted!

FILMS

What kind of films do you enjoy?

Do you prefer watching them at the cinema or at home? Why?

Write an article answering these questions and we will put it on our website!

Write your **article**.

Answer the following questions:

1. How much time do you think you have write the answer to this task?
2. Who are you writing this article for?
3. What are you going to talk about when answering each question? Are you going to answer the questions separately or together? Which question will you spend more time on?
4. Will you include a title? A greeting? How will you start your answer? How will you finish your answer?
5. What tense(s) will you write your article in? Will you use formal or informal language?
6. What kinds of vocabulary will be useful in answering this question?

B1 Preliminary Writing Part 2 article Student handout 2

Read the two sample answers to the 'films' task below.

Candidate A

I've always loved fantasy movies, especially Harry Potter's films. They are magnificent and the more I watch them, the more I find them really interesting! It seems to you to live their adventure! I also collect them!

Personally, I enjoy watching films at home with my family. You know I can chill out quietly on my comfortable sofa and eat what I'd like to! I dislike going to the cinema, it's always crowded and sometimes people check their phone while they are watching the movie - horrible! So, at home forever!!

Candidate B

Have you ever saw adventures films? Is the kind of films I liked most. I adore action and the lot of places where the films are ambiented. I used to watch them with my grandparents when I was young. I had fun with them and those moments made me feel happy.

Isn't a problem for me go to the cinema but I prefer watching them at home. Stay on the sofa, with some of your best friends and a cup of coffee and some biscuit is too comfortable and is a great moment even if it is a simple thing. What's better?

Think about and discuss:

1. Do you like the same kinds of films as candidates A and B?
 - a. If not, what types of films do you like and why?
 - b. If yes, is it for the same reasons the candidates here give?
2. Which candidate (A or B) is better in your view? Why?
3. What is each paragraph about? How have the candidates A and B structured their articles?
4. Do you prefer to watch films in the cinema or at home? Why?