

TEST 1, WRITING TASK 1

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 7.5** score.

Dear friend,

I'm glad you are thinking of going on a camping this summer. I think it's a brilliant idea, you will really enjoy it. I went on a camping holiday once and it was a great experience. There you can learn things you wouldn't think about nature and survival. You will see animals in their habitat and flowers and plants you may not ever see. But, what I appreciated the most was all the people I met and friends I made, with who I still keep in touch.

Don't forget that there are some things you have to be prepared for. You will be in the nature and that means a lot of insects (you should check your tent before sleep) and the toilet will be behind a tree. If you don't mind about it, everything is going to be fine.

When are you going to this camping holiday and how long? I will have two weeks holidays in summer and I really would like to go with you. I have a really good memory from my camping holiday so it would be nice to do it again and have this experience with you.

Best regards,

Here is the examiner's comment:

This is a strong response to the task, in spite of the rather unusual opening [*Dear friend*]. All three bullet points are addressed fully and the tone is warm and encouraging. There is a clear progression throughout the letter and paragraphs are used well. The range of vocabulary includes some less common items [*survival* | *habitat*] as well as collocations [*a brilliant idea* | *a great experience* | *have to be prepared for* | *nice to do it again*] and there are no spelling errors. There is a variety of complex structures and grammatical control is generally good. Errors do occur [*you may not ever see* / *have seen* | *with who* / *whom* | *I still keep in touch* | *When are you going to* / *on* | *and* (for) *how long*] but do not cause any difficulty for the reader.