

TEST 4, WRITING TASK 1

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 7.0** score.

Dear Caroline,

First of all, I would like to congratulate you. You couldn't find a better university. I have spent the best years of my life there.

Florence told me that you have been looking for a place to live for a long time now. I recommend you to contact the agency "My flat maid", they helped me when I arrived 3 years ago. Of course, if you don't mind to share an apartment with other students. It is a house, you will have your own room. For me, it was the best solution and I have met very nice people. It is more expensive than the campus but you don't need to share the room. Another option is to live with a family as a home stay. Moreover if they have children, you can do some babysitting and earn some money. Ask the university for further information.

Be careful of the fake advertisement you can find out of the university. It seems very interesting, but the most of the time the places are dirty, very small and in a dangerous area. One of my friend did not get the commission he paid in advance. If I were you, I would choose to share a flat with other students. When you study hard, it is important to have a pleasant place to stay.

Anyway, call me if you need more information. It is a great pleasure to help you.

I wish you all the best. Greetings.

Here is the examiner's comment:

In this response, all bullet points are addressed and the tone is consistent. For a higher Band Score, more detail for the first bullet point is required. This candidate said they lived in a house and that they met other people but does not describe the house where they lived.

There is clear progression in this response and good use of a range of cohesive devices [*Moreover* | *Anyway*] with some effective referencing [*it* | *they*]. However, there is a limited range here due to the short sentences.

The range of vocabulary shows some variety, including some collocation [*earn some money* | *dangerous area* | *paid in advance*]. Only one error remains [*fiend* / friends].

There is a variety of complex structures with error-free sections [*if they have children* | *If I were you*]. However, the sentences overall are quite short and the candidate would score more highly if they extended them to use multiple clauses.