

TEST 2, WRITING TASK 2

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

Some people prefer sticking to the same things they like during the whole life span, while others tend to look for new options and experiment with different things. In this essay, I will discuss both of these attitudes, as well as give my own opinion on this issue.

First of all, people who keep to the same things all their life are generally more conservative. They do not need to experience new emotions and try something completely new and unusual because they are already happy with what they have. There are undoubtedly many pluses of an attitude like that. More importantly, such people usually experience a greater level of satisfaction in life, since they never get bored with their old possessions and habits. These people more often have a long-term relationship, a stable job and a safer source of income. Besides, they tend to develop themselves in one particular area of life, in one profession, and thus, they become much better specialists than those who change their occupation. For example, a person who has been studying English all his or her life and trying best to improve the skills usually has an advantage over someone who takes up several or many different languages to study and doesn't concentrate on just one.

However, there are people who opt for a different attitude towards life. They say that the better things you try, the more things you do, the fuller your life may be. These people like to try many different things, jobs, hobbies, and never stay the same. They improve and develop themselves in various areas and thus become hugely educated, cultured and open-minded. Their horizon is certainly a lot broader in comparison with those who just stick to the same things.

To my mind, this last discussed attitude can make your life much more interesting and diverse, and let you understand different people from all walks of life. Therefore, I would prefer trying new things.

Here is the examiner's comment:

This is a strong response which addresses all parts of the question and ends with a clear opinion. A range of relevant supporting ideas are presented for those people who prefer familiar things. The other group who like to try new things is not covered in so much detail and there is some lack of focus. This response could be improved by adding more detail for this second group, e.g. including some of the drawbacks. However, ideas are logically organised and paragraphing is helpful in presenting the discussion.

The range of vocabulary includes some less common items [*sticking to* | *stable job* | *has an advantage over* | *horizon ... broader* | *walks of life*]. A few small errors persist in spelling [*importantely* / *importantly* | *possessions* / *possessions*] and word choice [*the better things* / ? | *hugely educated* / *highly educated*].

This response covers a wide range of grammatical structures. Sentences have multiple clauses and are generally accurate. For example, we can see the effective use of comparative structures [*such people usually experience* | *than those who change*]. Grammatical errors do occur [*trying best* / *trying their best*], but do not cause any difficulty for the reader.