

## TEST 2, WRITING TASK 1

This is an answer written by a candidate who achieved a **Band 9.0** score.

Dear Mr and Mrs Collins,

I can not begin to tell you how delighted I was to receive your letter! I think what you have planned for Chris is going to blow his mind, and I'm so grateful that you thought to include me in the celebrations.

About these festivities you have in mind, I think they're brilliant. I know Chris is the kind of guy who likes to feel as though he's in control and so surprises haven't always been his cup of tea, but I'm sure he won't be able to contain his excitement on the day. Breakfast at his favourite café with his nearest and dearest, followed by a day at the cricket – honestly, what could be better! Then kicking on to a karaoke bar until the wee small hours, I genuinely can't think of 3 things Chris loves more than food, sport, and belting out a horrendous rendition of 'Khe San' in front of a captive audience.

All of this makes me all the more upset that I won't be able to be a part of these celebrations. Unfortunately, I simply can't get away from the office at this time of year. The busy season makes us all a little crazy, but none more so than my boss, who takes crazy a step further. I fear that if I took this time off, I'd be returning without a job.

Thankfully though, in a couple months time all this madness will have died down some, and things won't be quite so chaotic. As such, I will definitely take the opportunity to book a flight and head back to the land down under to catch up with Chris, and with any luck, hear untold tales of silliness and debauchery from his birthday bash.

Once again, thanks so much for the invite, and so sorry I can't be there.

Lots of love,  
Arturo

Here is the examiner's comment:

This is a very well-developed response; all three bullet points are fully addressed and a suitable tone is used for an informal response to this invitation. The candidate uses the correct letter format and there is clear progression throughout the letter. The response is fully coherent, and cohesion is very well managed [*the kind of guy who* | *but none more so than*] except for a slip with [*As such*].

The range of vocabulary is wide with very natural and sophisticated control throughout [*kicking on to* | *untold tales* | *debauchery* | *birthday bash*]. There is one minor spelling error [*horendous*].

Similarly, the candidate uses a wide range of structures with full flexibility, and a range of tenses encompassing past, present and future, with conditionals and frequent complex structures.