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## TEACHING THE ACADEMIC WRITING FOR ENGINEERING STUDENTS

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### Abstract

**This research paper is to highlight the methods of teaching the academic writing for the Engineering students. In this report, an overview of the types of the IELTS writing test and the procedures for teaching the academic writing with the activities are presented. It is hoped that this research paper is providing the students how to write a good answer for the academic writing in IELTS.**

***Keywords: Procedures, Academic Writing Task 1, Academic Writing Task 2, Activities***

### 1. Introduction

In our country, Myanmar, English is taught as a mandatory subject in schools and universities. Moreover, in Engineering universities, English is taught with four skills: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking.

For the Engineering students, English is taught with four skills. To be more effective in English, vocabulary and grammar are taught besides the four skills for them. Among these, more difficulties are faced in writing. Therefore, writing in English is very important for every student.

The purpose of this paper is to focus on the methods of teaching the academic writing in IELTS and to improve the writing ability for the Engineering students. As the academic writing is the most creative type of writing, it becomes the only one for learner's consciously mastering the creative, productive and expressive approach towards communicative performance in the target language.

Therefore, this research paper is prepared for the aim of improving the writing skill for the Engineering students by supplying with the procedures for teaching the academic writing.

### 2. Literature Review

IELTS, the International English Language Testing System, is designed to assess the language ability of people who want to study or work where English is the language of communication. IELTS is recognised and accepted by over 9,000 organisations worldwide, including universities, employers, professional bodies, immigration authorities and other government agencies.

IELTS Academic is for test takers wishing to study at undergraduate or postgraduate levels, and for those seeking professional registration while IELTS General Training is for test takers wishing to migrate to an English speaking country (Australia, Canada, New Zealand, UK) and for those wishing to train or study at below degree level.

There are four components in the IELTS test: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. Writing is the third part of the test. It has two options such as Academic Writing and General training Writing.

### 2.1 Academic Writing Test Format

There are two tasks in Academic Writing. In task 1, test takers are given a graph, table, chart or diagram and are asked to summarise and report the information in their own words. Sometimes, they may be asked to select and compare data, describe the stages of a process, how something works or describes an object or event. In Task 2, they are asked to write an essay in response to a point of view, argument or problem.

For the task 1 in the Academic Writing, test takers are assessed on their ability to organise, present and possibly compare data, to describe the stages of a process or procedure: to describe an object or event or sequence of events; to explain how something works. In task 2, depending on the task type, they are assessed on their ability to present a solution to a problem; to present and justify an opinion; to compare and contrast evidence, opinions and implications: to evaluate and challenge ideas, evidence or an argument.

Test takers are assessed on their performance on each task according to the IELTS Academic Writing test assessment criteria:

*Task Achievement/Response* means that the report writing shows the test takers have understood and covered the topic from all its sides, aspects, etc.

*Coherence and Cohesion* means how they well connected the paragraphs and sentences inside each paragraph. All of the paragraphs need to be logically connected.

*Lexical Resource* means vocabulary and different types of sentences: simple and complex. The words can be used with their synonyms.

*Grammatical Range and Accuracy* means spelling and grammar of sentence. The words should be spelled correctly; articles are not be forgotten. Punctuations is also important.

### 2.2 General Useful Advices of Academic Writing in IELTS

Test takers need to consider the following advices in academic writing for IELTS.

- (a) In writing test, there are no right or wrong answers or opinions. The examiners are assessing how well the test takers can use the English to report the information and express ideas.
- (b) The questions are analysed carefully to make sure the answer addresses all the points covered by the question.
- (c) The minimum word limit is noticed. If the test takers write less than 150 words for Task 1 and less than 250 for the Task 2, they will lose mark.
- (d) The test takes must be careful to use their own words because the examiner will not include words copied from the question in the word count.
- (e) The test takers must write both their answer in full, not in note form or in bullet points. Ideas in paragraphs must be arranged to show the examiner that they are able to organize main and supporting points.
- (f) Very long sentences are not needed to write to do well in the writing test. If the sentences are