

Task 2b Justifications - ASEAN Today (article)

This 309-word article is just over the required 300 words by 3%. However, the test taker addresses only one of the three content points satisfactorily. Content point 1 is addressed in both paragraphs 1 and 2. Content point 2 receives minimal coverage in paragraph 2 since the test taker states only that the different departments **work together, share experience and share information**. No examples or supporting information are given. The test taker fails to address content point 3. Instead of writing generally about the skills needed to do the job well, s/he writes about what they as individuals have gained from working in this position. The article is presented in a rather dry and factual way which fails to take into account the text-type requirement that is an article which is to be published. The test taker does not give the article a title.

In terms of organization and coherence, the information in the article is organized in clear paragraphs. However, the test taker does not follow the usual paragraphing conventions. While paragraph 1 for the most part relates to content point 1, paragraph 2 merges information relating to content points 1 and 2. The test taker produces shorter sentences with some use of cohesive devices such as **and, in order to, in term(s) of, usually, especially, the second** as well as **also**.

While the test taker uses an adequate range of vocabulary to talk about her/his job, there are frequent inaccuracies in word choice. For example, in paragraph 1 line 4 the test taker uses **side job** instead of **main and other duties/ responsibilities**. In paragraph 1 line 5 the test taker uses **acknowledge** instead of **knowledge**. In paragraph 1 line 6 s/he uses **integrated** instead of **links**. Then in paragraph 3, line 3, s/he uses **especially** instead of **in particular**.

The test taker lacks control over basic sentence structure. There are errors in every sentence. For example, there is no verb in the opening sentence below.

“The position “Policy and Plan Analyst” in the office of Agricultural Economics, Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives of Thailand.”

Frequent errors can be found concerning the use of active or passive forms. Three of these are shown in the examples below.

“Office of Agricultural Economics had divided to.....” instead of **is divided**. (paragraph 2, line 1)

“I have been participated in APEC Conference on Oct 2010.” instead of **I participated** since the time is known. (paragraph 3 line 3)

“This (conference) was taken place on May last year” instead of **took place** (paragraph 4 line 5)

The test taker has difficulty differentiating between specific and general references. In paragraph 1 line 4, s/he writes, “**I have to attend the meeting and seminar.....**” when they should use the plural form, **I have to attend meetings and seminars.**

The use of uncountable nouns with or without the definite article is also problematic. In paragraph 1 line 5, the test taker writes, “**My side job is collecting the agricultural news from global website...**” when they should write, **My side job is collecting agricultural news from global websites.**

In addition, occasional errors concerning subject verb agreements can be found. In paragraph 3 line 1, the test taker writes, “**I has worked at Office of Agricultural Economics for 4 years.**” instead of **I have worked.**

To sum up, the test taker develops one of the content points satisfactorily, partially attempts the second and fails to address the third. Therefore, s/he does not fully meet the text-type requirements. Organization is adequate with some appropriate use of cohesive devices. The test taker has an adequate range of vocabulary for the task although it is not used effectively (i.e. to help the reader). She has little control of some of the basic grammatical structures. For this reason s/he is awarded below B1.

