

**Controlled Written exam:
Example marked candidate response 1**

Integrated Skills in English – ISE IV

Task 1 – Reading into writing task – text synthesis

Task 2 – Reading into writing task – text transformation

Task 3 – Critical and analytical writing task

Integrated Skills in English IV

Time allowed: 3 hours

This exam paper has three tasks. You must complete all tasks.

Task 1 – Reading into writing task – text synthesis

Read the information below and then, **in your own words**, write an article for an employment website:

- i) summarising how the world of work has changed in the last 25 years in the UK
- ii) discussing the factors which have led to these changes **and**
- iii) envisaging how the world of work may change in your own country in the future.

(Write about 350 words)

Use your own words as far as possible. No marks for answers copied from the reading text. You must make reference to both the text and the graphic information in your answer.

A recent study by the Institute for Social and Economic Research has highlighted the fastest growing and shrinking occupations in the UK today. Researchers examined the current national workforce and compared the number of registered workers in various categories with similar data from 25 years ago. For a relatively short period of time, the results are astonishing. If the UK is representative of other nations, then the shift in business practices has reinvented how people work and the career choices that are available.

Commentators are quick to blame technology and machines for the demise of occupations such as farm workers (down 50%) and office administrators (down 57%). But is this really the case? Can technology always be blamed?

While the number of jobs in manufacturing and agriculture has decreased due to the automation of production, the use of technology has in fact led to increased wages for the workforce that remain. This is because workers are now able to do more duties that in the past may have been deemed to be managerial. Therefore, employees' worth is greater. It could also be argued that technology has enabled a greater increase in the number of 'high-skilled workers'. This is particularly true in sectors such as finance where there are a large number of graduate employees who now have theoretical knowledge as well as technical skills.

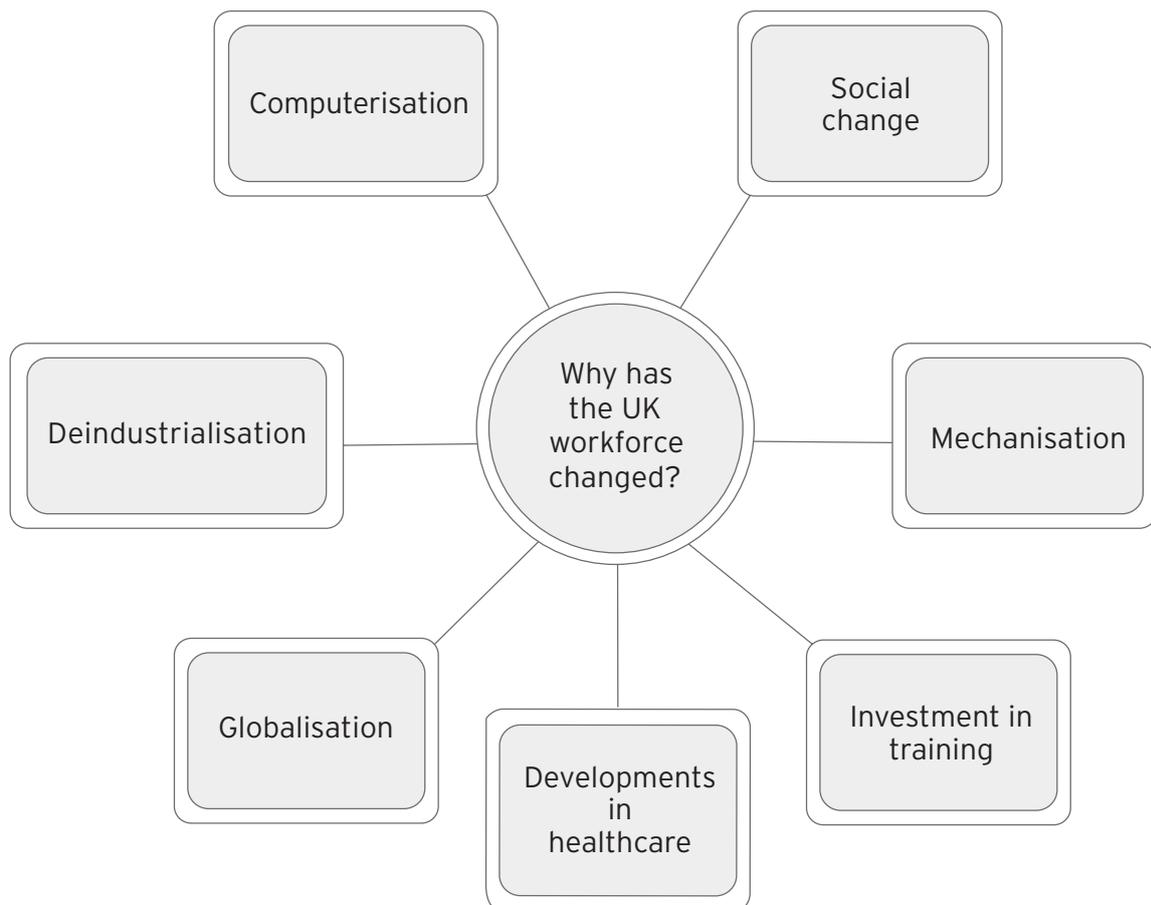
The bigger picture shows that the greatest change in the UK, occupation-wise, has been the transition from a historic manual labour force to a workforce now employed in care, education and service industries. In another 20 years, who knows which occupations will have withered away?

Fastest shrinking occupations in the UK today

Occupation	Data set 1 – 25 years ago (no. of employees)	Data set 2 – Today (no. of employees)	% change
Clothing and textile workers	40,000	7,000	- 82%
Farm workers	137,000	68,000	- 50%
Machine operators	89,000	49,861	- 44%

Fastest growing occupations in the UK today

Occupation	Data set 1 – 25 years ago (no. of employees)	Data set 2 – Today (no. of employees)	% change
Nursing assistants	29,000	261,000	+ 900%
Teaching assistants	72,000	418,000	+ 580%
Care workers	296,000	790,000	+ 267%



HOW ARE TECHNOLOGIES CHANGING OUR CURRENT WORLD OF WORK?

Are you one of those people who have been affected by the fast changes that are taking place in many job positions due to the introduction of new technologies? Do you personally believe that these changes are positive?

As we already know, we are living in the 21st century, a period that has brought many positive and negative changes to our society. These started twenty-five years ago at the very moment we decided to jump on the bandwagon of new technologies. According to statistics, many businesses such as the one related to clothing and textile, and some professions like farmers and machine operators, have seen reduced the number of their workers massively, being the textile sector in the worst position. The main reason for this is that machines are now able to produce even more than humans and, for some companies, technologies are just a blessing in disguise. However, those jobs belonging to the public sector are making benefits of this situation, above all care, education and service industries. These jobs keep on increasing as they require high-skilled human workers.

If we wanted to analyse the main factors that have led to this current situation, we would say that the most relevant ones are the social changes that have taken place recently, the introduction of computers and, laptops, the improvements in hospitals and healthcare and, the establishment of new mechanisms of work. All these facts are just a consequence of globalisation and deindustrialisation and, as a result, workers need more and more training.

Taking into account this study made in the UK, I am absolutely convinced that these data must be very similar in Spain. The problem is that, due to the economical crisis, hospitals are not contracting so many doctors and nurses as Great Britain does. Moreover, owe to the current problems with Catalonia the near future of Spain is not quite clear. What is obvious is that those sectors related to tourism, such as hospitality, will go on increasing as Spain is still one of the top destinations of tourists around the world. So, after all, every cloud has a silver lining.

Word count: 354

Rationale

Task 1 – Reading into writing task – text synthesis

TASK FULFILMENT Grade: B
Overall achievement of communicative aim
The candidate demonstrates good understanding of the source material and makes adequate reference to text and graphic information. There is good fulfilment of the communicative aim with the main points covered, although the third part of the instruction focuses more on how the candidate's country has already changed and will remain the same and less on envisaging possible future changes. The reader would be mostly informed.
Text organisation
The response is clearly presented with ideas and arguments grouped logically with adequate expansion. Good organisation of text with appropriate paragraphs makes the response flow well. There is effective use of cohesive devices throughout.
Appropriacy of format, style and register
The task asks for an article, and the response provides an appropriate title and an introduction which includes questions in order to draw the reader in. The style and register are generally appropriate for an employment website with good awareness of the writer-reader relationship, although it may be a little informal at times, eg 'every cloud has a silver lining'.
Effect on the reader
The overall effect on the reader is positive.

ACCURACY AND RANGE Grade: B
Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level
There is good coverage of grammatical and lexical items of the level in most of the response. The candidate demonstrates a good level of control over accuracy when expressing more complex ideas, particularly in the penultimate paragraph. There is occasional awkwardness, mainly due to word order, eg '...have seen reduced... massively...', which may cause the target audience to re-read. Minor slips, eg '...study made in the UK...', '...economical crisis...', '...so many doctors as Great Britain...' etc, do not impede understanding. The response includes some very natural expressions which are used appropriately, eg '...jump on the bandwagon...', '...at the very moment...', 'All these facts are just a consequence of...'. Spelling and punctuation
Very good spelling and punctuation.

Task 2 – Reading into writing task – text transformation

Read the text below. Then, **in your own words**, present the information given in the text as an online forum on an entertainment website, with two or more contributors:

- i) presenting conflicting views on the value of the independent film industry
- ii) analysing how technological developments have affected this industry **and**
- iii) predicting the viability of independent films in the future.

(Write about 300 words)

Use your own words as far as possible. No marks for answers copied from the reading text.

Independent films are characterised as being small-scale, low-budget affairs, made outside of the major film studios. But why go and see a film with an unheard-of cast made on a shoestring when you can see a billion-dollar Hollywood production? Well, for starters, we need to support emerging talent more than we do today.

But that's not all. There's a lot riding on these massive-budget films, so are the studios going to risk putting out something that doesn't fit into the mainstream? Independent films can do that. They don't need to follow a studio's preconceived notions of what ingredients a successful movie should have. In contrast, mainstream films can be somewhat formulaic in their structure, with a predictable plot and stereotypical characters.

Independent film-makers have no studio breathing down their necks, which can be liberating. But is this always desirable? Modern technology means that anyone with a half-decent camera, laptop and a few dollars can have a go. There's no waiting for their work to be picked up by a major distributor – they can bypass this and release it online. But surely this democratisation of film-making could dilute the quality of independent films? With so many films being made, how will we know what's worth our attention?

Well, perhaps technology has the answer again. Rather than relying on trusted film reviewers, we've all become critics. Innovative new films can quickly create a buzz on social media and we have instant access to them. The internet is a great platform for short films too – major film studios demand feature-length films lasting at least 90 minutes, something often beyond the budget of a cash-strapped independent film-maker. This will become increasingly challenging for all concerned.

But should we be making a distinction? Perhaps we should just judge the quality of what's on the screen and ignore what lies behind it.

Welcome to the forum,

Today, I appeal to you with the intention of discussing about a peculiar subject: independent film industry vs. big Hollywood productions.

In the past years, we have seen the film industry change, from black and white classics, which did not need a high budget to be produced, to massive productions full of technology.

There are several and different thoughts about this issue, the ones who think that despite the fact that independent films are low-budget productions and may have a lower quality, we should encourage new directors, actors and film crew to be creative and have a taste of 'Hollywood', and others who think that mainstream films are more entertaining due to the quality of special effects and famous actors.

Apart from the opinions of people, is true that technology has had a main role in the film industry in the past years. The ability to create great special effects, above all in fantasy and sci-fi movies, is all thanks to new technologies. And the result is that the vast majority of population are so impressed by these effects that high-budget Hollywood productions are becoming more and more popular.

Nevertheless, with the development of new technologies, some platforms on the Internet have been created in order to help people to show their skills or express their opinion freely. It is the case of YouTube, an online platform where anybody can upload a video so the rest of the world can see it, it is a great opportunity to independent film creators to show their work to the world.

To sum up, this controversial issue has led to wonder about the future of independent films, as Hollywood blockbusters are increasing their audience, how do we see the film industry in ten years?

Perhaps, what we call now independent films finally disappear to become the new blockbuster. What do you think?

Word count: 313

Rationale

Task 2 – Reading into writing task – text transformation

TASK FULFILMENT Grade: D
Overall achievement of communicative aim
There is an attempt at the task as the candidate addresses all three points and shows some understanding of the source material. The response covers views on the value of the independent film industry, the effects of technological developments and the viability of independent films in the future. However, there is only one contributor to the online forum rather than two or more, as per the instructions of the task. *Tip: Candidates must analyse the task in detail and ensure that all requirements of the task are fully satisfied. Failure to do so will have a detrimental effect on the grade awarded.
Text organisation
The text is clearly organised into paragraphs with simple cohesive devices, and there is a logical progression.
Appropriacy of format, style and register
The format and style are inappropriate as there is only one contributor and the text reads more like an essay. Register is too formal. *Tip: At this level, candidates are expected to appreciate subtle distinctions of style.
Effect on the reader
Overall, the desired effect is not achieved.

ACCURACY AND RANGE Grade: C
Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level
There is satisfactory coverage of the grammatical, lexical and functional language items of the level. However, range is restricted as the candidate has not used the appropriate format for the task, ie a forum with two or more contributors, and therefore the opportunity to use the range of functions of the level relating to the task, such as softening and downplaying, contradicting, affirming etc, has not been taken. However, language is used with a satisfactory level of accuracy, and any minor errors, eg `...discussing about...`, `...indepent film industry...` do not impede understanding.
Spelling and punctuation
Spelling and punctuation are satisfactory.

Task 3 – Critical and analytical writing task

'It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to give consideration to a thought without accepting it.'
Aristotle, philosopher (384-322 BC)

Write an essay:

- i) discussing the meaning of the statement
- ii) analysing its importance in the educational sphere **and**
- iii) supporting your views with relevant examples.

(Write about 250 words)

As Aristotle stated: "It is the work of an educated mind to be able to give consideration to a thought without accepting it" and I couldn't agree with him more. The aim of this essay is to discuss the meaning of this quote, taking into consideration its repercussion in the educational area and providing some examples to illustrate my viewpoint.

When Aristotle used the term 'an educated mind' he was making allusion to an open-minded able to understand other viewpoints and life-styles. He was referring to those who are able to accept what is different to us and considerate it. In other words, with this quote he was defining the concept of tolerance.

If we analyse the importance of this term in the educational context, we surely realise that it is absolutely crucial and necessary. Sometimes, some parents bark at the wrong tree as they blame teachers of their kids' lack of tolerance and misbehaviour. They can't forget that not only do parents have to bring their children up but they also have to educate them and teach them values such as respect, tolerance and acceptance. As Aristotle affirmed, 'educated minds' are needed in the world to considerate other people's differences (cultural, social, religious...) and this tolerance can only be achieved by instruction.

From my point of view, I consider Aristotle was absolutely right as I am a teacher and I can see the veracity of his statement every day at school. Those kids with an "educated mind" see the world from another perspective. They are respectful with their partners and they never laugh at others. Therefore, Aristotle's quote should be never forgotten, not only by parents and teachers but also by all members of our globalised society.

Word count: 288

Rationale

Task 3 – Critical and analytical writing task

TASK FULFILMENT Grade: C
Overall achievement of communicative aim
<p>The first part of the question is answered with clarity and precision. However, while the main points of the second and third subtasks are covered in a general way, there are irrelevant details and repetition and it is uncertain who the candidate is referring to, ie 'They can't forget that not only...'. Although all parts of the question are attempted and points are developed with examples, the candidate dwells too much on their own experience as a teacher rather than the educational field in general. At 288 words, the response is over-length and part of the candidate's conclusion cannot be assessed.</p> <p>★ Tip: In the Controlled Written exam, a 10% tolerance above and below the stated word length is applied. It is important that candidates do not exceed the word length by more than this as any additional text is not assessed.</p>
Text organisation
<p>The response is well-organised into appropriate paragraphs, the main points are clearly presented and there is reference made to the original quote throughout. The lengthy introduction, which clarifies the objectives of the writer, could be made brief thus saving on word count. The response would benefit from more linking phrases, and although cohesive devices are used, they are a little simple for this level.</p>
Appropriacy of format, style and register
<p>Appropriate format, style and register are generally realised, with the exception of expressions such as 'bark at the wrong tree', terms such as 'kids', as well as very occasional use of contractions, which make the response lack consistency and formality at times. There is good awareness of the writer-reader relationship.</p>
Effect on the reader
<p>Desired effect on the reader mostly achieved.</p>

ACCURACY AND RANGE Grade: B
Accuracy and range of the grammatical, functional and lexical items of the level
<p>There is satisfactory coverage of grammatical, lexical and functional language items of the level, with a good level of accuracy and appropriacy. Although some minor errors occur, eg '...open minded able...', '...considerate it...', '...they blame teachers of...', these do not impede understanding.</p>
Spelling and punctuation
<p>Spelling and punctuation are good.</p>