

I believe this is the best book to prepare students for the IELTS Writing paper.

This highly flexible book is packed with all the ingredients likely to lead to a high band score. It is just splendid! The teacher can pick and choose to target their lessons to their students' needs.

I have been familiar with many books over the past six years and have never come across one book insisting on the different approaches, *i.e.* argument-led *vs* thesis-led, even though the authors avoid the use of jargon. They pinpoint everything the examiner is looking for: paragraphing, topic sentences, cohesive devices... where most books will just give a few hints, some of which even misleading.

The step by step approach of the book is also worth mentioning, with reactivation of previously taught techniques/strategies/language – *e.g.* how to write a good introduction or overview – and introduction of new features, *e.g.* there are two units offering work on the problem/solution type. In every unit there is opportunity for language activation and expansion, which is a good way of introducing variety into the lessons – and we all know how variety is important, especially with exam classes.

Unexperienced and/or untrained IELTS teachers will also find the book invaluable in that it provides thorough information about the writing paper and what makes a good piece of writing for an IELTS examiner. More experienced trainers will be happy to find the answers to questions they often ask themselves, *e.g.* “Where should candidates write their overview in task one?”

One of the strong points of the course book is the commented sample tasks at the end – a most precious tool for teachers. They are reliable, which is far from being the case in other books! These can be useful for teachers wishing to take a product approach to writing and/or to raise their students' awareness of the marking criteria.

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