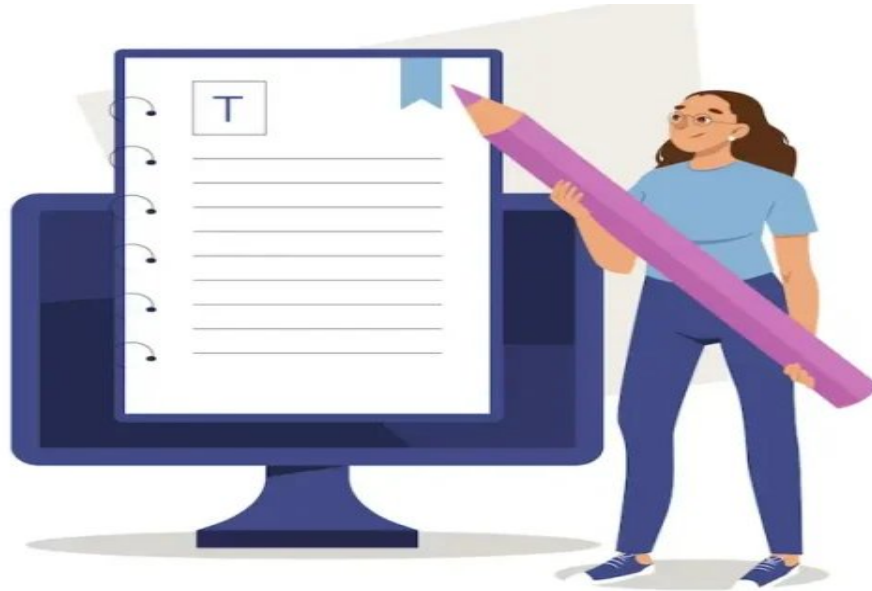


OET Writing Criteria: A Breakdown with Examples



The Occupational English Test (OET) is a crucial milestone for healthcare professionals aspiring to work in English-speaking countries. While the test assesses your proficiency in listening, reading, speaking, and writing, it is the Writing section that often serves as a stumbling block for many candidates. In order to excel, it's imperative to fully understand the scoring criteria for the OET Writing sub-test.

Below is a detailed breakdown of the criteria, complete with examples, presented in a manner that's both professional and easy to understand.

Overview of OET Writing Criteria

The OET Writing sub-test is designed to evaluate six key aspects:

1. **Purpose**
2. **Content**
3. **Conciseness & Clarity**
4. **Genre & Style**
5. **Organization & Layout**
6. **Language**

1. Purpose

Explanation:

The "Purpose" criteria assesses whether the letter achieves its intended goal. Does it convey the

essential information that the receiving healthcare professional would need to know?

Example:

If you are writing a referral letter, the main purpose is to refer a patient for further tests or treatments. Make sure that you include all the necessary information, such as medical history and current symptoms, to facilitate this.

2. Content

Explanation:

Content refers to the relevance and completeness of the information provided in the letter. Are all necessary details included, and is irrelevant information omitted?

Example:

A good referral letter will include details like patient history, symptoms, tests conducted, and your reason for referring. Any personal anecdotes or unrelated medical history should be omitted.

3. Conciseness & Clarity

Explanation:

This aspect measures the ability to communicate information in a clear and straightforward manner, without any unnecessary elaboration.

Example:

Instead of saying, "The patient has been experiencing episodes that could possibly be classified as severe headaches," you could be concise and clear by stating, "The patient has severe headaches."

4. Genre & Style

Explanation:

Genre & Style assess your ability to write in a manner that is appropriate for a healthcare setting. This includes the tone, formality, and structure of the letter.

Example:

Using abbreviations like "BP" for blood pressure is acceptable, but slang or informal language like "the patient feels low" instead of "the patient is experiencing depression" would be considered inappropriate.

5. Organization & Layout

Explanation:

Organization & Layout refer to the logical arrangement of information and adherence to the standard letter format, which includes an opening, body, and closing.

Example:

Start with a salutation, introduce the patient and reason for writing in the opening paragraph, use subsequent paragraphs to provide details, and conclude with a closing paragraph summarizing the action needed.

6. Language

Explanation:

This criteria evaluates the grammatical correctness, vocabulary, and overall language skills exhibited in the writing.

Example:

Avoid grammatical errors like, "The patient have headaches," and instead write, "The patient has headaches."

Conclusion

Understanding the OET Writing criteria is a fundamental step towards achieving a B grade or higher. By paying close attention to each criterion and practicing with these aspects in mind, you can enhance your chances of scoring well in this critical section of the OET examination.

