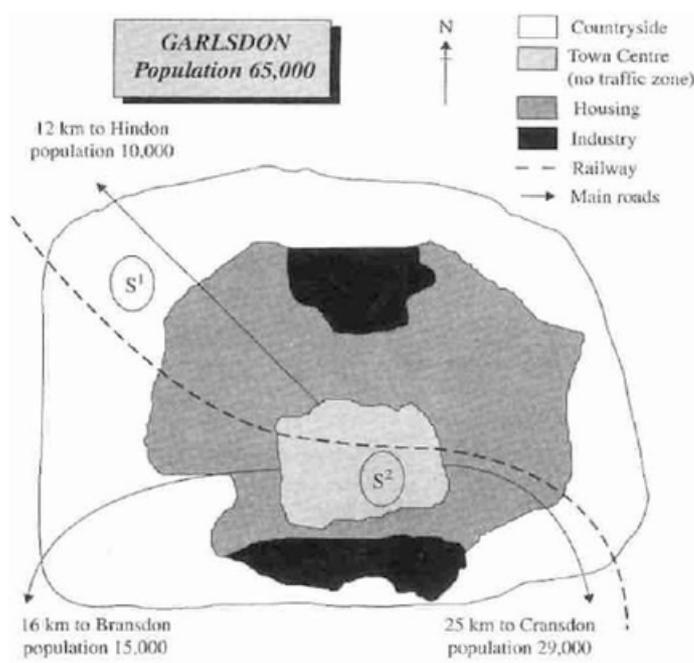


IELTS Writing Task 1: same question, two answers

Look at the following question, then compare the two reports on the next page. I wrote both myself, the first one in August 2011 and the second one in April 2014. I did not look at the first report when writing the second one.

It's interesting that my first two paragraphs (the introduction and overview) are almost identical in each report. You can see that I always use the same approach when writing these paragraphs. On the other hand, I made different decisions when writing paragraphs 3 and 4 (describing specific details). I wouldn't say that one essay is better than the other; I just think it's interesting to compare two ways of answering the same question.

The map below is of the town of Garlsdon. A new supermarket (S) is planned for the town. The map shows two possible sites for the supermarket.



From Cambridge IELTS book 5

Essay 1

The map shows two potential locations (S1 and S2) for a new supermarket in a town called Garlsdon.

The main difference between the two sites is that S1 is outside the town, whereas S2 is in the town centre. The sites can also be compared in terms of access by road or rail, and their positions relative to three smaller towns.

This paragraph compares both sites in terms of their position

Looking at the information in more detail, S1 is in the countryside to the north west of Garlsdon, but it is close to the residential area of the town. S2 is also close to the housing area, which surrounds the town centre.

This paragraph compares both sites in terms of access to roads, railway and other towns

There are main roads from Hindon, Bransdon and Cransdon to Garlsdon town centre, but this is a no traffic zone, so there would be no access to S2 by car. By contrast, S1 lies on the main road to Hindon, but it would be more difficult to reach from Bransdon and Cransdon. Both supermarket sites are close to the railway that runs through Garlsdon from Hindon to Cransdon.

(171 words, band 9)

Essay 2

The map compares two potential locations for the building of a new supermarket in a town called Garlsdon.

The main difference between the two sites is that one is located in the countryside outside the town, whereas the other is in the town centre. Both potential sites are close to the railway, and reasonably near to a main road.

This paragraph is all about S1

The first possible site for the supermarket (S1) is located in an area of countryside to the north west of Garlsdon. It is close to the railway line and to a main road connecting Garlsdon to the smaller town of Hindon. It is also situated near to the residential housing area of Garlsdon.

This paragraph is mainly about S2, but I make sure that I contrast with S1 (by contrast, also, is similar to)

The second site (S2), by contrast, is in Garlsdon town centre. It is also accessible by rail, but not by road because the town centre is a no-traffic zone. Despite this, the main roads to Cransdon, Bransdon and Hindon are not too far away. The distance to Garlsdon's housing area is similar to the distance from S1 to the same area.

(174 words, band 9)