

Test 1

This Test contains two tasks. Complete both tasks.

Task 1 – Reading into writing task

Read the text below and then, **in your own words**, write an article (approximately 250 words) for a lifestyle magazine:

- i) summarizing why the writer decided to take this job and what the results were
- ii) giving your views on the advantages and disadvantages of living in a village.

Moving to a village

I suppose there comes a time in everyone's life when they feel that the commute to work and back every day has lost its charm. When I was a newly qualified doctor, perhaps there was excitement in the challenge of big city life, a feeling that finally I could stand on my own two feet. However, that had disappeared long ago. As well as coming to hate the crowds and the non-stop traffic, I had a growing feeling that half the health problems I was trying to cure were caused simply by the environment. Surely, I reasoned, life and work would both be easier in a nice little place in the countryside. When the opportunity to move to Hainforth, a village of about 500 people, came up, I leapt at the chance.

In some ways, it was what I had expected. My hour on the underground was replaced by a five-minute walk across a field. The sound of traffic was replaced by the sounds of farm animals in the distance. The air no longer smelled of car fumes. It was strange at first, but I enjoyed it.

One problem I faced was dealing with the people. It wasn't that they were unfriendly. In fact, I was welcomed with open arms. What I was used to, though, was going home at the end of the day and leading my own anonymous, private life. In the village, there was no escape. I might mention something to one person, and by the next day it seemed as if everyone in the village knew about it. In the city, I had hardly known who my next-door neighbour was, and suddenly here everyone knew every detail of my life. It took a long time for a city boy like me to get used to it.

