

OET Writing Correction Report

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Letter 1: Referral to cardiology: exertional chest pain

OWC-SAMPLE-1 · Sample student · 11 October 2026 · Corrected by Dr Mariam's OET correction team

SAMPLE REPORT

In a real correction of your own letter you get every mistake corrected and explained, a conciseness and paraphrasing lesson on your case notes, and grammar lessons built from your mistakes, with exercises. Back in 24, 48 or 72 hours.

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YOUR TEACHER'S ESTIMATE

340 / 500

Grade C+

Grade C+ (300 to 340): close. Some boards accept C+ in Writing (the UK NMC for nurses), but most ask for B, which starts at 350.

An estimate from your teacher's marks, not an official OET result.

START HERE: YOUR TWO PRIORITIES

1. Language: 4 / 7 · 6 corrections in this letter

To reach 5: Minor slips in language generally do not interfere with meaning.

2. Content: 4 / 7 · 1 correction in this letter

To reach 5: The content is appropriate to the reader and mostly addresses what is needed to continue care; the case notes are generally represented accurately.

What you did best: Organisation & Layout, 6 / 7. Keep doing what you did here.

YOUR TEACHER'S COMMENT

Your letter is well organised: symptoms, risk factors, examination and plan come in a sensible order, and the cardiologist can follow it easily. The biggest gains are in two places. First, the opening paragraph should tell Dr Lee exactly why you are writing and how urgent it is. Second, most of your language mistakes are the same three patterns: missing articles, present simple where English needs the present perfect, and a missing -s after he. Fix those three and your Language mark rises quickly. You are close to Grade B.

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Your six marks

Each OET criterion with your mark, how close it is to the top, and what the mark means in OET's own wording.

Purpose

Focus here

2 / 3

The purpose is apparent but not sufficiently highlighted or expanded.

1 correction in this letter.

Content

Focus here

4 / 7

Between 3 and 5. To reach 5: The content is appropriate to the reader and mostly addresses what is needed to continue care; the case notes are generally represented accurately.

1 correction in this letter.

Conciseness & Clarity

Nearly there

5 / 7

The length mostly suits the case and the reader; information is mostly summarised effectively and presented clearly.

1 correction in this letter.

Genre & Style

Nearly there

5 / 7

The writing is clinical, factual and appropriate to the reader with occasional minor slips in register, abbreviations or polite language.

1 correction in this letter.

Organisation & Layout

Strong

6 / 7

Between 5 and 7. To reach 7: Organisation and paragraphing are appropriate, logical and clear; key information is highlighted and the letter is well laid out.

Language

Focus here

4 / 7

Between 3 and 5. To reach 5: Minor slips in language generally do not interfere with meaning.

6 corrections in this letter.

What are YOUR six marks?

A score stuck below Grade B is usually held back by one or two criteria that are hard to see in your own writing. One corrected letter shows you which, and what to do about it.

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Corrections, paragraph by paragraph (10)

Read each one beside your letter. By criterion: Purpose 1 · Content 1 · Conciseness & Clarity 1 · Genre & Style 1 · Language 6.

Paragraph 1

1	YOU WROTE	I am writing to refer Mr Hughes, 58-year-old accountant, who is complaining from chest pain since three weeks.	Purpose
	BETTER	I am writing to refer Mr Hughes, a 58-year-old accountant, for urgent assessment of suspected stable angina.	
	WHY	The opening must give the reason for the referral and its urgency, not only the symptom. Dr Lee should know what you want from her in the first sentence.	
2	YOU WROTE	58-year-old accountant	Language
	BETTER	a 58-year-old accountant	
	WHY	A singular countable noun needs an article. Rule: a/an before a singular job or description the first time you mention it.	
3	YOU WROTE	complaining from chest pain since three weeks	Language
	BETTER	He has had exertional chest pain for the past three weeks.	
	WHY	Use the present perfect for something that started in the past and continues now, with 'for' plus a period. 'Complain of', not 'complain from'.	

Paragraph 2

4	YOU WROTE	The patient was seen by me on 10 October.	Conciseness & Clarity
	BETTER	I saw him on 10 October.	
	WHY	The passive here adds words without adding meaning. Active and short reads faster for a busy specialist.	
5	YOU WROTE	He describe a tight central chest pain which comes when he walk uphill	Language
	BETTER	He describes central chest tightness that comes on when he walks uphill	
	WHY	After he, she or it, the present simple verb takes -s: he describes, he walks.	
6	YOU WROTE	He is smoker of 20 cigarettes per day for 30 years	Language
	BETTER	He has smoked 20 cigarettes a day for 30 years	
	WHY	Present perfect again: the habit started 30 years ago and continues. 'He is smoker' also needs an article, but the verb form is clearer.	
7	YOU WROTE	he has hypertension since 2019 which is treated by amlodipine 5 mg daily	Language
	BETTER	He has had hypertension since 2019, treated with amlodipine 5 mg daily.	
	WHY	'Since' plus a point in time needs the present perfect. Medication is treated 'with', not 'by'.	

Paragraph 3

8	YOU WROTE	(not mentioned)	Content
	BETTER	His total cholesterol was raised at 6.8 mmol/L.	
	WHY	The case notes give a raised cholesterol. It is a cardiac risk factor, so the cardiologist needs it. Leaving it out costs you on Content.	

Paragraph 4

9	YOU WROTE	see him urgently and do further investigations	Genre & Style
	BETTER	assess him urgently and arrange any further investigations you consider appropriate	
	WHY	Writing to a specialist, leave the choice of tests to her. 'Do investigations' is too informal for this reader.	

10	YOU WROTE	Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further informations.	Language
	BETTER	Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.	
	WHY	No contractions in a formal letter. 'Information' is uncountable: it never takes -s.	

Your letter, corrected

Your own letter with the corrections applied: your content, your order. Read it aloud once, then rewrite it from memory.

Dr Sarah Lee
Cardiology Department
Northfield Hospital

10 October 2026

Dear Dr Lee,

Re: Mr Daniel Hughes, DOB 14/03/1967

I am writing to refer Mr Hughes, a 58-year-old accountant, for urgent assessment of suspected stable angina. He has had exertional chest pain for the past three weeks.

I saw him on 10 October. He describes central chest tightness that comes on when he walks uphill and settles after about five minutes of rest. He has smoked 20 cigarettes a day for 30 years and has had hypertension since 2019, treated with amlodipine 5 mg daily. His father had a myocardial infarction at the age of 60, and his total cholesterol was raised at 6.8 mmol/L.

On examination, his blood pressure was 152/94 mmHg and his pulse was 78 and regular. His ECG showed no acute changes. I have started him on aspirin 75 mg daily and a GTN spray as required, and I have advised him to stop smoking.

I would be grateful if you could assess him urgently and arrange any further investigations you consider appropriate. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Yours sincerely,

Doctor

Your case notes lesson

How to choose from these case notes and turn them into letter sentences. Conciseness & Clarity and Content are won here, before you write a word.

Keep or leave out: what this reader needs

KEEP

DOB 14/03/1967, 58

Name, date of birth and age identify the patient: put them in the Re: line and the opening sentence.

LEAVE OUT

Accountant

His job does not change Dr Lee's assessment of his chest pain. You put it in your opening; it pushes the reason for writing further back.

KEEP

3-week history of central chest tightness on walking uphill

This is why you are referring him: it belongs in the first paragraph with the request.

KEEP

Settles after about 5 min rest. No pain at rest.

Pain on exertion that settles with rest, and none at rest, is exactly what the cardiologist needs to judge how stable it is. You left out "no pain at rest".

KEEP

Smoker, 20/day for 30 years

A major cardiac risk factor, with the amount that shows how important it is.

KEEP

Hypertension since 2019 (amlodipine 5 mg daily)

A risk factor and his current treatment: Dr Lee needs both.

KEEP

Father: MI aged 60

Family history of heart disease is a risk factor.

KEEP

Total cholesterol 6.8 mmol/L

A raised cholesterol completes the risk-factor picture. It is missing from your letter, and it costs marks for Content.

KEEP

BP 152/94, pulse 78 regular

Shows his blood pressure is not controlled on amlodipine.

KEEP

ECG: no acute changes

Tells Dr Lee what has already been done, so the referral is for further investigation.

KEEP

Aspirin 75 mg daily, GTN spray PRN, smoking cessation advice

What you have started, so the cardiologist knows his current management. One sentence is enough.

From notes to sentences

NOTE

3-week history of central chest tightness on walking uphill

LETTER

Mr Hughes has a three-week history of central chest tightness when walking uphill.

NOTE

Settles after about 5 min rest. No pain at rest.

LETTER

This settles after about five minutes' rest, and he has no pain at rest.

NOTE

Smoker, 20/day for 30 years

LETTER

He has smoked 20 cigarettes a day for 30 years.

NOTE

Hypertension since 2019 (amlodipine 5 mg daily)

LETTER

He has had hypertension since 2019, which is treated with amlodipine 5 mg daily.

NOTE	Father: MI aged 60
LETTER	His father had a myocardial infarction at the age of 60.
NOTE	BP 152/94, pulse 78 regular
LETTER	On examination, his blood pressure was 152/94 mmHg and his pulse was 78 and regular.
NOTE	Plan: aspirin 75 mg daily, GTN spray PRN
LETTER	I have started him on aspirin 75 mg daily and a GTN spray to use as needed.

Your study plan

Twenty minutes on each part before your next letter will move your marks more than writing another letter straight away.

Grammar to work on

Present perfect with for and since

You wrote: who is complaining from chest pain since three weeks

Correct: He has had chest pain for the past three weeks.

Something that started in the past and is still true now: has/have + past participle, with for (a period) or since (a point in time).

Third person -s

You wrote: He describe ... when he walk uphill

Correct: He describes ... when he walks uphill.

In the present simple, a verb after he, she or it ends in -s.

Articles before singular nouns

You wrote: Mr Hughes, 58-year-old accountant

Correct: Mr Hughes, a 58-year-old accountant

A singular countable noun needs a, an or the in front of it.

Practise these: Grammar for OET Letters, 8 short lessons. oetwritingcorrection.com/oet-grammar-course

Words to change

INSTEAD OF	USE
complaining from	presenting with / has had
heart attack	myocardial infarction
do investigations	arrange investigations
don't	do not
informations	information

Phrases to keep for this kind of letter

- 1 I am writing to refer [patient], a [age]-year-old [occupation], for urgent assessment of [problem].
- 2 He has a three-week history of [symptom].
- 3 On examination, ...
- 4 I would be grateful if you could assess him and arrange any further investigations you consider appropriate.

5 Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information.

Practice: rewrite each sentence in OET style

1. Rewrite correctly: 'She is diabetic since 2015 which is treated by metformin.'

2. Rewrite correctly: 'He complain from cough since two weeks.'

3. Rewrite correctly: 'Patient is retired teacher who live alone.'

4. Write an opening sentence for a referral to a dermatologist for an urgent review of a changing mole.

Before your next letter

- ☐ Write your opening in one or two sentences: who the patient is, why you are writing, how urgent it is.
- ☐ Before you write, mark each case note as needed or not needed for this reader.
- ☐ In your last two minutes, check every singular noun for a, an or the, and every 'he' verb for -s.

Your letter as you sent it

For comparison with the corrected letter.

Dr Sarah Lee
Cardiology Department
Northfield Hospital

10 October 2026

Dear Dr Lee,

Re: Mr Daniel Hughes, DOB 14/03/1967

I am writing to refer Mr Hughes, 58-year-old accountant, who is complaining from chest pain since three weeks.

The patient was seen by me on 10 October. He describe a tight central chest pain which comes when he walk uphill and goes after rest for 5 minutes. He is smoker of 20 cigarettes per day for 30 years and he has hypertension since 2019 which is treated by amlodipine 5 mg daily. His father had a heart attack at age 60.

On examination, his blood pressure was 152/94 and his pulse was 78 and regular. ECG showed no acute changes. I have started him on aspirin 75 mg daily and GTN spray as needed, and I advised him to stop smoking.

I would be grateful if you could see him urgently and do further investigations. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you need any further informations.

Yours sincerely,

Doctor

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