

WRITING SUB-TEST – TEST BOOKLET

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

You must write your answer for the Writing sub-test in the **Writing Answer Booklet**.

You must **NOT** remove OET material from the test room.

Occupational English Test

WRITING SUB-TEST: MEDICINE

TIME ALLOWED: READING TIME: 5 MINUTES

WRITING TIME: 40 MINUTES

Read the case notes and complete the writing task which follows.

Notes:

Assume that today's date is 30 August 2019

You are a doctor at Newtown Medical Clinic. Mr Barry Jones is a regular patient of yours.

PATIENT DETAILS:

Name: Mr Barry Jones
DOB: 11 Jun 1973 (age 46)
Address: 54 Woods Street, Newtown
Reason for presenting: Wants to return to work after back injury – employer supportive
Medical history: 1988 – Appendix removed
Social background: Married – Susan Jones, 3 children
Work – drives forklift in a large warehouse (requires prolonged sitting/
occasional heavy-lifting)
Current medications: Naproxen (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug)
Carisoprodol (muscle relaxant, blocks pain)

Condition history:

31 May 2019

Presentation: Hurt back lifting heavy box off floor at work
4 days since initial strain
No rest, pain worsening

X-ray: No disc problems

Diagnosis: Lower back strain – severe

Treatment: Exercise: walking daily – gradual ↑time/distance
Referral to physio
Prescription: naproxen and carisoprodol
30 days off work and certificate to give to employer
To review in 30 days

28 Jun 2019	Progress:	<p>Back: Still sore Moving very stiffly</p> <p>Physio: Exercises 'very painful' but Pt is compliant</p> <p>Exercise: Walking up to 10 min per day</p>
	Treatment:	Extended time off work – 30 days. To review in 30 days
29 Jul 2019	Progress:	<p>Back: Recovering well – still in pain Still moving very stiffly</p> <p>Physio: Attending regular appointments</p> <p>Exercise: Walking 15-20 mins per day – 'very tiring'</p>
	Treatment:	<p>↑Naproxen dose</p> <p>Extended time off work – 30 days. To review in 30 days</p>
30 Aug 2019	Progress:	<p>Back: Recovering well – still in pain Moving stiffly but ↑ROM Pain ↑after 20-30 mins of sitting or lying down</p> <p>Physio: Still attending appointments</p> <p>Exercise: Walking 30 mins per day – 'tiring'</p>
	Discussions:	Pt bored, discouraged, wants to return to work. Restless
	Treatment:	<p>Return to work if no lifting & with regular breaks</p> <p>Letter to OT requesting assessment of workplace (advise on duties Pt can perform, etc.)</p>

Writing Task:

Using the information in the case notes, write a letter to Ms Graham, an occupational therapist, detailing Mr Jones' situation and requesting an assessment of his workplace. Address the letter to Ms Jane Graham, Newtown Occupational Therapy, 10 Johnston St, Newtown.

In your answer:

- **Expand the relevant notes into complete sentences**
- **Do not use note form**
- **Use letter format**

The body of the letter should be approximately 180–200 words.

Any answers recorded here will not be marked.

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Occupational English Test

WRITING SUB-TEST: MEDICINE

SAMPLE RESPONSE: LETTER OF REFERRAL

Ms Jane Graham
Newtown Occupational Therapy
10 Johnston St
Newtown

30 August 2019

Dear Ms Graham

Re: Mr Barry Jones
DOB: 11.06.1973

I am writing to request a workplace assessment for the above patient Mr Jones. He is a forklift driver but has been off work for three months after he injured his back at work trying to move a heavy box off the floor.

Mr Jones has been seeing a physiotherapist for the past three months. He currently walks for 30 minutes per day although he reports that this is quite tiring.

Mr Jones has been compliant with his physiotherapy and is recovering from his injury as expected. He is eager to return to work in some capacity but still gets some discomfort in his back if he sits for prolonged periods. Given that he is required to sit for long periods at work and occasionally required to perform heavy lifting, I do not believe he is ready to return to work in his previous capacity, but may return if it can be arranged for him to avoid heavy lifting and take regular breaks. Mr Jones's employer is supportive of his return to work.

Could you please conduct an evaluation of Mr Jones' workplace and provide advice as to what duties he could perform there consistent with his recovery.

Please contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Doctor