Some people say that the only reason for learning a foreign language is in order to travel to or work in a foreign country. Others say that these are not the only reasons why someone should learn a foreign language.

Discuss both these views and give your own opinion.

Cambridge IELTS 11, Test 3, Writing Task 2 (Cambridge English 2016, p.78)

It is said by many that people should acquire a second language because there may be a need for individuals to travel to a foreign country for work, business or leisure. Others believe that people should study a foreign language for reasons other than these travel. While I think learning a foreign language for the purpose of travelling to a foreign country has some merits, I agree with the view that there are other reasons why people should do so, which will be outlined in this essay. This essay will... You could improve your introduction by briefly outlining your main points. What are they?

It is undoubtedly certain that before people travel to a foreign country for employment or a holiday, it would be beneficial to have some proficiency in of that country's language. Being able to speak its language would make life much easier. in the country than not having any knowledge of its native tongue. For instance, if a foreigner could communicate in the host country's language, he would achieve simple daily tasks such as going to the supermarket, ordering food in a restaurant and giving directions to taxi drivers without much difficulty.

You have developed your main idea well here, but it could be improved by including a specific example.

Granted, one reason for acquiring a second language is for the purpose of staying in a foreign country for work or leisure, but there are other reasons for doing so. Wanting to break down barriers with international students who come to study in one's country is a good reason for studying another language. In my view, being able to communicate withpeople in their language opens doors to all sorts of possibilities and potential, such as cross cultural friendships and business opportunities. For example, not only was I was able to make many close friendships with Chinese students because of my ability to speak Mandarin, I also helped set up an English language school with one of my Chinese friends from in China.

 Good paragraph.

In conclusion, while it is advantageous to learn a foreign language due to work or for leisure purposes, there are also many other reasons for doing so.

You need to summarize the idea "breaking down barriers".

Word Count: 321

Task Response- Band 7

You have sufficiently addressed all parts of the task.

You present a well-developed response to the question with relevant, extended and supported ideas.

The only thing missing are specific examples in each paragraph. If you included these you would get a Band 8.

You have also made your position very clear throughout the essay.

Suggestion- The one thing lacking in your answer is a specific example for each supporting paragraph.

You can make your examples more specific by including dates, places, names, statistics etc.

Coherence and Cohesion- Band 7

You logically organise information and ideas and there is clear progression throughout. I especially like the way you have organised your ideas in the paragraphs with one main idea in one paragraph and the other main idea in the other paragraph. ƒ

You use a range of cohesive devices (linking words) appropriately although there is some over-use. All linking words are used accurately and effectively, but there tends to be a reliance on them through overuse. This is not a huge problem, but the higher band scores use cohesive devices much less than you currently do.

Your introduction is not effective.

Your conclusion lacks a full summary.

Suggestions- Your use of cohesive devices is very good, but you do have a tendency to overuse them. You don't get more marks for every cohesive device you use and in fact, you will be penalised for overusing them. Only use them when necessary. If you look at my example essays I might only use them once or twice per paragraph.

Keep using the paragraph structure you are using now and you will be fine.

Your coherence would benefit if you made your opinion clear in the introduction and outlined your main ideas. This makes it much easier for the reader to follow your argument and keeps your mind focused on supporting your opinion.

Summarize both of your body paragraphs.

Vocabulary- Band 8

You use a wide range of vocabulary fluently and flexibly to convey precise meanings.

You skilfully use uncommon lexical items but there are occasional inaccuracies in word choice and collocation ƒ

You only produce rare errors in word formation.

Suggestions- Well done. This was one of the strongest parts of your essay. If you keep doing this in the exam you will do really well. Remember that it is about using vocabulary naturally so only try to use a word when it is natural to do so, in other words don't try to force big words into your writing.

Grammar- Band 8

You use a wide range of grammatical structures and nearly all of your sentences are complex.

The majority of sentences are completely error-free

You make only very occasional errors or inappropriacies and these never impede communication.

Suggestions- Your grammar is good and most of your sentences have no errors at all. Keep doing this and you will do fine.

Try to leave yourself at least 2-3 minutes at the end of the test to read your essay again and check for small mistakes. Everyone makes small mistakes and 2 minutes at the end can really raise your band score in this area.

Overall- Band 7.5

Overall, this was a very good essay, but you could improve it in the following ways:

- Paraphrase the question in the first sentence.

- Give a clear opinion in the introduction.

- Outline your main ideas in the introduction.

- Include one specific example in each main body paragraph.

- Summarise your main ideas in the conclusion and reiterate your opinion.

- Reduce the number of words in your essay to between 260-290 words.