



Transport and Travel

Note-taking: railway station upgrades | Cambridge IGCSE ESL 0510/0511

1. Lead-in discussion

Talk with a partner before you read.

1. What makes a train station easy to use?
2. Why do older stations need upgrading?
3. How can transport be made more accessible?
4. What problems can building work cause for passengers?

Exercise 3 at a glance

In this activity, you will read one factual text and complete notes using information from the text. In the exam, this task is usually worth 7 marks. This practice version includes extra notes to help you build confidence. Use short words or phrases from the text, not your own ideas.

2. Read for overall understanding

Read the text. Why are railway stations upgraded?

Railway Station Upgrades

Many railway stations were built before modern travel needs were fully understood. Today, stations may be upgraded to improve accessibility, safety and passenger information. The work can include new lifts, wider entrances, better lighting and clearer signs. These changes help older passengers, disabled travellers, parents with pushchairs and visitors carrying luggage.

Passenger information is a major focus. New display screens can show platform changes, delays and the length of trains. Audio announcements may be made clearer, especially in large stations where sound echoes. Some stations add maps showing bus stops, taxi ranks and walking routes into the town centre.

Safety improvements are also common. Platforms may receive brighter lighting, extra cameras and yellow warning lines near the edge. Staff sometimes redesign crowded areas so passengers do not gather at narrow entrances. In busy stations, small layout changes can make movement smoother during rush hour.

Upgrades can be frustrating while they are happening. Passengers may face temporary footbridges, closed ticket offices or longer walking routes. Shops near the station may lose customers during building work. However, transport planners argue that short-term disruption is worth it if the finished station is easier and safer for everyone to use.

Passengers may judge an upgrade differently depending on their needs. A commuter may care most about faster movement through the station, while a tourist may need clearer signs. A wheelchair user may notice whether lifts are reliable and easy to find. Transport planners collect feedback because a station that looks modern is not always easy to use. Good design must work for many different kinds of passenger.

During building work, communication is important. Passengers need early warnings, temporary signs and staff who can explain changes. If information is poor, even a useful improvement can create frustration before passengers see the final benefit.

Accessibility groups are often consulted before designs are final. Their comments can reveal problems that planners may miss, such as signs placed too high or routes that are too long for passengers with limited mobility.

Local businesses may also be affected while the work is taking place, so planners need to explain the timetable clearly and keep access routes open.

3. Strategy focus

Sort improvements from temporary problems

Transport texts may describe long-term improvements and short-term disruption. Check the heading before choosing a note.

4. Practice note-taking task

Complete the notes using information from the text. Use short words or phrases from the text. Do not add your own ideas.

Notes	Write short answers
Accessibility improvements	- - -
Passenger information	- - -
Safety improvements	- - -
Temporary problems	- - -

5. Vocabulary notebook

Underline five useful words or phrases from the text. Check their meaning, then record them in your vocabulary notebook.

6. Follow-up tasks

1. Discussion: Which station improvement would help passengers most?
2. Strategy: Choose three answers and underline the key word that tells you which heading it matches.
3. Writing: Write a short announcement explaining station building work.
4. Vocabulary: Circle words and phrases connected to transport, travel and public services.

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2. Read for overall understanding

Suggested answer: to improve accessibility, safety and passenger information.

4. Practice note-taking task

Accessibility improvements

- new lifts
- wider entrances
- clearer signs

Passenger information

- platform changes
- delays
- walking routes into the town centre

Safety improvements

- brighter lighting
- extra cameras
- yellow warning lines

Temporary problems

- temporary footbridges
- closed ticket offices
- longer walking routes

Notes for checking

This is an extended practice version of the IGCSE ESL note-taking task. The live exam normally has fewer marks, but this version includes extra notes to build confidence and selection skills.

Accept short phrases that keep the same meaning.

Learners should avoid copying a whole sentence if a shorter note answers the heading.

Some answers need more than one or two words, especially when the key detail is a phrase.