

IELTS Academic Writing Task 1: Diagram

To see the diagram that this response describes, visit:

<https://www.pelaonline.com/sample-ielts-academic-writing-task-1-questions>

The diagram describes the impact clouds have on radiation entering and cycling through the Earth's atmosphere. Overall, it is notable that while clouds at different altitudes have varying effects on radiation that hits them, low-lying clouds have a greater effect on shortwave radiation and high-altitude clouds have a larger impact on longwave radiation.

According to the diagram, over half of the shortwave radiation that hits low clouds seems to be absorbed by the clouds, with one-third being reflected back into space--very little of it reaches the Earth's surface. In contrast, when this type of radiation hits high clouds, none is absorbed; nearly all of it passes through to the Earth's surface.

A somewhat inverse process is seen with longwave radiation (radiation emanating from the Earth's surface); high clouds seem to absorb around half of the longwave radiation that hits them. Very little of this radiation passes through high clouds into space, with roughly equal amounts of the remaining radiation seeming to be either absorbed or reflected by the high clouds. In the case of low clouds, about equal amounts of the remaining longwave radiation seem to be either pass through or is reflected by the low clouds; it appears that no longwave radiation is absorbed by the low clouds.