

International GCSE

English as a Second Language (9–1)

Exemplars with examiner commentaries
Unit 3: Writing

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in English as a Second Language (4XES2)

First teaching September 2024

First examination June 2025

Issue 1





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Through initiatives such as onscreen marking and administration, Pearson is leading the way in using technology to modernise educational assessment and to support teachers and learners.

This guide is Issue 1. We will inform centres of any changes to this issue. The latest issue can be found on the Pearson Edexcel website:

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Introduction

1 About this booklet

This booklet has been produced to support teachers delivering Pearson Edexcel International GCSE in English as a Second Language (4XES2) specification. Unit 3: Writing exemplar materials will enable teachers to guide their learners in the application of knowledge and skills required to successfully complete this course. The booklet looks at questions 1, 2 and 3 - showing sample candidate responses to questions and how examiners have applied the mark schemes to demonstrate how learner responses should be marked.

Please note: these are pre-first assessment exemplar materials.

2 How to use this booklet

Each item covered in this booklet contains:

- question
- mark scheme
- sample exemplar responses for the selected question
- exemplification of the marker grading decision based on the mark scheme, accompanied by examiner commentary, including the rationale for the decision and guidance on how the answer can be improved to earn more marks.

The exemplification highlights the achievement of the assessment objectives at the high, mid and low level of sample candidate responses.

Centres should utilise the commentaries on the exemplification of marker decisions to support their internal formative assessment of learners and embed examination skills into the delivery of the specification.

3 Further support

A range of materials is available from the Pearson qualifications website to support you in planning and delivering this specification.

Centres may find it beneficial to review this document in conjunction with: the specification, sample assessment materials, and Getting Started Guide.



Question 1

You want to go shopping with your friend at the weekend.

Write an email to your friend about this.

In your email you **must**:

- ask your friend to go shopping with you
- write why you want to go shopping
- suggest where to meet your friend.

Aim to write approximately **80** words in English.

(10)

Mark scheme

Communication and content		Linguistic knowledge and accuracy	
Mark	Descriptor	Mark	Descriptor
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full coverage of the required information, with some development. • Mostly uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Communication is generally clear but with some ambiguity; generally effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of vocabulary is appropriate for most of the response. • Good range of straightforward and some complex structures that are generally used effectively and appropriately. • Vocabulary and structures are accurate for most of the response; mostly minor errors, with occasional major errors.
3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial coverage of the required information, with limited development. • Generally uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Some examples of clear communication, the message sometimes breaks down; cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation sometimes used effectively. 	3-4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of vocabulary is appropriate for some of the response. • Adequate but predictable range of straightforward structures that are sometimes used effectively and appropriately. • Some accurate vocabulary and structures; errors occur, some of which are major.



1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited coverage of the required information, with little or no development. Only sometimes uses appropriate tone and register for the task. Limited examples of clear communication, the message often breaks down; limited use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 		1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of vocabulary is limited. Limited range of simple structures, likely to be repetitive. Limited accuracy of vocabulary and structures; frequent errors, both major and minor.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rewardable material. 		0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rewardable material.

Exemplar response A

Dear Zoe

How are you? I hope you are having a good week.

Would you be able to come shopping with me on Saturday? I need to buy a special outfit for my cousin's wedding and I would really like your advice. You have such great fashion sense! I know you'll make much better choices than I would on myself.

How about meeting at the fountain in the shopping centre at 2.30 p.m? Would that be ok?

I'm really looking forward to see you and catch up,

Anna

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 10 marks.

Communication and content (5)

This response is written in a suitable style for an informal email to a friend. It covers all the required information given in the bullet points with some development. It also includes an appropriate opening and closing. There is effective use of paragraphing and punctuation.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (5)

The range of vocabulary and grammar is appropriate for an informal email to a friend and includes a variety of structures. There are a few minor grammatical errors (*on myself, to see you and catch up*). To achieve full marks, the response does not have to be completely error-free.



Exemplar response B

Dear Mila

How are you?

I ask you to go shopping with my at the weekend. My mother have birthday next week. I want by a presant for her. I want by a book. She like reading books.

I suggest where to meet is bus stop. This near my house and your house also.

See you soon

Alma

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 5 marks.

Communication and content (3)

Although there is an attempt to cover the required information, this response relies heavily on the information provided in the bullet points. However, there is some development for bullet point 2. The candidate also includes an appropriate opening: *How are you?* and closing: *See you soon* for the tone and register of an informal email. There is some effective use of paragraphing and punctuation, but the response feels disjointed overall and would benefit from more cohesive devices. The message is understandable throughout, but errors affect the clarity.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (2)

The range of vocabulary used is limited and repetitive, but it is appropriate. However, there are several spelling errors (*by*, *presant*) and frequent grammar errors although these generally do not impact on meaning.

The response could be improved by using linking words and phrases within and between sentences. In addition, if the response were longer (it is 58 words vs the recommended wordcount of 80), the candidate could better demonstrate their knowledge of a wider range of vocabulary and grammar structures.



Exemplar response C

Dear Marco

I wrot you to go shopping with me. I happy if you go shopping with me. Do you likes shopping? In shopping mall finding many shops, sush as, bookshop, shoeshop, baker, supermarket, jewlery, and clothshop. For transpotation, bus, cars and taxi. The bus color were green and goes quik. Taxis were expesnive. also in shopping mall finding play games like ice-skatting, tabel tennis and basketbal.

I happy that you go shopping with me.

Love

Yasmin

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 3 marks.

Communication and content (2)

This response has limited coverage of the required information. The candidate makes an attempt to fulfil bullet point one but does not cover points two or three. The invitation to go shopping is ambiguous because of the word *wrot* (it is unclear if the candidate meant *wrote* or *want*). The tone is sometimes appropriate for the task but there is no awareness of the audience in the main body of the response. Most of the response is a list of shops that is not required and is therefore off task.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (1)

Although the candidate presents a range of appropriate vocabulary for a text on shopping, it is not relevant for the task. There is a limited range of simple structures which are repetitive and not accurate. There are major and minor errors throughout, and frequent spelling errors, which include: *wrot*, *sush as*, *jewlry* and *tabel*.

The response could be improved by addressing all the bullet points and including a wider range of grammatical structures and cohesive devices to add fluency.



Question 2

This question uses the semi-formal writing format, which is best defined and exemplified as follows:

Semi-formal writing is a style that is more formal than casual or informal writing (such as an email to a friend) but less formal than academic or professional writing.

It typically follows more formal writing conventions such as using complete sentences, proper grammar and avoiding slang, while being somewhat relaxed in tone as per the target audience.

Examples include:

- reports / articles for the school or community magazine
- letters of complaint to companies about everyday issues with products, travel, accommodation, etc.
- job applications, such as part-time or voluntary roles in local businesses or charity shops.

Question 2(a)

You have been asked to write an article for the school magazine about how companies can be environmentally friendly.

In your article you **must**:

- write about **two** ways companies can be environmentally friendly
- write about **two** benefits to the environment of companies being environmentally friendly
- explain whether working for an environmentally friendly company is important to you.

(20)

Aim to write approximately **180** words in English.

Remember to use a range of grammatical structures and vocabulary in your response.



Mark scheme

Communication and content		Linguistic knowledge and accuracy	
Mark	Descriptor	Mark	Descriptor
9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full coverage of the required information, with frequent development. Consistently uses appropriate tone and register for the task. Communication is clear with occasional ambiguity; effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide range of vocabulary that is consistently appropriate to the task. Wide range of straightforward and complex structures that are used effectively and appropriately with a few lapses. Consistently accurate use of vocabulary and structures; occasional minor errors.
6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage of most of the required information, with some development. Mostly uses appropriate tone and register for the task. Communication is mostly clear but with some ambiguity; mostly effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of vocabulary is appropriate for most of the response. Good range of straightforward and some complex structures that are generally used effectively and appropriately. Vocabulary and structures are accurate for most of the response; mostly minor errors, with occasional major errors.
3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coverage of some of the required information with occasional development. Generally uses appropriate tone and register for the task. Some examples of clear communication, the message sometimes breaks down; cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation sometimes used effectively. 	3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of vocabulary is appropriate for some of the response. Adequate but predictable range of straightforward structures that are sometimes used effectively and appropriately. Some accurate vocabulary and structures; errors occur, some of which are major.
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited coverage of the required information with limited development. Only sometimes uses appropriate tone and register for the task. Limited examples of clear communication, the message often breaks down; limited use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of vocabulary is limited. Limited range of simple structures, likely to be repetitive. Limited accuracy of vocabulary and structures; frequent errors, both major and minor.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rewardable material. 	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rewardable material.



Exemplar response A

With concerns about the impact of human activity on the planet increasing every year, we all need to play our part. In this article, I will discuss how and why companies should be environmentally friendly.

Firstly, companies should reduce the amount of electricity they use from non-renewable sources. If this is not possible, they need to be careful about switching off lights and machinery when they are not needed. My second suggestion is to reduce the amount of rubbish being sent to landfills. For example, since plastics aren't easily recyclable, firms should use alternatives, such as paper packaging.

Two ways in which the environment would benefit from companies being environmentally friendly are that it would reduce the amount of pollution from the burning of fossil fuels and fewer trees and natural habitats would need to be destroyed to make way for landfills. Moving forwards, the planet's resources are limited and we have to think about our impact on animals and the balance of nature.

Personally, I am passionate about protecting the planet and so I will only work for environmentally-friendly companies. For me, workplaces definitely need to be proactive about protecting the environment through using renewable electricity sources and minimising waste. I think, for our generation, environmentally-friendly practices are more important when selecting workplaces as our choices can shape the future.

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 20 marks.

Communication and content (10)

This response covers all the required information with effective development of each bullet point. The response consistently uses an appropriate tone and register for a semi-formal article. Communication is clear, with effective use of cohesive devices throughout, paragraphing and punctuation. Each bullet point has been addressed in a separate paragraph, providing a clear structure to the response.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (10)

The candidate has used a wide range of appropriate vocabulary and a variety of straightforward and complex structures to address the requirements of the task. These are used accurately and effectively. It is a very coherent piece of writing and there are no errors.



Exemplar response B

Nowadays, the environment has a big problem. There is pollution, plastic waste and limited resources which suffer our planet. So, what ways companies can be environmentally friendly?

First, companies can be environmentally friendly to have no plastic. For example, water fountains rather of plastic bottles. This will helping reduce plastic waste. As well as, people happy to drink water off metal bottles.

Second, companies encouraging people to work in home or travel to work on bike or walk. This stopping pollution from cars. In addition, people can take public transport like buses, trains and subway.

Now, I write two benefits to the companies being environmentally friendly. First, because saving money not buy plastic and, furthermore, more people buy because they who want buy green products. Therefore, profits went up.

Working for an environmentally friendly company is important to me because I care for the earth. Companies can be environmentally friendly have no plastic and encourage workers stay at home or didn't use cars to go work.

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 10 marks.

Communication and content (6)

The candidate has referred to two of the three bullet points. There is effective development of bullet point one and adequate development of point three. The candidate has misread point two and so has answered a different question. However, the tone and register are generally appropriate to the task. There are some examples of clear communication and use of appropriate cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (4)

The candidate uses an appropriate range of vocabulary for the task (*water fountains, public transport, green products*) although errors occur (*fountains, encourage*). There is an adequate but predictable range of straightforward grammatical structures, and these are sometimes used effectively. There are frequent grammatical errors, some of which are major.

The response could be improved with greater accuracy of lexis and simple grammatical structures. The candidate could also work on the development of more complex grammatical structures.



Exemplar response C

The environment is importance, isn't it. We need to worked to help the environment and stopping poluton. Do you agreeing with me. We need to having wear masks on their faces becos the air is smell and black. We need to stop poluton from cars and bus in addition, smoke from factories. i am felt tired in poluton street i think it dificult to breath becos the air is blak and smelling bad. Cars and bus from elektik is claener and beter. These things are easy getting. Do you like elektik cars ? Last week, i go in my uncle elektik car and i liked it. i think they are best becos they also is not nosy so is more quiet so is nice for somebody in streets.

I think important to do elektik cars and less poluton, isnt it?

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 4 marks.

Communication and content (2)

The response has limited coverage of the required information for the task. The main focus of the response is on describing pollution but this is not clearly linked to any of the bullet points. There is an attempt to answer bullet point one with a suggestion to use electric vehicles but the candidate does not make this explicit. Therefore, the response is mainly off-topic. The tone and register are not appropriate for a semi-formal text. There are limited examples of clear communication, use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (2)

The range of vocabulary is appropriate for some of the response but includes a significant amount of repetition. There are also frequent errors with key words consistently spelt incorrectly (*elektik, poluton, becos, quiet*). There is an adequate but predictable range of simple structures which are repeated (*We need to, I think, Do you...*) but these are not used accurately.

The response could be improved by addressing all three bullet points and using a tone and register that is appropriate for a semi-formal article throughout. It would also benefit from improved accuracy of lexis and simple grammatical structures.



Question 2(b)

You have been asked to write an article for the school magazine about how people use media to connect with others.

In your article you **must**:

- write about **two** types of media that people use to connect with others
- write about **two** possible problems when using media to connect with others
- explain how important media is to you as a way of connecting with others.

(20)

Aim to write approximately **180** words in English.

Remember to use a range of grammatical structures and vocabulary in your response.

Mark scheme

Communication and content		Linguistic knowledge and accuracy	
Mark	Descriptor	Mark	Descriptor
9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full coverage of the required information, with frequent development. • Consistently uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Communication is clear with occasional ambiguity; effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of vocabulary that is consistently appropriate to the task. • Wide range of straightforward and complex structures that are used effectively and appropriately with a few lapses. • Consistently accurate use of vocabulary and structures; occasional minor errors.
6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of most of the required information, with some development. • Mostly uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Communication is mostly clear but with some ambiguity; mostly effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of vocabulary is appropriate for most of the response. • Good range of straightforward and some complex structures that are generally used effectively and appropriately. • Vocabulary and structures are accurate for most of the response; mostly minor errors, with occasional major errors.
3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of some of the required information with occasional development. • Generally uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Some examples of clear communication, the message sometimes breaks down; cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation sometimes used effectively. 	3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of vocabulary is appropriate for some of the response. • Adequate but predictable range of straightforward structures that are sometimes used effectively and appropriately. • Some accurate vocabulary and structures; errors occur, some of which are major.



Communication and content		Linguistic knowledge and accuracy	
Mark	Descriptor	Mark	Descriptor
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited coverage of the required information with limited development. Only sometimes uses appropriate tone and register for the task. Limited examples of clear communication, the message often breaks down; limited use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of vocabulary is limited. Limited range of simple structures, likely to be repetitive. Limited accuracy of vocabulary and structures; frequent errors, both major and minor.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rewardable material. 	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rewardable material.

Exemplar response A

Nowadays, we have an array of ways to connect to people through different media. In this article, I will discuss the pros and cons of using different media and how media is important to me.

One of the simplest ways of connecting is through text messaging. These are usually sent to one person at a time, and contain words or emojis, but can also include photos. A second way of connecting with others is via social media apps, which allow us to share photos and videos with a vast number of people, some of who you have never met and will never met.

One problem with using these types of media is that you can share things which you later regret. You may write something unkind, share a secret or post an image that after a period of reflection, you wish you hadn't. Furthermore, anything that is shared on a digital device is extremely easy to copy and pass on. You may think you have shared a piece of gossip with just one or two people, but in a second it can be spread far and wide.

Although there are potential problems with connecting via text messages and apps, I cannot imagine life without them. I know that wherever I am, I can connect to friends and family at the touch of a button. This is important if you are working or studying away from friends and family – a quick face-time call can help if you are feeling homesick or just want to reconnect. .



Examiner's comments:

This response was given 20 marks.

Communication and content (10)

This response gives full coverage of the required information and develops each bullet point. Throughout, the tone and register are appropriate for a semi-formal article. The candidate has written clearly, making effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (10)

The candidate uses a wide range of vocabulary that is consistently appropriate to the task of writing a semi-formal article. The candidate uses a wide range of straightforward and complex structures that are used effectively and appropriately with few lapses. The response includes accurate use of vocabulary and structures with occasional minor errors.

The response could have been improved by being error free in terms of grammar. However, to obtain 10 marks for linguistic knowledge and accuracy, a response does not have to be error-free.



Exemplar response B

How often do you use media to connect with others? I think answer is every day!

Two types of popular media are messaging apps and gaming. Messaging apps such as WhatsApp and Telegram help sending some informations to one person or lots of persons and useful when want make plans with a group. Gaming on consoles can connect with friends when play games online and have fun with friends.

Two possible problems are spend to much times on screens. Teachers and parents are worrying the teenagers allways on phones and computers and not goes to the outdoor enough. Secondly, concerns to private and losing and sharing personal informations.

Media is very important to me as a way of connecting with others because I use it every day. Every day I play games online and send messages to friends. How about you? How important is media to you?

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 12 marks.

Communication and content (7)

The candidate covers the required information with some development of all three bullet points. The tone and register are generally appropriate for the semi-formal task. The response is generally clear. There is some use of cohesive devices, and paragraphing and punctuation are mostly effective.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (5)

The response includes a range of vocabulary which is appropriate for some of the response. There is an adequate but predictable range of straightforward grammatical structures which are sometimes used effectively and appropriately (*Two types of..., Media is very important to me...*). The response includes some accurate vocabulary and grammatical structures. There are frequent spelling errors (*popolar, allways*) but these do not impact on meaning. There are minor and major grammatical errors (*I thinks, not goes*).

The response could be improved by addressing each bullet point in more detail and maintaining an appropriate tone and register throughout the response. In terms of lexis, the main improvement would be accuracy in spelling. For grammar, more focus needs to be placed on the accuracy of the structures.



Exemplar response C

Hello students, I want to talk about the social media. The social media is a modern. Peple didn't have internet or social media in history. day to day people read newspapers then starting radio people listen to shows about news and plays and music then television begun and had pictures people watch and enjoy because like movies in your house. Then 1960s computers began and every computer big for fill a room then 1980s computers go in homes companys like Apple, Microsoft and IBM then 1990s Tim Berners Lee invents the internet. The world connected! We send emails and read books Nowadays anyone using social media includes play games see photos watch videos buy clothings food and tichnolgoy. My favorit sites is with vidoes becos I like watch gamers play games I like improve my gaming and learn skills

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 5 marks.

Communication and content (3)

This response gives limited coverage of the required information. The information given does not explicitly refer to any of the bullet points but is broadly relevant to bullet point one and different types of media that people use to connect with others. There is also some reference to bullet point three and why media is important to the candidate. The tone is sometimes appropriate for the task. The response does generally communicate clearly. There are some limited examples of cohesive devices (*then*) but there is an over-use of *and*. There is very limited use of punctuation.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (2)

The candidate demonstrates a range of vocabulary which is often used accurately; however, some of it is not appropriate for the task. There is an adequate range of simple structures which are repeated (*The social media is..., People read...*). These are sometimes used effectively and appropriately. There are frequent errors in vocabulary and grammar, some of which are major.

The response could be improved by answering all the bullet points in the question and not focusing on irrelevant information for the task. The candidate would need to focus on improving the accuracy of lexis and grammatical structures as well as punctuation.



Question 2(c)

You have been asked to write an article for the school magazine about experiencing equal or unequal treatment while travelling to other countries.

In your article you must:

- write about **two** benefits of travelling alone to other countries
- write about **two** ways in which people might experience unequal treatment whilst travelling
- explain whether you would travel alone to other countries.

(20)

Aim to write approximately **180** words in English.

Remember to use a range of grammatical structures and vocabulary in your response.

Mark scheme

Communication and content		Linguistic knowledge and accuracy	
Mark	Descriptor	Mark	Descriptor
9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full coverage of the required information, with frequent development. • Consistently uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Communication is clear with occasional ambiguity; effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of vocabulary that is consistently appropriate to the task. • Wide range of straightforward and complex structures that are used effectively and appropriately with a few lapses. • Consistently accurate use of vocabulary and structures; occasional minor errors.
6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of most of the required information, with some development. • Mostly uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Communication is mostly clear but with some ambiguity; mostly effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of vocabulary is appropriate for most of the response. • Good range of straightforward and some complex structures that are generally used effectively and appropriately. • Vocabulary and structures are accurate for most of the response; mostly minor errors, with occasional major errors.
3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of some of the required information with occasional development. • Generally uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Some examples of clear communication, the message sometimes breaks down; cohesive devices, paragraphing and 	3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Range of vocabulary is appropriate for some of the response. • Adequate but predictable range of straightforward structures that are sometimes used effectively and appropriately. • Some accurate vocabulary and structures; errors occur, some of which are major.



	punctuation sometimes used effectively.		
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited coverage of the required information with limited development. Only sometimes uses appropriate tone and register for the task. Limited examples of clear communication, the message often breaks down; limited use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range of vocabulary is limited. Limited range of simple structures, likely to be repetitive. Limited accuracy of vocabulary and structures; frequent errors, both major and minor.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rewardable material. 	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No rewardable material.

Exemplar response A

Does the idea of setting off around the world with nothing but a rucksack fill you with excitement or horror? In this article, I will discuss some of the pros and cons of travelling solo.

The first benefit to travelling alone is your freedom. You don't have to negotiate with anyone else when making decisions. This means that you can change plans to suit your mood (or budget) and make spontaneous decisions. A second benefit is that you will be more open to experiences. Travelling alone allows you to engage and interact with the local people and culture more fully than you do in a group.

Although travelling alone can be rewarding, it is also possible to experience unequal treatment whilst travelling. You could experience discrimination or hostility such as being denied access to places or accommodation, etc. You may also be vulnerable to con artists or dishonest people. This could mean you pay an excessive amount for something, or that you are given the incorrect money in change.

I haven't yet travelled alone to other countries, and to be honest, the thought of it is scary. At the moment I prefer travelling with friends and family because it is comfortable for me. In the future, I may change my mind as I can see that it would make me a stronger and more independent person.



Examiner's comments:

This response was given 20 marks.

Communication and content (10)

This response gives full coverage of the required information. The tone and register is consistently appropriate for the task of a semi-formal article. The candidate communicates clearly with effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (10)

The candidate uses a wide range of vocabulary that is consistently appropriate to the task. The response includes a wide range of straightforward and complex structures that are used effectively and appropriately. There are no errors in the candidate's use of vocabulary or grammatical structures.



Exemplar response B

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to talk about the benefits of travelling alone to other countries.

Travelling alone means that not go with someone. Firstly, you have to make each plans on your own self. You should prepare carefully. You should read at online guides and books. Secondly, you should have injektion for illness and disese like malaria.

Travelling has some cons but also has drawbacks. You should have bravery and confident. Perhaps there may be some sort of dangerous. You can to felt scared. Hence you are a stranger, you didnt know any people. Who should phoning when need help? Where go if have some problems?

I explain whether I would travel alone to other countries. No I wouldn't travel alone to other countries because I should find danger and my family worry about my safely.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Love

Oskar

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 8 marks.

Communication and content (4)

This response is written as a letter rather than a semi-formal article. However, the register is quite formal so it is generally appropriate for the task. There is some coverage of the required information for bullet point three. However, for bullet point one, the response covers preparations rather than benefits to travelling alone and for bullet point two it discusses the problems with travelling alone rather than unequal treatment. The communication is mostly clear but with some ambiguity. There is effective use of paragraphing and punctuation. There is some use of effective cohesive devices.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (4)

The range of vocabulary is appropriate for some of the response. There is an adequate but predictable range of straightforward structures that are sometimes used effectively and appropriately. There is some accurate vocabulary and structures but errors do occur and some are major.

The response could be improved by presenting it as an article and fully addressing all the bullet points. It would also benefit from accurate and effective cohesive devices to improve the flow of the text. The candidate should also avoid making simple spelling and grammatical errors.



Exemplar response C

I would like travel alone to America. America is big and many things to see and things to do and I like see the Nigara Falls, Empire State bilding and Grande Canyon because it is beutifal and it is exciting to me and I like the chance . It is dream for my even sense I am child I like take the photo to friends or share social media next to famos blding or famos people like Hollywod star. Also, I think I like try American foods, because I like fast food, and I think that America food has much burgers and fries and so I can be enjoy.

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 4 marks.

Communication and content (2)

There is very limited coverage of the required information in this response with the candidate only referring to bullet point three. However, the candidate does not develop the point appropriately. The register and tone are sometimes appropriate. There are limited examples of clear communication. The candidate has relied heavily on the use of 'and' as a cohesive device, resulting in very long sentences. However, the message is understandable.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (2)

The candidate uses a limited range of vocabulary that is suitable for the task. The response uses simple structures (*I like to...*, *It is...*) which are repeated throughout. There is limited accuracy of the vocabulary and structures with minor and major errors.

The response could be improved by referring to all three elements of the task. The candidate could make better use of the prompts provided. In addition, the candidate should increase the range of relevant vocabulary and avoid making simple grammatical errors.



Question 3

You are doing a project about studying in another country.

Read the text below and write a summary for your teacher

IS STUDYING ABROAD THE RIGHT CHOICE FOR YOU?

Any amount of time spent studying in a different country can be a positive experience. However, the idea will not appeal to everybody. There are many factors to consider before you decide whether it is an adventure that you might enjoy.

Positives of studying abroad

Studying in a different country will allow you to experience a different way of living, especially if you are in a homestay with a local family. You can try new foods, listen to music you have never heard before and learn about customs and traditions. If you have the time, you will be able to explore the area where you are staying and visit interesting places. The things you learn will stay with you throughout your life. You will have more knowledge and think in a different way after this trip. You will have the opportunity to meet lots of new people and make new friends. As you are away from your home, you will really appreciate the friends you make. Therefore, these new friendships are likely to last your whole life. This could be useful when you finish studying and start work or want to travel in that country again. In addition, the best way to learn and practise a new language is to talk to native speakers. The ability to speak many languages is always a good addition to your CV.

Negatives of studying abroad

You may be used to being away from your family while remaining in your home country. However, being away from them in a different country can be challenging. Despite the popularity of video-calling sites and apps, not being able to have regular and face-to-face contact can prove difficult, especially when you first arrive and may be feeling homesick. If you are on a homestay, it will take time to get used to being part of a new family with a different routine, and where a different language is spoken. You may feel a little lonely until you make new friends and become more comfortable. You should also be prepared for teaching methods and a classroom environment that may be very different to what you are used to. Paying for such a trip can be expensive, with flights, accommodation and other costs to think about. Also, family and friends at home will probably worry about how you are getting along.

All in all, such an experience has clear positives for students, as well as negatives. If you had the opportunity to study abroad, what would you decide?



In your summary you **must**:

- write about **two** positives of studying overseas
- write about **two** negatives of studying overseas
- based on the points in the text explain whether all school students should spend some time studying overseas.

You **must** use your own words where possible.

Remember to use a range of grammatical structures and vocabulary in your response.

Aim to write approximately **180** words in English.

(20)

Mark scheme

Communication and content		Linguistic knowledge and accuracy	
Mark	Descriptor	Mark	Descriptor
9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full coverage of the required information, summary that includes all key elements and provides relevant detail. • Consistently uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Communication is clear with occasional ambiguity; effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	9-10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very good attempt at using own vocabulary. Wide range of vocabulary that is consistently appropriate to the task. • Very good attempt at using own structures. Wide range of straightforward and complex structures that are used effectively and appropriately with a few lapses. • Consistently accurate use of vocabulary and structures; occasional minor errors.
6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of most of the required information, summary that includes all key elements with most of the relevant detail. • Mostly uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Communication is generally clear but with some ambiguity; mostly effective use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 	6-8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good attempt at using own vocabulary. Range of vocabulary is appropriate for most of the response. • Good attempt at using own structures. Good range of straightforward and some complex structures that are generally used effectively and appropriately. • Vocabulary and structures are accurate for most of the response; mostly minor errors, with occasional major errors.



3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coverage of some of the required information, summary that may miss some key elements and includes some of the relevant detail. • Generally uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Some examples of clear communication, the message sometimes breaks down; cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation sometimes used effectively. 		3-5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partial attempt at using own vocabulary. Range of vocabulary is appropriate for some of the response. • Partial attempt at using own structures. Adequate but predictable range of straightforward structures that are sometimes used effectively and appropriately. • Some accurate vocabulary and structures; errors occur, some of which are major.
1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited coverage of the required information, summary that may miss many key elements or simply states factors in isolation with minimal detail. • Only sometimes uses appropriate tone and register for the task. • Limited examples of clear communication, the message often breaks down; limited use of cohesive devices, paragraphing and punctuation. 		1-2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lexis is mainly taken from the source text. Range of vocabulary is limited. • Structures are mainly taken from the source text. Limited range of simple structures, likely to be repetitive. • Limited accuracy of vocabulary and structures; frequent errors, both major and minor.
0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No rewardable material. 		0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No rewardable material.



Exemplar response A

If you are planning to study abroad, it is important to carefully think about it.

Studying abroad can be a very rewarding adventure as it enables you to immerse yourself in a new culture, especially if you are staying with a family. You can discover the cuisine, music, customs and traditions of your host country. Furthermore, you can learn a new language in the best possible way – by practising with native speakers.

Nevertheless, it is not uncommon to feel homesick and to miss having frequent catch-ups to friends and family, even with the benefit of video calls and apps. This is particularly true when you first arrive in your host country. You can also experience a form of culture shock because you may encounter a very different style of teaching and classroom environment compared to those at home.

For many people, studying abroad would be a wonderful adventure that gave life-long memories. However, it is clear that the experience is not suitable for everyone. The challenges involved in moving away from home and adapting to a new culture and language can feel overwhelming. Furthermore, there are substantial costs involved in studying abroad. Therefore, studying abroad should remain a choice and school students should not be required to study overseas.

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 20 marks.

Communication and content (10)

This response gives full coverage of the required information as it addresses all three bullet points effectively. It summarises two positives and two negatives from the text, and draws on relevant information in the text to form the conclusion. It uses an appropriate tone and register for a summary task throughout. The response is clearly written with effective use of cohesive devices (*However, Furthermore*), paragraphing and punctuation.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (10)

The response uses a wide range of vocabulary which is consistently appropriate to the task and there is a very good attempt at the candidate including their own vocabulary. Where words and phrases are taken from the text, they are ones that would be hard to find synonyms for (e.g. *music, customs and traditions, homesick*). There is a wide range of straightforward and complex structures which are used effectively and appropriately with very few lapses. There is consistently accurate use of vocabulary and structures, with only occasional minor errors.

The response could have been improved by being error-free in terms of grammar. However, to obtain 5 marks for grammar, a response does not have to be error-free.



Exemplar response B

The positives of studying abroad are you can find a changed lifestyle, more if you live with a local family. You can try new foods, music, customs and traditions. You will made new relationships. Some of these friendships can be very grateful and lasting a lifetime. This means you can visit with them when you finish studying and want to go travel.

Nevertheless, there are negatives too, for example, being away from your family and the cost of trip is expensive. Every day is not easy for miss your family. Furthermore, you see them on your phone or laptop but not face to face. In addition, the fees of flights, place to stay, food and clothes so require a lot of money.

I really believe all school students should spend time studying overseas because it will be so fun! I would enjoy making new friendships and meeting people. I also would enjoy visiting my relatives who are living there. I don't see them for a long time. I certainly would take the opportunity to study overseas.

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 12 marks.

Communication and content (6)

The candidate covers the required information for bullet points one and two. The candidate uses their own ideas to answer bullet point three with only partial reference to the text. The response uses an appropriate tone and register for a formal summary for most of the task. The response is generally clear but with some ambiguity. The candidate makes effective use of cohesive devices within and between sentences (*when, because, nevertheless, it, who*). Overall, the response has a good degree of fluency.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (6)

The candidate makes a good attempt at using their own vocabulary but this is not always effective or accurate (*changed lifestyle, grateful*). The response includes a good range of straightforward structures and some complex ones, which are generally used effectively and appropriately. The vocabulary and structures are accurate for most of the response. There are spelling errors but these are minor and do not detract from the sense of the text.

The response could be improved by using information from the text to answer the third bullet point and to maintain an appropriate tone and register throughout. The candidate could also focus on accuracy of spelling and grammatical structures.



Exemplar response C

Studying in a different country will allow you to try other way of life especially if you are in a homestay with a local family. You can try new foods, listen to music and learn about customs and traditions meanwhile the best way to talk a new language is speak with a native speakers Can speak many languages is good to your CV.

You feel lonely until made new friends and be increase comfortable. Trips are high cost, think flights, accommodation and other costs. As well, family and friends at home will probably worry about how you are.

All school students should spend some time studying overseas.

Examiner's comments:

This response was given 5 marks.

The **bold** text indicates the same wording/grammar as in the source text. The underlined text is taken from the question prompt.

Communication and content (3)

The candidate has addressed the first two bullet points, giving two positives and two negatives of studying overseas, but they have not addressed bullet point three as no explanation is given. The candidate has organised the text appropriately and there is evidence of paragraphing to separate content. There is very limited use of cohesive devices and punctuation.

Linguistic knowledge and accuracy (2)

The candidate has relied heavily on the source text and prompt for lexis, with a few attempts at reformulation. The vocabulary chosen is adequate to communicate meaning. However, the candidate has used very few of their own words and grammatical structures, which means there is very little of the candidate's own work for examiners to assess.

The response could be improved by using the candidate's own vocabulary and grammatical structures to answer the question. The candidate could also focus on improving the spelling of words and appropriate choice of vocabulary. In addition, a longer answer would have allowed for a more detailed response to bullet points two and three.

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