

e notes are to give guidance particularly with the application of the Criterion A:Task/Message. Criteria B and C are mentioned only if they are directly affected by the task.

You are a journalist working for a science magazine. You've recently met a scientist who has discovered a vaccine which will protect the lives of millions of people. Write an article describing how the discovery was made.

Criterion A Task/message:

The readership of this task could be said to be 'the educated layman', so a good text might well include some (pseudo-)scientific description. Candidates could be expected to begin by contextualising the article, and then entering into the description of 'how' the discovery was made. The more creative or imaginative candidates will provide a realistic account. Humorous, or unusual versions should be marked according to their relevance, and/or their ability to convince.

Criterion B Presentation:

Candidates might well present the text with a title, and sub-title or introductory paragraph. Register would be more formal, rather than less. The most skilled candidates will offer a rounded text, rather than a description which simply peters out.

Criterion C Language:

Either reported speech, or direct quotes from the scientist could be expected.

Write a newspaper article about a famous person from the world of music, art, theatre or cinema describing his or her life, dreams, ambitions and influences.

Criterion A Task/message:

The task asks candidates to cover a lot of ground in only 250 words. Good preparation will ensure that all four points are covered; weaker candidates may well lose themselves in one or another and fail to complete the task. This should be considered an aspect of 'overall performance': how well has the candidate carried out the task. The selection of subject will not necessarily respond to Examiners' personal criteria, but as long as texts are convincing, Examiners should show tolerance of teenage choice.

Criterion B Presentation:

Candidates might well present the text with a title, and sub-title or introductory paragraph. Candidates will be likely to choose their 'heroes' or 'heroines' and could be expected to use an informal register which should not err to the colloquial.

Criterion C Language:

Better versions will be succinct and clear, demonstrating a command of vocabulary and/or idiom.

Some parents encourage their children to follow them into the same profession - doctors would have their children study Medicine, lawyers would have theirs study Law - regardless of what the children want to do. Write an essay for your classmates to read advising them about the advantages or disadvantages of "Following in Mother's or Father's Footsteps".

Criterion A Task/message:

Candidates don't have to take sides, but better versions are likely to lead naturally to one standpoint or the other.

Criterion B Presentation:

The task asks for a balanced, probably four-part structure in which the context of the essay is presented, both advantages and disadvantages are clearly described, and advice forms the basis of the conclusion. Rhetorical devices appropriate to the readership might include directly addressing the reader ('you').

Criterion C Language:

Functional exponents of giving advice could be expected in the conclusion.

You have invented a new ball-game that can be played by two individuals or two teams. Give it a name, and write the objectives and the rules of the game.

Criterion A Task/message:

Imagination and creativity will be the key to the best versions of this text, although Examiners should not penalise competent texts which offer variations on well-known games.

Criterion B Presentation:

The key to evaluating presentation should lie in the linguistic and visual clarity with which candidates present their texts. The presentation should be quite different from the typical essay format. Objectives and rules could be listed and numbered, or separated by bullets.

Criterion C Language:

Texts should include a range of modal forms, in addition to present simple verb forms describing actions or moves.

Shipwrecked and alone, you find yourself on a desert island. Is it "paradise" or "hell on earth"? You have paper, a pencil and a bottle. Write a message to cast into the sea in the hope that you will be rescued. Describe the conditions you're living in and how you've survived until now.

Criterion A Task/message:

Candidates should opt for 'paradise' or 'hell' and write accordingly. Some may go 'over the top' in their descriptions, but provided they are within the bounds of readers' expectations - at Subsidiary/Standard Level - that can be acceptable.

Criterion B Presentation:

The message need not be presented as a letter, although some form of salutation would be appropriate. The structure of this task involves four components: a narrative introduction dealing with the situation in which the writer finds him/herself; a narrative/description recounting the conditions on the island and how she/he has survived; a farewell/appeal for rescue (or not!). A first person singular narrative would be quite acceptable.

You work for an international agency looking into the changes which will affect the world in the near future. Write a formal report entitled "Life expectancy through the ages" describing the data presented in the table (below) and adding your own conclusions.

Criterion A Task/message:

This task could be mistaken as being an easy option. Overall performance in this task will depend on candidates' ability to capture the essence of the task. Poorer attempts may be limited to describing the data offered; better attempts will provide a reasoned argument based firmly on the data. Candidates' conclusions should be firmly grounded in the content they present.

Criterion B Presentation:

A formal report could well involve the numbering of key points, and will certainly require a tight cohesive structure in which the links between content are clearly signposted. Register will clearly be more formal, with an absence of contracted forms.

Criterion C Language:

Stronger candidates will employ a variety of verbs in their description of the data so as to minimise dullness in what they are presenting. Vocabulary will represent the range of information presented.
