

*These notes are to give guidance with the application of the criterion descriptors. Usually Criterion A: Task/Message is discussed; Criteria B and C are mentioned only if they are directly affected by the task.*

1. **Your English teacher asked you to suggest three words or expressions – like *skateboarding*, or *video games* – that represent your leisure interests. In a short essay, define them, and tell your classmates why you chose them.**

*Theme:*  
Exploring leisure

*Criterion A Task/message:*

Candidates should be rewarded for the definitions and justification of their choice; the choice itself will influence their ability to convince, but they shouldn't be penalized for a lack of imagination.

*Criterion B Presentation:*

The essay form should present candidates with no difficulties. Each word or phrase could be dealt with in a separate paragraph. Stronger candidates will introduce and conclude their essays with coherently reasoned justification for the words or phrases that they have chosen; weaker candidates may well offer three relatively unconnected paragraphs. Register might show less formal elements appropriate to the readership.

2. **Write a set of directions to follow on an interesting walk through the town or country near where you live. Add commentaries on three outstanding sights along the route.**

*Theme:*  
Exploring leisure

Practical!

*Criterion B Presentation:*

A set of directions might be presented with separate headings: "The museum", "The cathedral". Candidates may choose a 1st person or a 3rd person narrative.

3. ***She calls out to the man on the street,  
"Sir, can you help me?  
It's cold and I've nowhere to sleep.  
Is there somewhere you can tell me?"***

The man stops, and invites the homeless woman to have a coffee in a nearby bar. They start talking. He asks how she came to be homeless, and responds to her story. Write the dialogue of their conversation.

*Theme:*  
Exploring group/change

*Criterion A Task/message:*

Content is likely to be varied, and may be over-dramatic. The stronger candidates will be rewarded for their ability to convince and the relevance of the story they tell.

Playscript or novel forms.

*Criterion B Presentation:*

Stronger candidates will avoid making the woman's interventions too long: they will produce a balanced interaction. Weaker candidates will tend to write a narrative text.

*Criterion C Language:*

Good idiom and appropriate colloquialisms will be the hallmark of the stronger candidates.

4. **The contents of peoples' bags or pockets reveal a lot about them: sometimes the police even use them as the first clues in solving a crime. List three items you might find in the bag or pockets of a character from a book you know well. Describe the items, and link each one with her or his personality.**

*Theme:*

Exploring group

*Criterion A Task/message:*

This task has a literary orientation which candidates could be expected to present in the opening paragraph. The remainder of the content should be assessed in terms of the logic of the progressive development of character through the three items.

*Criterion B Presentation:*

There is no clear text structure described in the task. Expect a fairly standard structure: introduction, three-part body, and conclusion. Candidates should be penalised if they offer no more than three unconnected paragraphs dealing with each of the items/characters.

5. **You are a journalist writing for a music magazine. In a feature article describe the characteristics of a style of music, singer, composer, or musicians you know well and enjoy. Explain why you think this style/singer/composer/musician(s) will last.**

*Theme:*

Exploring leisure/group/change

*Criterion A Task/message:*

The content of this task could be very varied. At worst it will be describing the candidate's favourite singer, but stronger candidates will link characteristics together in a reasoned argument.

*Criterion B Presentation:*

A feature article will have a title, even if it's only the name of the singer, *etc.* It may also have an introductory sub-title or paragraph. Candidates who make a clear attempt to reproduce the visual characteristics of the text type will be rewarded.

*Criterion C Language Persuasive:*

Elements of persuasive language may appear. Stronger candidates will be actively arguing the case for the longevity of their chosen style/singer/*etc.*

6. History can be told through the biographies of individuals who have made a great impact – for good or ill. In a tourist information brochure, describe the changes brought about in your country by one such person.

*Theme:*

Exploring group

*Criterion A Task/message:*

The text type was chosen to remove any need for detailed historical analysis. If content appears superficial, but seems appropriate to the likely readership then it will be rewarded as such.

*Criterion B Presentation:*

The text type may persuade candidates to use headings, sub-titles, or other graphic means of highlighting aspects of the text. These will be rewarded when considered appropriate.

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