

ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE

6095
Paper 1

General comments

It appears that many candidates who chose to write this paper were entered on the incorrect level. Many candidates struggled immensely to express themselves clearly and had trouble answering the text.

Teachers should ensure that candidates are capable of doing well on the particular level that they have been entered for. For example, candidates would have received better marks had they chosen to write the English Second Language examination instead.

It is unfortunate to see how many candidates were unsure of the correct format for the RDW questions, particularly the email in question 7. All RDW formats must be taught to the candidates and they must practise this enough to be comfortable to tackle these questions properly.

A worrying trend was the obtrusive, extensive lifting of information from the passage. This indicates that candidates were not comfortable with the vocabulary used in the texts. It also showed a lack of understanding.

Many colloquialisms were used throughout RDW pieces. As this showed a lack of understanding of correct style and tone, candidates' Style and Accuracy marks were low.

Sentence construction and punctuation continue to be a problem. The RDW pieces as well as the summary were filled with incomplete, run-on sentences due to an unawareness of sentence construction and lack of correct punctuation. Sentences starting with coordinating conjunctions should be avoided at all times. Candidates were unaware of how to use commas correctly.

Time management was a problem as many weaker candidates failed to complete the question paper.

Commonly confused words

its/it's	everyday/every day	grant/grand	edition/addition
halve/half	affect/effect	quiet/quite	raise/rise
loss/lose/loose	your/you're	advice/advise	crisis/crises
number/amount	less/fewer	setup/set up	there/their
country's/countries			

Words and expressions to be avoided

and so forth/etc/and the list goes on/and many more/just to name a few we as people/we as citizens/we as learners
get/got a lot of guys kids things nice

Commonly misspelled words

feul enviroment

Comments to individual questions

1. Multiple choice. Generally well answered. Candidates must be encouraged to read questions carefully so as not to make any careless errors.
2. Most candidates could answer the question.
3. Most candidates could answer the question.
4. Most candidates could answer the question.

5. Most candidates struggled with this question. Learners were unable to explain the expression “live off the land”.

For the comprehension questions, candidates are not penalised for lifting from the text. However, candidates must be encouraged to respond in full sentences and not quote directly from the text.

6. The email question was generally well answered. Unfortunately, it is apparent that many candidates have not been taught the format of an email. Many candidates wrote postal addresses instead of email addresses.

7. The summaries were generally well answered. Candidates were able to take information from the text and place it in the summary. However, candidates were unable to group points in a logical manner. The summaries were written in one whole paragraph, with content from both Passage A and Passage B written as one. This made marking and reading quite difficult.

8. This question was poorly answered. Candidates struggled to use the correct tone. A tone of professionalism was expected; few candidates managed this. Furthermore, many candidates did not seem to know the correct format of the transcript of an interview. Many confused the transcript of an interview with an article.

Positive Suggestions to the teachers

Informal Email:

Paragraphing was weak. The use of transition or linking words from one paragraph to the other must be taught. In addition, topic sentences must be present in all paragraphs in order to ensure the correct focus. This will also avoid a list-like response in which structure is weak.

The introduction of the email must mention previous communication as well as the purpose of the email. A conclusion should request a response.

Informal letters and emails are expected to have a conversational tone.

No information must be quoted. Also, candidates must try to paraphrase the information as much as possible.

Summaries:

Candidates must write their summaries in two very clearly divided paragraphs, labelled according to the question. In this case, “Passage A” and “Passage B” or “Effects of climate change” and “Ways to stop it” would have been appropriate.

Sentences should be short and simple. No introduction or conclusion is necessary.

Candidates must be encouraged to paraphrase their points so as to avoid obtrusive lifting. This will also ensure a better language mark for this component.

Transcript of interview:

The structure of this piece was expected to be that of a dialogue. It seems many candidates misunderstood the term “transcript”.

Candidates must not waste space nor time with introductions nor conclusions in their interviews, for example:

Learner: Hello ma’am! How are you?

Teacher: I am fine, thank you, and you?

Learner: I am well. May I please interview you about climate change?

Teacher: Yes, you may.

XXX

Learner: Thank you very much for your time.

Teacher: It is a pleasure.

Learner: Have a wonderful day.

Candidates must use punctuation, stage directions and correct diction to create character and emotion. This will assist in candidates’ Style and Accuracy mark.

It should be noted that marks are not deducted for incorrect format in any of the questions discussed above. However, using the correct format is expected of a first-language level candidate. In addition, it creates a good impression for the examiner and makes the marking a more pleasant experience. Finally, using the correct format assists the candidates in deciding the style of the piece asked.

Candidates should be taught how to do correct question analysis for each question. Many learners lose marks for Style and Accuracy as they do not know which tone and style to use for a particular piece.

Teachers are commended for their hard work throughout the year. May you have a blessed 2022.