



Cambridge Assessment  
International Education

Example Candidate Responses – Paper 1

## Cambridge O Level English Language 1123

For examination from 2020



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## Introduction

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The main aim of this booklet is to exemplify standards for those teaching Cambridge O Level English Language 1123, and to show how different levels of candidates' performance (high, middle and low) relate to the syllabus requirements.

In this booklet candidate responses have been chosen from the November 2020 exam series to exemplify a range of answers.

For each question, the response is annotated with a clear explanation of where and why marks were awarded or omitted. This is followed by examiner comments on how the answer could have been improved. In this way, it is possible for you to understand what candidates have done to gain their marks and what they could do to improve their answers. There is also a list of common mistakes candidates made in their answers for each question.

This document provides illustrative examples of candidate work with examiner commentary. These help teachers to assess the standard required to achieve marks beyond the guidance of the mark scheme. Therefore, in some circumstances, such as where exact answers are required, there will not be much comment.

The questions and mark schemes used here are available to download from the School Support Hub. These files are:

**November 2020 Question Paper 12**  
**November 2020 Paper 12 Mark Scheme**

Past exam resources and other teaching and learning resources are available on the School Support Hub:

[www.cambridgeinternational.org/support](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org/support)

## How to use this booklet

This booklet goes through the paper one question at a time, showing you the high-, middle- and low-level response for each question. The candidate answers are set in a table. In the left-hand column are the candidate answers, and in the right-hand column are the examiner comments.

Example Candidate Response – high		Examiner comments
2	<p>I live in a town called Tavalla where it is quite isolated from the busy cities and trade centers of my country. Greenery is lush and blooming here, and animals roam about in our streets from time to time.</p> <p>The morning view from my house's window is</p>	<p>1 The candidate uses a good sense of specific context to locate the description.</p> <p>2 The candidate is using good, descriptive vocabulary from the</p> <p><b>Examiner comments</b> are alongside the answers. These explain where and why marks were awarded. This helps you to interpret the standard of Cambridge exams so you can help your learners to refine their exam technique.</p>

**Answers** are by real candidates in exam conditions. These show you the types of answers for each level. Discuss and analyse the answers with your learners in the classroom to improve their skills.

## How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The candidate gave a good description throughout. However, paragraph five, which was about noon, was a little outside the requirements of the question and slightly took away from the contrast that was asked for. The result was that the description of early evening seemed brief in the penultimate paragraph. The candidate could have written less about noon and more about the early evening.
- Although the accuracy of the response was good, there were occasional errors in the use of verbs and tenses – see 'came' at the beginning of paragraph five and the awkward, repeated use of 'would' in paragraph three. This meant the response was accurate, rather than *highly* accurate.

This section explains how the candidate could have improved each answer. This helps you to interpret the standard of Cambridge exams and helps your learners to refine their exam technique.

## Common mistakes candidates made in this question

- The most common mistake candidates made in the descriptive responses was that they mixed tenses. A number of candidates started their answer in the conventional present tense because they were asked to describe two contrasting times. However, as soon as they introduced some narrative involving a particular event or action, they changed to the past tense which was not convincing.
- Some candidates listed features instead of describing them. Even though the main senses were employed, very few candidates referred to the smell and feel of anything. Some candidates who chose this question ran out of descriptive ideas very quickly and turned the response into a narrative.

Often candidates were not awarded marks because they misread or misinterpreted the questions.

Lists the common mistakes candidates made in answering each question. This will help your learners to avoid these mistakes and give them the best chance of achieving the available marks.

## Question 1

### Example Candidate Response – high

### Examiner comments

1		<p>1 <b>Going Green!</b></p> <p>By:</p>
2		<p>2 As the world is fighting against climate change and pollution, our school also plays its part. The Queen's High School</p>
3		<p>3 plants a tree, on beginning of every academic year. Our students also</p>
4		<p>4 volunteer willingly</p>
5		<p>5 participate, in cleaning of the streets and school, at end of every week.</p>
6		
7		<p>7 I believe, we can contribute much more than, what we are already doing. I think the school management and the</p>
8		<p>8 student council, should encourage students to avoid the use of plastic. A proper campaign should be re-established to reduce plastic use. The school management should</p>
9		<p>9 also add recycling activities, in the part of the syllabus. Our school can</p>
10		<p>10 also team up with different NGOs and prompting students to work with them to plant more trees.</p>
		<p>The school can also gain some advantages.</p>
		<p>11 Our school's popularity would increase, also our students would now be gain knowledge about the current problems</p>
		<p>12 faced by our planet which are many and</p>
14		<p>14 Our will be prepared for the future. They</p>
15		<p>15 will have knowledge, and will understand the importance of environment. They</p>

- 1 The candidate uses a good headline with alliteration and suggests the text type with the use of the signature. The exclamation mark is useful punctuation here, which suggests a sense of drama.
- 2 The context for the article is clear at the beginning of the answer.
- 3 The candidate is at ease with complex structures.
- 4 The candidate understands the situation and the use of 'our' makes contact with the audience.
- 5 The candidate uses high level vocabulary.
- 6 The candidate addresses and develops bullet point 1 with more than one activity.
- 7 The answer shows a useful sense of personal involvement here.
- 8 The candidate clearly identifies the purpose of the text.
- 9 The candidate addresses and develops bullet point 2.
- 10 The candidate addresses the second part of bullet point 2.
- 11 The candidate uses paragraphs successfully along the lines of the bullet points.
- 12 The use of commas here suggests a fluent text.
- 13 The candidate uses more complex sentences here.
- 14 The candidate covers bullet point 3.
- 15 There is evidence of opinion and justification here.

## Example Candidate Response – high, continued

## Examiner comments

	will make our world a better place in future, if
	they know already about the problems and solutions.
	I hope my suggestions could be implemented
	to see a change.

16 The candidate uses some useful vocabulary here.

Task Fulfilment = 13 out of 15

Language = 12 out of 15

**Total mark awarded =  
25 out of 30**

## How the candidate could have improved their answer

- **Task Fulfilment:** The candidate needed to make the particular text type, a magazine article, more obvious. They could use different sentence types (questions and exclamations) to contribute to the feeling that this was a lively text aimed in part at the candidate's peer group.
- **Language:** The candidate could have used more varied sentence types to add sophistication to their response. Overall, the text was accurate but there were one or two slips in verbs / tenses which needed correction. Similarly, the candidate could have addressed the omission of the definite article at times, especially in the first paragraph. An even greater frequency of more sophisticated vocabulary would have added more depth to their response.

Example Candidate Response – middle

Examiner comments

7		OUR SCHOOL
	1	By
		Our school Roots IV4 has a very friendly environment not just among the students but the teachers, principal & the staff. It doesn't feel like school there it feels like family.
	3	But the school environment should be made more friendly so that the students enjoy more. Even the new comers. They should not feel like they are stuck. Infact they should be warmly welcomed to the school.
	4	The school already does alot to help the environment. The teachers treats the students like friends. Even the principal. The students have good relations with the staff. We do not hesitate in sharing our problems with the teachers. And in return the students gets a good response.
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	
	9	

1 The candidate supplies a title to the article in their own words as required in the question.

2 The candidate immediately demonstrates a use of language which is mostly accurate. It reads fluently from the beginning. Straightforward and accurate vocabulary is used with correct spelling.

3 The candidate immediately places the answer in a satisfactory context.

4 The candidate briefly develops a satisfactory understanding of the purpose and situation. The candidate already begins to answer bullet point 2.

5 The candidate maintains the straightforward, accurate vocabulary and the expression, 'warmly welcomed' lifts the general impression.

6 The candidate ensures there is some variety with sentence lengths.

7 The candidate makes a good attempt to use paragraphs in their article.

8 The candidate addresses bullet point 1.

9 The candidate's sentence separation is generally good.



Example Candidate Response – middle, continued	Examiner comments
<p>The environment can be made further friendly by bringing new activities to the school. Like making an anti bullying squad which would help stop bullying which will be beneficial especially for the new comers. The others students can help by participating in these activities. Moreover activities like reading, debate sessions, sports etc. can help make the school more environmental friendly if the students are made into groups. They will communicate with each other this will create a very positive environment.</p>	<p>10 The candidate continues to use paragraphs based on the bullet points. This shows good evidence of planning.</p> <p>11 The candidate addresses bullet point 2 well, as both strands are addressed in a specific rather than a general way.</p> <p>12 Vocabulary and spelling are a strength for this candidate. Words like 'beneficial', 'especially' and 'participating' lift the achievement at this level.</p> <p>13 The candidate includes some opinion here which the paragraph helps to justify.</p>
<p>The whole school can benefit from these activities in a way if the students compete with students of other schools. This will create competition. The students will work even harder. This will also help for the betterment of schools reputation.</p>	<p>14 The candidate demonstrates a satisfactory control of tenses throughout and the use of 'can' and 'will' here shows some sophistication.</p> <p>15 The candidate addresses bullet point 3 in a satisfactory way here, as they discuss the benefit of team spirit to the whole school.</p> <p>16 The candidate's tone and register are satisfactory throughout the text.</p>
	<p>Task Fulfilment = 11 out of 15</p> <p>Language = 10 out of 15</p> <p><b>Total mark awarded = 21 out of 30</b></p>

### How the candidate could have improved their answer

- **Task Fulfilment:** The candidate's response could be clearer. Although all three bullet points were addressed, bullet points 1 and 3 needed specific examples to illustrate the points made, e.g. how it would help the school's reputation. The title to the piece needed to be more specific and give an indication of what the article was about.
- **Text type:** The candidate could have made it more obvious that they were writing a magazine article. They could have used questions and exclamations to make the text lively.
- **Language:** The candidate needed to ensure that appropriate sentence separation was used. At times it was not evident, or commas were used instead of full stops. Verbs and agreement were not always secure and so the text was *mostly* accurate rather than accurate.

## Example Candidate Response – low

## Examiner comments

Q	1	1	Principle wants to <del>make make</del> school more environ- ment friendly.
		2	Written By:- ---
		3	School is the best place for children from where he learn to how he have to spend life. If the environment is friendly 4 then it will gives good impact on student 5 mind. We have to start 6 a campaign for friendly environment. We have to attach 7 posters on different areas of school: for e.g. Say NO to Bullying etc. We make our environment friendly by as all the staff members talk more politely with student it gives good impact on mind. And we have to make some laws and strict actions against bullying and ragging. And teachers have to also cooperate with students as if we students are not in mood of class teachers have 9 to give <del>some</del> some time for rest and to talk more politely with students and if any student want some extra time teacher should give extra time to that Special 10 child.
		8	Beside this we also have to plant as well in school. and school staff have 12 to give more facilities to student. And from school some aggressive control classes have to be arranged as few students in our school was full of anger they start fighting on small things so it was mandatory. 13 mandatory. school

- 1 The candidate makes an attempt to provide a headline title to the text, as requested in the question.
- 2 The candidate attempts to suggest that the text will be a magazine article.
- 3 The candidate clearly understands the situation and provides some context for the ideas which follow.
- 4 The candidate can spell simple vocabulary well.
- 5 The candidate is able to use sentence separation.
- 6 The candidate makes the purpose of the text clear.
- 7 The candidate writes some accurate sentences in the text.
- 8 Bullet point 2 is developed in some detail.
- 9 The candidate sometimes uses verbs and tenses accurately.
- 10 The candidate uses vocabulary well here.
- 11 The candidate's use of 'we' shows some understanding of the text type and an awareness of the audience.
- 12 The candidate uses paragraphs to demonstrate some planning.
- 13 The candidate is capable of using sophisticated vocabulary here.

Example Candidate Response – low, continued	Examiner comments
<p>14 I have to make a team of students which were given some duties by school. And the students who volunteer are the team members. as they stop students to bullying or ragging.</p> <p>15 By imposing this all school will be benefited as it gives good impact to <del>best</del> visitors and more students want to take admission. And at all</p> <p>16 the students were happy from each other so there will be no fights, no bullying etc in school. And our school took fame frequently all over the country. (words: 288)</p>	<p>14 The candidate mentions what students can do, so addresses the second part of bullet point 2.</p> <p>15 The candidate uses a satisfactory tone throughout the text.</p> <p>16 The candidate covers bullet point 3 with the emphasis on the benefits to the school.</p> <p>Task Fulfilment = 9 out of 15</p> <p>Language = 6 out of 15</p> <p><b>Total mark awarded = 15 out of 30</b></p>

### How the candidate could have improved their answer

- **Task Fulfilment:** To improve their answer, the candidate needed to address all three bullet points. Bullet point 1 was omitted in this answer. The candidate also needed to show that this was a magazine article. In this answer, the title was a lift from the question rather than a title for a magazine article. In response to bullet 2, the idea of the school having to plant something was not clear. The candidate needed to make it clear whether this was vegetation or an idea.
- **Language:** The overall meaning of the response was never in doubt and there was the occasional accurate sentence, however, the candidate made frequent errors. In particular, the candidate needed to use verbs and tenses more accurately. The candidate needed to use more complex vocabulary and correct punctuation.

### Common mistakes candidates made in this question

- Task Fulfilment was generally handled well, but some candidates did not respond to all of the bullet points, or in the case of bullet point 2, some candidates did not address both parts of the bullet. Some candidates did not give specific examples, e.g. in bullet 1, some candidates said that the school was eco-friendly but did not explain how. In bullet point 3, some candidates spoke only of benefits to the wider world, whereas the focus needed to be on the benefits to the school. Sometimes the bullet point responses were unbalanced, usually bullet point 1 was too long and the others did not have enough coverage. Occasionally, candidates would introduce too much narrative into this Directed Writing task, some told detailed stories of beaches being cleaned as an example for bullet point 1.
- Many candidates did not reflect the text type fully for the Task Fulfilment element. Candidates often relied simply on providing a title as required. Some candidates used an incorrect text type, usually a letter format.
- For the Language element many candidates used incorrect verbs / tenses and agreement and omitted articles. It should also be a priority to ensure that the language used is in keeping with the text type required and this is as much about formality as vocabulary.

## Question 2

### Example Candidate Response – high

### Examiner comments

2	<p>I live in a town called Tavalla where it is quite isolated from the busy cities and trade centers of my country. Greenery is lush and blooming here, and animals roam about in our streets from time to time.</p> <p>The morning view here from my house's window is extraordinary. The sun rises from the front of my house, painting and filling the night's shadow with orange and yellow hues. At this time, laughter of little children can be heard from the nearby kindergarden; playing with their sticks and stones and occasionally visiting the town's central garden to play catch.</p> <p>Many businessmen would start to prepare for work during this period of time. The streets would slowly fill up with people wearing leather coats of brown and black, as well as a rectangular suitcase in their hands, supposedly to store their old documents from work. Meanwhile, my mother would prepare the stove for breakfast, while calling little brother, Ali, to wake up for school.</p> <p>I like to wander around my family's backyard garden. Rainbow butterflies would appear like fairies, twinkling their beautiful wings, especially in the morning light. I help my mother water the <del>plant</del> orchids and hibiscuses during the morning and then read storybooks on a nearby bench.</p> <p>When noon came, my dad would be home from work, tired and exhausted. The chickens and <del>her</del> their chicks would flock around streets at this time, pecking at the seeds laid on the floor by a friendly farmer. Rings from the ice-cream man's bicycle can be heard from afar, reminiscent of my younger days when my mother bought me and Ali ice-cream every weekend.</p>
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- 1 The candidate uses a good sense of specific context to locate the description.
- 2 The candidate is using good, descriptive vocabulary from the beginning.
- 3 The writing is accurate from the start.
- 4 The candidate's use of paragraphs suggests planning. This second paragraph puts the focus on the first half of the description.
- 5 The candidate uses a wide and precise vocabulary.
- 6 The candidate uses accurate and helpful punctuation, such as apostrophes and semi-colons, which suggests sophistication.
- 7 As well as using very good vocabulary, the candidate's spelling is secure throughout the essay.
- 8 The candidate uses the new paragraph well to change the focus to a more personal view. The first four paragraphs help the reader move from the wider context to a narrower one as if the reader is closing in on the more particular details.
- 9 Throughout this essay, the candidate uses various senses to describe the place they live. This variety adds interest to the description. It also means that the candidate is not just relying on narrative.

Example Candidate Response – high, continued

Examiner comments

	<p>The children from the kindergarden would roam around the streets at this time; <sup>normally</sup> <del>normally</del> to play a second round of tag as if the one in the morning was just a warm-up match. Travelling painters from the city often visit here to get a sketch of the scenery <sup>of the sunset that can be seen from Tavalla.</sup> They come with bags of paint and paint brush as well as <del>a</del> huge sketchbook in their hands.</p>
	<p>Lastly, the lamps of the town <del>start</del> are slowly brought alight even though it is <del>5:00</del> <sup>5:00</sup> pm. <del>the</del> The sky gets dark fast in our town, as if to get back what was lost during the battle early in the morning. The crows start to fly over town and say goodbye as they reach for the sunset.</p>
	<p>I love Tavalla, and everything it has to offer! I hope to live here until I grow old and see it prosper till the end of my time.</p>

10 The candidate uses complex sentences in a natural, fluent way.

11 The paragraph openings are appropriate and correctly punctuated.

12 The candidate demonstrates a sophisticated style in the use of this battle image.

13 The candidate concludes succinctly and appropriately.

Total mark awarded = 26 out of 30

How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The candidate gave a good description throughout. However, paragraph five, which was about noon, was a little outside the requirements of the question and slightly took away from the contrast that was asked for. The result was that the description of early evening seemed brief in the penultimate paragraph. The candidate could have written less about noon and more about the early evening.
- Although the accuracy of the response was good, there were occasional errors in the use of verbs and tenses – see ‘came’ at the beginning of paragraph five and the awkward, repeated use of ‘would’ in paragraph three. This meant the response was accurate, rather than *highly* accurate.

Example Candidate Response – middle

Examiner comments

2	<p>I <del>live</del> live in a place where trees <sup>are</sup> surrounding <sup>me</sup> <sup>which located</sup> in the middle of <sup>the</sup> jungle.</p> <p>During the lovely morning, I could hear birds chirp chirping. <sup>beside me is a big window and</sup> I could see them flapping their wings in the sky freely.</p> <p>Once I wake up, I could see ducks <del>and</del> swimming in the pond and trying to catch their prey. Those fishes will swim as fast as they could, like <del>a th</del> as if they were playing. Fishes will run and hide in algae but those ducks will find them easily as if they were playing <del>the</del> hide and seek.</p> <p>When the sun rises, I could see <del>the a</del> big golden egg yolk right in front of our houses. The sunlight shines towards the padi field as seem they <del>wt</del> were a field of golds in our land. Rooster <del>Rooster</del> will start to yell at us like an alarm clock to wake everyone up. Beside my house, there <del>wt</del> is a durian tree farm which my dad has spend all his money growing them. <sup>if</sup> I walk towards it, <del>it could</del> <sup>those</sup> smell will rush towards me. Before I realised it, I could see durians on the trees, fish nets were all placed on top of us to prevent sudden attack of durian.</p> <p>Workers <del>wt</del> reached at my dad's farm <del>wt</del> and started to clean the surroundings and also water them. The atmosphere soon became busy and full of energetic. <del>soon, I heard my mother getting at me with and it was loud as if she was using a microphone i</del></p> <p>During the evening, the workers will get their pay <del>at</del> daily pay and went back home with a big smile <del>at</del> on their faces. My sister will play with her friends everyday in the evening. I could hear them giggling and laughing.</p>
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- 1 The candidate sensibly starts with an overall context before moving on to the specific details of the contrasting times of day.
- 2 The candidate uses some good vocabulary.
- 3 The use of the semi-colon is sophisticated and helpful here.
- 4 The candidate begins with the present tense which is helpful in descriptions of this sort.
- 5 The candidate uses paragraphs well to move the focus on to one aspect of the comparison.
- 6 The candidate shows a good use of punctuation.
- 7 Sentence separation is secure for the most part.
- 8 The candidate effectively uses paragraphs to suggest different times and activities throughout the essay.
- 9 The candidate shows good imagination in the images used.
- 10 The candidate refers to a range of senses in the description.
- 11 The candidate's spelling is sound throughout, even when more ambitious vocabulary is used.
- 12 Some narrative is included in the description, but it is sensibly kept to a minimum and simply provides a basis for the description.
- 13 The candidate uses paragraphs well to move the reader into the second half of the description.

Example Candidate Response – middle, continued	Examiner comments
<p>They run around <del>the</del> and <del>playing</del> cook in front of our house. They used a wok and sticks and set a fire on the sticks.</p> <p>They <del>will</del> steal some mangoes from the mango tree and pretend to be a chef. Once the meal was ready, they will <span style="float: right;">14</span> served to the customers, the duck.</p>	<p><span style="color: orange;">14</span> The candidate continues to demonstrate good spelling of a straightforward vocabulary.</p> <p><span style="color: orange;">15</span> The candidate concludes well with some personal emotion which links back to the start of the response and provides unity.</p>
<p>During evening, I could see <del>the sun</del> <sup>everybody</sup> going home, including the sun, duck, fishes and the birds. The atmosphere became quiet and I could hear <del>crit</del> crickets calling their mates.</p>	
<p>I love to stay in my house because I had many friends like the ducks to accompany me. I hope that I will <span style="float: right;">15</span> live here and this place will not be gone <del>for</del> forever.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">379 words</p>	<p><b>Total mark awarded = 17 out of 30</b></p>

### How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The candidate needed to ensure that the verbs and tenses used throughout the description were consistent. The candidate started correctly with the present tense but as time shifted in the response the tenses moved between present and past tense in an unconvincing way.
- While vocabulary and spelling were satisfactory, the candidate needed to show more ambition in their use of vocabulary.
- The candidate relied heavily on repeated sentence types and structures and they needed to use a greater variety of these.

## Example Candidate Response – low

## Examiner comments

2	Describe what the place where you live is like in the early morning and in the early evening.
	Basically i am from the Punjab area but nowadays around five years ago, i am living in Islamabad. Islamabad is the capital city of Pakistan. It is full developed <sup>1</sup> areas and areas are divide in several towns and societies. <sup>2</sup> So, here are many parks and ground, where people can come with these friends and families.
	In every early morning, people came <sup>3</sup> out from these house to walk on the side of road or in the park. Also people came out in early morning to take fresh area and <sup>4</sup> for friendly environment. Friendly environment was created <del>back</del> by towards with friend and family before going for work. Atmosphere of nowadays is very great in the parks. People came with family and give lesson to child to wake up in the <sup>5</sup> morning and see the blessing of God.

<sup>1</sup> The candidate provides some useful detail in an extended attempt to place their description in a particular area.

<sup>2</sup> The candidate uses some natural sounding expressions and the sentence separation is accurate.

<sup>3</sup> The candidate correctly begins a new paragraph which allows them to move to the first half of the description.

<sup>4</sup> The candidate uses a satisfactory, straightforward vocabulary so the overall meaning is clear.

<sup>5</sup> The candidate uses some quite lengthy sentence structures which add a natural feel to the writing.



**Example Candidate Response – low, continued** **Examiner comments**

On us, ~~the~~ and see who sun-  
rise and ~~sets~~ the circle of  
the day, which is running by  
the order of ~~had~~. Me and almost  
of the

On the other side, in the  
early evening people came back **6**  
to their <sup>home</sup> ~~house~~ after done  
the job, ~~after~~ <sup>came from</sup> the school and  
~~other~~ workers came from work. People  
stay some time in their house  
in early evening and after sometime  
ago, they went in the park  
with <sup>children</sup> child to make their and  
~~the~~ mind relax. In the early **7**  
evening, ~~pe~~ sun is in our ~~day~~  
top of head and temperature is  
higher than some people ~~stay~~ <sup>stay</sup> at  
<sup>home to make</sup> ~~make~~ ~~there~~ their body relax. And  
also me like to sleep on the bed,  
in evening to make body relax  
after the job. ~~of~~

To my opinion, early morning it  
is best time of the day to  
enjoy the weather, atmosphere and  
different types of activities. I **8** love  
the park where me and my  
cousins talk about the <sup>of</sup> full activities ~~the~~  
and share our knowledge of everything.  
However, in every morning me and the  
most peoples love to rest on the  
bed, due to high temperature in  
early evening. outdoor.

**6** The sensible use of a new paragraph helps to change the focus of the description and ensures that the question is answered fully.

**7** The candidate spells straightforward vocabulary well.

**8** The commas used for punctuation are helpful here.

**Total mark awarded = 13 out of 30**

**How the candidate could have improved their answer**

- The candidate needed to place less emphasis on saying what people were doing and more emphasis on using the senses to describe all aspects of the scene. They needed to ensure it read like a description; this answer felt more like a narrative at times, rather than a description.
- The candidate could have improved their answer with the correct use of tenses throughout their answer, as these were largely incorrect; this was the main weakness for the Language requirement.
- They could also have used different sentence types to add variety to their writing to improve their answer further, because this answer was based completely on statement sentences.

## Common mistakes candidates made in this question

- The most common mistake candidates made in the descriptive responses was that they mixed tenses. A number of candidates started their answer in the conventional present tense because they were asked to describe two contrasting times. However, as soon as they introduced some narrative involving a particular event or action, they changed to the past tense which was not convincing.
- Some candidates listed features instead of describing them. Even though the main senses were employed, very few candidates referred to the smell and feel of anything. Some candidates who chose this question ran out of descriptive ideas very quickly and turned the response into a narrative.

## Question 3

### Example Candidate Response – high

### Examiner comments

3	<p>it would not be a good thing for education to be done online at home. Firstly, students will loose focus easily at home because they could be using their phone while having their online class. Also, if their teachers are irresponsible and does not care if students are actually learning or playing, teachers would not ask students questions. Students could observe their teacher's way of teaching with the first few classes. If the teacher is the only person speaking and does not ask questions, students could just turn in to the class and leave their laptops on but students are not physical here. Students could be log in to their online classes and go back to sleep and their teachers would not know because they do not <del>have</del> <del>see</del> <del>nessa</del> necessarily on their camera.</p> <p>other than that, students could mute their group call and watch television while the class is going on. Without the <del>supervise</del> supervision of teachers, lazy students or students who have bad <del>behaviour</del> behaviour will not do well in online classes at home.</p> <p>In addition, without a physical school, exams cannot be held. Exams cannot be held at home because then there will be no supervision and students could cheat. Even if the teacher make all students to on their camera, <del>the</del> they could only see students' student's face. Students could open their text books beside their answer booklet and teacher could not see it.</p> <p>However, if the teacher decides to ask his students to face their camera on their answer booklet, <del>the</del> students could still open their text books. They could</p>
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- 1 The candidate starts with a clear statement of opinion.
- 2 The candidate's punctuation is accurate and helpful.
- 3 The candidate uses very good vocabulary in their response.
- 4 The candidate uses precise vocabulary here.
- 5 Lengthy sentences provide variety in the sentence structures.
- 6 The candidate's spelling is very good throughout the response. See also 'necessarily' at the end of this paragraph.
- 7 Very good sentence separation is obvious throughout.
- 8 The candidate uses paragraphs which suggests they have planned their work. Very good, varied paragraph openings or link words are used.
- 9 Paragraph links are punctuated helpfully.
- 10 The candidate's writing is fluent and natural, which is helped throughout by their use of complex sentences.
- 11 The punctuation is correct and helpful here.
- 12 The argument develops in a mature and detailed way.
- 13 The candidate introduces clearly defined, cohesive, logical stages in the development of the content.

## Example Candidate Response – high, continued

## Examiner comments

3	place their text books further from the camera. There is a limited area where the camera could capture.
	in conclusion, I personally think that physical schools should exist. Or else, many students might not do well in their tertiary education or even in their occupation.

14 The satisfactory conclusion adds a personal element to the argument.

**Total mark awarded =  
24 out of 30**

## How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The candidate used verbs and tenses consistently and clearly in this answer. However, there were still some errors with these which meant that the response was accurate, rather than *highly* accurate.
- Sentence boundaries were secure, but there was very little use of different types of sentences and different types of punctuation such as question marks and semi-colons. To improve their answer, the candidate could have ensured variety in sentence types and punctuation used.
- They also needed to correct some of their vocabulary and spelling errors.

## Example Candidate Response – middle

## Examiner comments

2	Section 2
	③
	<del>Education</del> is necessary
	<del>For</del> Education is like a necessity
	<del>we</del> without education we cannot
	survive nowadays, Due to the advance
	technologies and high-tech gadgets
	<del>and</del> etc. It is very important to
	learn something in life because if we
	are <del>illiterate</del> illiterate and we are good
	for nothing we <del>will</del> will have no place to
	go in this world.
	⑤
	“In the future, schools will not exist
	and all education will be done online
	at home. In my opinion this would
	be a great thing because it has
	many advantages and some disadvantages
	also. It would be great because
	we <del>wouldn't</del> <del>be</del> <del>the</del> won't be going
	anywhere we can just wake up easily and
	start studying at home and eat and
	drink anytime you want. We <del>will</del> will be
	available in the morning and at anytime
	of the day. We can work easily without
	worrying about our teachers and friends.
	A lot of money would be saved like
	for the registration fees and the lot
	of and books which are only used
	by the teacher. It keeps us away from

① The candidate demonstrates the use of some good vocabulary at the start of their answer.

② Accurate spelling throughout is a strength of this answer.

③ Useful vocabulary is immediately obvious in this answer.

④ The use of some complex sentences adds variety to the sentence structure.

⑤ The first paragraph provides a useful context for the rest of the argument.

⑥ The candidate uses paragraphs to move the focus on to the question and also to introduce personal opinion.

⑦ The candidate uses satisfactory vocabulary and sentence structure.

⑧ The correct use of sentence separation is clear in most of the response.

## Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

## Examiner comments

	<p>distractions and we can easily take our class and go wherever <del>we</del> <sup>we</sup> want. We can go to gym, <del>football</del> and also play many sports which will help us to keep healthy.</p>	9
	<p><del>We</del> <del>Although</del> <del>we</del> However we forget our families in our busy schedule all day so we can spend more time with them. <del>They</del> <del>can</del> <del>do</del> <del>our</del> <del>work</del> <del>on</del> <del>our</del> <del>time</del> and submit in the online class. Mainly all of this is going to benefit our school because they would be paying so much amount on electricity and paying other staff. Many students have transport problem in the morning which is why they are late or not on time. Some students are not able to wake up so early in the morning.</p>	10
	<p>Although there are many disadvantages <del>also</del> because students will not follow the routine, many students will miss their classes or join in late. The teachers are unaware of the students activity and cannot take any action if he/she is doing something against the rules. <del>A</del> lot of them are unable to understand in online classes. <del>They</del> they can't afford such good internets <del>and</del> and expensive smart phones and laptops for <del>the</del> class.</p>	11
		12
		13
		14
		15

9 The candidate includes useful vocabulary to sustain the argument.

10 The candidate uses a convincing point to strongly round off the positive side of the argument.

11 The candidate's use of paragraphs shows that they have planned their argument and are moving on to consider the other side of the argument.

12 The candidate shows more very good spelling here.

13 The candidate continues to punctuate sentences efficiently.

14 The candidate uses this paragraph well to shift the focus slightly.

15 The candidate uses good, convincing arguments throughout their answer.

**Example Candidate Response – middle, continued** **Examiner comments**

Students would just pretend to take the class and it can cause there future and they will be going to fail. Friends would not be able to meet ~~the~~ daily and ~~no friends are going~~ it will be very difficult for the new students.

I think it's a very good idea to start online schooling for the future so that people can be advanced and limited ~~the~~ ~~of~~ money will be used. 16 It is very easy to study in a homely environment ~~and~~ and just listen to the teacher and learn something to succeed in life.  
Thankyou!

16 The candidate concludes their response with a strong paragraph which suggests that the content is relevant and developed. The candidate uses language in a way that is mostly accurate.

**Total mark awarded =  
20 out of 30**

**How the candidate could have improved their answer**

- The content of the candidate’s work was good but there were areas in which language use could be improved, particularly as these errors were not caused by ambition. The candidate’s verb usage needed to be entirely secure but there were two occasions when ‘can’ was used instead of ‘could’. Also, agreement could have been more secure; ‘many students have transport problem’.
- To improve their answer, the candidate needed to ensure better sentence separation (it was flawed in the first paragraph), ensure correct spellings and avoid the awkward change from ‘we’ to ‘you’ in the second paragraph.

## Example Candidate Response – low

## Examiner comments

3.	<p>Education plays an important part for youngs. no matter <sup>1</sup> its in the future, or past. It will benefit a lot to the childrens and their future will be affected by educations.</p> <p>School is <del>the place</del> not only the place for <sup>2</sup> childrens to study, its also help childrens to build up the communication between each others. School gave the chance for childrens to, get the ability to learn, including making mistake. I strongly <sup>3</sup> agree that it will not be good as all education will be done at home in the future <sup>4</sup></p> <p>When students are doing their education at home, <sup>5</sup> it might not be <del>essencary</del> <del>the</del> neccessary be good, because some of the students might not be concentrate on the lessons. They will fell bored as they were looking at the same physical <sup>6</sup> screen for a long time. <sup>7</sup> It might cause eyes stringe to students as this <del>is</del> is damaging their eyes while they are looking at electronic device for <del>a</del> numerous hours. Further more, <sup>8</sup> it might not seems like a help for students when they go for examination of education as students now are not concentrate on classes lessons.</p> <p>In additons, students may find it demotivate as their deskmate or friends are now far away from the student instead of siting nearby or beside the student. As students feel demotivate, they might skip class and hang out with <del>their</del> their friends or playing computer games. This will be a bad habit for students as this will affect their education lifestyle. Students might not be able to complete the tasks given by teacher when they get <sup>9</sup> addicted to computer games and skipping classes, which will cause a bad reputation for the students.</p> <p><sup>10</sup> On the other hand, having education to be done at home might be benefit <del>the</del> to parents as they get intouch with their childrens about the education. <sup>11</sup> Parents might get to know what will be done by their childrens during school hours, whether <sup>12</sup></p>
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<sup>1</sup> The candidate provides a sense of context in the opening sentence.

<sup>2</sup> Some of the vocabulary and spelling are useful at this level.

<sup>3</sup> The candidate shows good personal involvement and opinion here.

<sup>4</sup> The candidate is capable of correct sentences.

<sup>5</sup> The use of paragraphs is a strong feature of this response.

<sup>6</sup> This is an example of some of the satisfactory spelling in this response.

<sup>7</sup> The candidate uses good expression.

<sup>8</sup> The candidate uses some helpful punctuation.

<sup>9</sup> This is another example of the candidate's ability to write in correct sentences on occasions. The spelling of 'affect' is accurate.

<sup>10</sup> The candidate uses paragraphs and a linking expression (with correct punctuation) to effectively switch to the opposite point of view.

<sup>11</sup> This candidate's writing features good sentence separation.

<sup>12</sup> There is sound, relevant content throughout the response.



## Example Candidate Response – low, continued

## Examiner comments

3.	they are doing well in education or meets the expectation for their parents & since the education is apply in the invention of internet.
	In conclusion, having education to be done online at home will not always make students to focus on their lessons. Students may go for other webpages to watch youtube <del>video</del> or social <del>media</del> networking with friends. Beside that, students might have skip classes as teacher did not mark the attendants of class.

**13** The candidate finishes with a sensible, concluding paragraph.

**Total mark awarded =  
14 out of 30**

## How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The candidate's overall meaning was never in doubt in this answer.
- To improve their answer, the candidate needed to avoid the verb and tense errors and ensure that they used correct agreement, vocabulary and spelling.

## Common mistakes candidates made in this question

- The 'Argument' question was often chosen by candidates who did not have enough ideas on the subject to sustain a full response. Some candidates found it difficult to organise their ideas and tended to jump from one aspect to another. Some candidates had ideas, but did not give convincing examples to back up what they were saying.
- A number of candidates did not have the specific vocabulary for the topic, while others used too informal a tone.

## Question 5

## Example Candidate Response – high

## Examiner comments

	<p>Snow Storm          Loved Inside          Indoor Games          Memories to last.          Education - learnt about teaching methods in each          other's countries, adapt to improve          New friend - many new memories          Amazing Experience for all. He had the chance of being a tourist</p>
5	<p>On <del>14<sup>th</sup></del> September 2020, our headmistress          announced that our school from a total of twenty was          selected to be part of foreign exchange program          and that my class would be hosting <sup>1</sup> the          foreign student. Many of the students in my          class had never met a foreigner <sup>2</sup> before.          Therefore, it was easy to see why everyone wanted          to meet him. We were told he would arrive in <sup>3</sup>          a week.</p> <p>One week later, on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September, as I entered <sup>4</sup>          my class, I saw that most of my class was huddled <sup>5</sup>          around in a corner. I immediately put my bag down          and walked towards the crowd to see what all          the commotion was about. As I got closer I saw          a tall fair-skinned boy about my age. He introduced          himself as John Smith. For the 1<sup>st</sup> week of his          stay, John became a part of our class <del>and</del> while          staying at a Hotel nearby. During this period, he took          all of our tests as well as performing different          practicals in our labs. After the first week John          did not have to take any more classes and had two          whole weeks to enjoy and explore our Country.</p>

<sup>1</sup> The candidate's vocabulary is impressive from the beginning.

<sup>2</sup> The candidate's spelling is impressive and continues to be so throughout the text.

<sup>3</sup> Fluent, natural sounding sentences are a feature of this candidate's work.

<sup>4</sup> Paragraphs have unity and are linked in this candidate's response.

<sup>5</sup> The candidate uses a wide and precise vocabulary at times. See also 'commotion' below.

## Example Candidate Response – high, continued

## Examiner comments

	<p>During these first weeks, we acted as John's guides around the country. In the first week, we visited different National Landmarks including the Monument of Pakistan, the Badshahi Masjid as well as visiting the Wagha Border. Each day we would go to a different restaurant to try out the large variety of foods available in Pakistan which were all a new experience for John and he deeply enjoyed them all. On the last day, we took John to the Lok Virsa Museum where he learned about Pakistan's diverse history. We later took him to the annual Lok Virsa Festival where representatives from all the different provinces in Pakistan were present which from which John learnt about our culture even further. Here, John also bought multiple ornaments as souvenirs.</p>
	<p>In the last week of his stay, we took John to the Northern areas where we visited many famous locations like Gilgit, Hunza and later the world renowned Saif-ul-Muluk Lake whose water was so clear we could see its riverbed. On the last 3 days we went to a Skiing Resort which was an entirely new experience for him. However, our activities were cut short due to a large Snow Storm which showed up unannounced. Due to the Storm we were locked inside but this was even better as we now got to spend a lot of time together. We played many indoor games and also made many memories which would last us a long time.</p>
	<p>This was an amazing experience for everyone, as</p>

6 The candidate uses sustained paragraphs with good, complex sentence structures.

7 The candidate uses complex sentence types.

8 The candidate's spelling is very competent throughout.

## Example Candidate Response – high, continued

## Examiner comments

		we learnt about many different teaching methods used abroad which we could implement and adopt to improve ourselves. Furthermore, we made a new friend and many new memories which we will not forget for a long time. John also had the chance of becoming a tourist in a foreign country. On the last day of his stay, we bid him farewell after dropping him off at the airport.
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9 This lengthy response sustains interest and has effective detail.

Total mark awarded =  
26 out of 30

## How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The candidate's answer was accurate and correct, however they needed to demonstrate more ambition in their sentence variety.
- They also needed to reduce omission and spelling errors to improve it further.
- The answer consisted of statement sentences so it was very like reading a list.
- The candidate could have improved their answer by including some questions and exclamations and also an occasional short sentence for dramatic effect.
- Most of all, the candidate could have included some speech or dialogue to add life to the writing.

## Example Candidate Response – middle

## Examiner comments

5	2	<p>The year is 2130; <del>subter subteran subterranean</del> monsters from the core has risen to the surface of the earth worldwide. The monsters are vile and evil, they will not hesitate to kill a human. However, <sup>1</sup> all the monsters decided to retreat back to the core after the monster king <sup>2</sup> was defeated by a <del>young</del> man called Alex Newman.</p> <p>Alex is a man in his mid twenties. Despite his young age, he received the title "World Hero" <sup>3</sup> for his action from the United Nations for his action. He is also an international celebrity with many talents. Alex is multilingual, handsome, has a beautiful voice and on top of all, he is kind <sup>4</sup> to people. It was easy to see why everyone wanted to meet him.</p> <p>Many people were curious that how did a <sup>5</sup> flowery prince like him managed to defeat an ancient overlord by himself. <del>The truth is</del> Despite of the <del>numbers</del> number of times he was questioned in interviews, he would never answer the question. The truth is, Alex Newman is the furthest thing to be classified as a part of mankind. <sup>6</sup> He <del>was a</del> is a monster that dwelled in the core of the earth.</p> <p>His real name was Rozah. During his childhood, Rozah was mistreated by his own kind. He was picked on by monsters <del>who</del> just because of his skinny built. Despite being a monster, Rozah always had a kind nature. He refused to sabotage <del>the</del> human lives even under the orders of the monster king. Because of this, <sup>7</sup> he was exiled <del>and</del> out of his birthplace and is forced to live in the human world.</p>
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<sup>1</sup> The candidate uses some helpful punctuation from the beginning.

<sup>2</sup> The candidate uses some good examples of vocabulary from the start.

<sup>3</sup> The candidate's use of punctuation is sophisticated.

<sup>4</sup> The candidate's vocabulary and spelling is a strength in this answer.

<sup>5</sup> The candidate shows evidence of planning in the use of paragraphs.

<sup>6</sup> The storyline is unusual and creates interest for the reader.

<sup>7</sup> The candidate controls the tenses in this paragraph sufficiently well to ensure a steady progression of the narrative. Sentence structures are also complex and the punctuation here is helpful.

Example Candidate Response – middle, continued			Examiner comments
5	2	<p>He took the appearance of a human and blended in with other humans. He lived <del>as a</del> an normal ordinary life as a carpenter in a village. <del>Looking at how humans</del> His customers were <del>a</del> very cheerful and always bought him gifts. Razah felt the warmth of the <del>the</del> human world and decided to protect them.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">300 (300 words)</p>	<p><b>8</b> The candidate ends the answer strongly with accurate writing and good vocabulary and spelling. The sentence separation is accurate and the tenses are secure.</p> <p><b>Total mark awarded = 21 out of 30</b></p>

### How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The content of this answer was relevant and intriguing and the final paragraph showed the candidate’s most accurate work. However, the candidate overcomplicated their answer by writing in both the past and present tense, so the verbs and tenses used were not completely accurate. The candidate could have improved their answer if they had ensured consistency and used the correct form throughout.
- They could also have used more varied sentence structures, sentence types and dialogue too.

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

Section 2:- Composition	
Narrative Essay:-	
B5)	<p>One day <sup>1</sup> there was a boy his name was hassan. Hassan was 12 years old. Hassan love to play <del>the</del> football. But Hassan's parent was not allowing hassan to play football in School football team. Hassan's parents were scared because after going to football team Hassan will not take his study seriously. <sup>2</sup></p> <p>One day hassan's teacher called hassan's <sup>3</sup> parent and tells about the Hassan's interest in football. Hassan's Parents did not allow Hassan for the football team after talking with the hassan's sports teacher. Hassan get very upset after the parents statement about the football team. <sup>4</sup></p> <p>One day hassan and his family went on a vacations. Hassan love Germany so their parents took hassan to the Germany to make hassan happy. They reached Germany and stay in the hotel. Hotel has some outdoor and indoor game sections. Over <sup>5</sup> there there is a football area as well where people come and play football. Hassan go there and play football overe there. Hassan's father was finding hassan because hassan did not tell these parents that where he is going.</p>

<sup>1</sup> The candidate uses the opening phrase to point the reader towards a narrative response.

<sup>2</sup> Some of the vocabulary and spellings are good and this lifts the response.

<sup>3</sup> The candidate uses helpful punctuation to show possession.

<sup>4</sup> The use of paragraphs breaks up the action, which is helpful for the reader in this long story.

<sup>5</sup> There is a simple accuracy in the sentence structures and the sentence separation is secure enough to make the overall meaning clear.

**Example Candidate Response – low, continued** **Examiner comments**

Hassan's father reached the football area and see that hassan is playing the football and the people present in the football area was supporting hassan and they like that hassan is a good player.	6
Then one person came to hassan's father and asked that he is your son. So hassan's father said yes he is my son. Then that person said to hassan's father that your child is very talented and you as a father should support him. Then hassan's father thinks that support hassan and allow him to go in the football team.	78
Then after 1 week they return to pakistan and next day hassan's father go to hassan school and talk with their teacher and after listening that hassan's father was supporting him so they become happy and start training hassan. After 1 month of training hassan's play with team play with the different school and win all the matches.	7
One day hassan's father became very happy from the performance of hassan and gift him a new mobile. As time pass hassan was now 19 years old. And he think to play international football matches. Hassan talk with their parents about this and he was very happy that his father give him the permission for playing the international football matches. Hassan	75

6 The candidate's use of sentence separation continues to be accurate and helpful.

7 The candidate sustains the storyline, especially through the use of appropriate paragraphing.

8 The candidate maintains a satisfactory accuracy in the vocabulary and spelling at this straightforward level.



Example Candidate Response – low, continued	Examiner comments
<p>took admission in football academy and start practicing for the football.</p> <p>After seeing the performance of hassan his entry was confirm in the international team for the football. Then hassan start playing international and win the matches. Then the final match was held between India and Pakistan but with the great performance of hassan Pakistan win the match and every person was so happy with hassan then hassan's father said to Hassan's mother the "It was easy to see why everyone wanted to meet him".</p> <p>(490 words)</p>	<p>Total mark awarded = 14 out of 30</p>

### How the candidate could have improved their answer

- This answer was a lengthy narrative and well over the minimum number of words. The candidate could have improved the answer by writing less and checking their work for errors.
- The most obvious weakness was in the use of verbs and tenses throughout the answer. Overall, the meaning was clear enough, but fewer errors of this type could have improved the answer.
- The candidate also needed to avoid errors in the use of capital letters, agreement and the omission of articles.
- The first three paragraphs all started with 'One day', but some attempt to vary this would have improved the answer, as would some variation in the sentence types used.

### Common mistakes candidates made in this question

- Many candidates found it difficult to convincingly integrate the given sentence into their narrative. Additionally, many candidates used overly long, prepared, opening paragraphs, for example describing waking up to sunlight streaming in through the window and birds chirping outside. Such opening paragraphs did very little to set the scene and delayed the action of the narrative. Candidates wrote too much in their answer, often way beyond the 500 words. They needed to spend less time writing and more time checking their work because it was rare for responses to improve after 500 words.
- For the Language requirement, common mistakes candidates made in this question tended to involve the incorrect use of verbs and tenses, the misuse of articles and the use of commas to separate sentences.

Cambridge Assessment International Education  
The Triangle Building, Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge, CB2 8EA, United Kingdom  
t: +44 1223 553554  
e: [info@cambridgeinternational.org](mailto:info@cambridgeinternational.org) [www.cambridgeinternational.org](http://www.cambridgeinternational.org)

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