



**Cambridge Assessment
International Education**

Example Candidate Responses – Paper 2

**Cambridge International AS & A Level
English Language 9093**

For examination from 2021



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Introduction

The main aim of this booklet is to exemplify standards for those teaching Cambridge AS & A Level English Language 9093, and to show how different levels of candidates' performance (high, middle and low) relate to the subject's curriculum and assessment objectives.

In this booklet candidate responses have been chosen from the June 2021 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, mark schemes and inserts used here are available to download from the School Support Hub. These files are:

9093 June 2021 Question Paper 21

9093 June 2021 Mark Scheme 21

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

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
1	a. A little over two ^a weeks ago ¹ but which feels like just yesterday – our very own hall was graced with the presence of world-renowned actress/director, ^{and DC alumnus} ² Danai Gurira, who gave an inspiring talk about her career and her life and how she became the talented ³ and successful superstar she is today.	<p>1 The candidate effectively uses parenthetical dashes to add detail to the opening sentence.</p> <p>2 The candidate names a real famous person, which makes the news story seem authentic.</p> <p>3 The candidate begins the news story successfully, giving the most important details of the event.</p>
	The hall was dead silent with the exception	

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.

Examiner comments 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.

How the candidate could have improved their answer

- **1(a)** To improve their answer, the candidate needed to incorporate a wider range of language and include a few more complex structures.
- **1(a)** To improve their answer, the candidate needed to use a wider range of language features, for example parallel structures, humour, hyperbole and discourse markers.
- **1(a)** To improve their answer, the candidate needed to incorporate a wider range of less common lexis but still bear in mind the audience for the news report.

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

(a)

- Many candidates mixed the tenses they used in their news reports. They often jumped between the present tense and simple past tense and used the present tense instead of the simple past tense in the news report.
- Many candidates did not name the famous person.
- Some candidates used clichéd similes, for example 'as if we had been hit by a truck'.
- Many candidates did not structure the news story in clear paragraphs.

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 a. A little over ~~two~~^a weeks ago ¹ but what feels like just yesterday – our very own hall was graced with the presence of world-renowned actress/director, ^{and DC alumnus} Danai Gurira ², who gave an inspiring talk about her career and her life and how she became the talented and successful superstar she is today. ³

The hall was dead silent with the exception of Ms. Gurira as she began by recounting her experiences falling in love with theatre through participating in school productions ^{here} at our very own school, The Dominican Convent. ⁴

"It started as a hobby for me, but it quickly grew into my greatest passion. Really, it was the lively and extremely creative culture here at the Convent that really got me started on this path to becoming who I am today," she said as each and every student in the audience listened attentively and drank up each word she said like sponges absorbing water.

She then went on to tell us about migrating to the USA with her family, ^{and saying that} "It was definitely a challenge. It was such a drastic change in culture and environment, but I had survived The Convent and so America was ^{no challenge} nothing to me. Plus it really paid off in the end." And boy, did it! We all listened, sitting on the edge of our seats, as she spoke about her thrilling, awe-inspiring and sometimes challenging experiences working on incredible projects such as Black Panther ⁶

¹ The candidate effectively uses parenthetical dashes to add detail to the opening sentence.

² The candidate names a real famous person, which makes the news story seem authentic.

³ The candidate begins the news story successfully, giving the most important details of the event.

⁴ The candidate writes fluently in this paragraph and throughout the response.

⁵ The candidate uses paragraphs to clearly structure the news story throughout.

⁶ The candidate includes a very long direct quotation from the talk. This results in a news report of about 430 words which is slightly over the stipulated 400 words.

Example Candidate Response – high, continued

Examiner comments

		and The Walking Dead alongside some of her role models. "It was a surreal experience and I truly feel like there's so much that I'm capable of doing that I know all of you are equally capable of," she said in conclusion ^{to} of her thrilling talk.
		Now, a week has passed since the ladies of The Convent had the amazing opportunity to be inspired up close by the great Naima Curira, and they have already allowed this great inspiration to bloom in many facets of student life. The drama club has begun preparations for the annual school production, which they will be writing this year, as a show of the great potential they believe they can reach after hearing Ms Curira's inspirational story. Similarly, some students have decided to start a Cultural Appreciation Club to go further in adding to the lively and creative culture of the school.
		Our school will never be the same after getting the chance to be inspired by such an icon who had once been a regular student like ourselves. In her wise words, "Us Convent girls are destined for greatness!"
1	b	The purpose of the news story which has been written for the school magazine is to

7 The candidate uses some less common lexis in this paragraph and throughout the response.

8 The candidate focuses successfully on the impact of the talk, as required by the question.

9 The candidate uses some complex structures in this paragraph and throughout the response.

10 The candidate engages the audience and concludes the news story successfully.

Mark for (a) = 13 out of 15

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

<p>11</p>	<p>recount and inform the reader about the talk that was given by Damai Gurira whilst entertaining the reader and mirroring the atmosphere of the talk and emphasizing the main purpose of the talk, which was to inspire the students. As it has been written primarily for an audience of students who were ^{are} likely to have been at the talk it is written in a colloquial and somewhat conversational tone whilst still adhering to the conventions of news stories published as magazine articles.</p>	<p>11 The candidate shows an awareness of the importance of choosing an appropriate style for the required form of a news report for a school magazine.</p>
<p>12</p>	<p>The article is written in first person voice with collective possessive pronouns such as "our" which creates a sense of community in the article. This contributes to fulfilling the task as the article has been written for students, recounting a shared experience that the students had and the use of collective pronouns, also including "we", helps in emphasizing the significance of the event for the individual reader as well as the collective student body. Furthermore, it is written in past tense which allows statements such as "The hall was dead silent" to hold significant significance as the reader is encouraged to reminisce about the talk and the impact that Damai Gurira left on them, which also aids in satisfying the set task.</p>	<p>12 The candidate provides a detailed analysis of the point about using a first person perspective, which shows an awareness of the audience and explains the intended effect.</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>A plethora of positive adjectives such as</p>	<p>13 The candidate uses accurate linguistic terms and provides specific examples from the news story. They follow this with a clear explanation of the intended effect on the audience.</p>

Example Candidate Response – high, continued

Examiner comments

	<p>"surreal", "awe-inspiring" and "thrilling" are used throughout the article. This allows the text to mirror the positive atmosphere at the talk as well as the its inspirational effect on the students present. Furthermore, positive adjectives such as "world-renowned" are used to describe Damaí Curira herself which adds to the significance of the talk itself by putting her and her accomplishments on a pedestal which makes her all the more inspiring and impactful to the people listening to her talk. Finally, the repeated mention of her being an alumnus of the school at which she gave the talk such as "DC alumnus" and "Us Convent girls" allow for the talk to have an even greater impact on the reader, even as they recollect on the talk that happened in the past, as they can see themselves in Damaí Curira as they have their school in common.</p>
14	<p>Finally, by using simile such as "like sponges absorbing water", the article is able to give a vivid recounting of the atmosphere at the talk as the students were eager to learn from Damaí Curira, even without the use of imagery, fulfilling the task by sharing the inspiration that was shared on the day through clearly conveying the atmosphere and impact of the talk. Furthermore, the article makes the true extent of her impact clear through</p>

14 The candidate clearly identifies the linguistic choices, quotations from the news story and explains the reasons for these choices, along with their intended effects on the reader.

Example Candidate Response – high, continued

Examiner comments

15 subtle techniques such as the list of three "thrilling, awe-inspiring and somewhat challenging" which further emphasise her significance as well as how much the students were already inspired by her before the talk, as well as overt techniques of using the present tense to show how students are currently being impacted by the talk "they believe... after hearing Ms Curira". Lastly, by referring to her as "Ms Curira", the article establishes a sense of respect and admiration parallel to the respect and admiration that the students felt whilst listening to the talk, which also emphasises the impact that she had.

The news story effectively completes the task by mirroring the inspirational ^{nature} speech as the language recreates the atmosphere that inspired ^{the} students.

15 The candidate covers a wide range of discussion on the language choices made (pronouns, adjectives, repetition, simile and a list of three).

Mark for (b) = 9 out of 10

Total mark awarded =
22 out of 25

How the candidate could have improved their answer

(a)

- To improve their answer, the candidate needed to incorporate a wider range of language and include a few more complex structures. They also needed to use a wider range of language features, for example parallel structures, humour, hyperbole and discourse markers.
- The candidate should have incorporated a wider range of less common lexis but still needed to bear in mind the audience for the news report.

(b)

- To improve their answer, the candidate needed to use more precise language and terminology to link their evidence with their explanatory comments.
- The candidate could have improved their answer by commenting on the structure of the news report, in addition to commenting on the form and the language used.

Example Candidate Response – middle

Examiner comments

1	a	Dr. Phillips High School August 15, 2020
		1 The Career & Life of Jan Doe
		The Sophomore class gathered around the bright lit stage of the auditorium. The footsteps of each student echoed throughout the room. No one was expecting what was about to happen. Once everyone was seated, our headteacher strolls across the stage with a microphone as big as her head. "Good morning students", "Good morning Mrs. Savious" answered the students. She began to describe our
		2 guest speaker, we were all guessing who it could possibly be. Then, suddenly, Jane Doe walks out
		3 from behind the stage. Her stride is like that of a supermodel. "Hello everyone, my name is Jane, Jane Doe", she announced in a calm, but
		4 confidently. The crowd went wild, like animals in a zoo. Our class could not be more excited. "My story starts in my sophomore year of high school, just like you all." Doe began to explain she was not the brightest student, as she say said she was "as lazy as a fat cat". From, she too Not too long into sophomore year, her mother past away from cancer. This was "the worst thing that had ever happened" to Jane Doe. All of us in the room could feel the pain, as if we had been hit by a truck. Sadness filled the room. Depression followed her mother's death, for years. Doe compared her depression to a "bear who had been hibernating for way too long". One day,
		5 after a year in college, she met a man. "This is

1 The candidate provides a title for the news story.

2 The candidate uses tenses inconsistently in the news story, sometimes writing in the present tense and sometimes in the past tense.

3 The candidate does not name a real famous person. Instead they use the name 'Jane Doe', a name that is normally used when the true name of a person is unknown or is being intentionally concealed. This makes the news story seem less authentic.

4 The candidate makes some spelling errors in a few common words such as 'crowd' and 'occured' and some less common words, such as 'mentour'.

5 The candidate spends a lot of time describing the life and career of Jane Doe. This results in a news story of about 480 words, over the stipulated 400 words.

Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

Examiner comments

1	a	no love story", not with a person at least. This man was a multimillion dollar real estate investor. We, the audience, too became even more intrigued. His name was Randy and he was 24 years old. Jane was encapsulated by his success, like a baby seeing the world for the first time.
	6	"How are you so successful at this young of an age", she asked him. "There is no real answer for that", he said mysteriously. Jane Doe asked Randy to be her mentor, hoping this new purpose would dig her out of her grave of depression. So for
	7	two years Randy mentored her. The students in the room were amazed by her determination, even after something so tragic occurred in her life. We were inspired by her dedication. "Now I am also a multi-millionaire real estate investor" she exp exclaimed proudly. We were all in disbelief, because of her will to turn her life around. "My story may not look
	8	like yours, but that's the beauty of life. Never give up and make the most of what you have." Those words will stick with us, like a baby on a mother's leg, forever. The whole crowd was inspired by Jane Doe, the room was filled with wonder and opportunity. We, the sophomores of
	9	Dr. Phillips High School, will never be the same.

6 The candidate does not structure their answer into paragraphs. This affects the structure of the news story.

7 The news story is clearly written in sentences and is mostly accurately punctuated with some complex structures.

8 The candidate incorporates a useful direct quotation from the visitor.

9 The candidate could probably reduce the number of minor errors (for example, spelling and occasional punctuation slips) by taking some time to carefully check their answer.

Mark for (a) = 9 out of 15

Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

Examiner comments

1	b	<p>The news story utilized personal pronouns to exemplify the effect the speech had on the audience.</p> <p>Using personal pronouns such as "we" and "us" display to the reader how the audience's emotions throughout the speech. The reader can interpret how the audience was impacted by the story of the speaker. When By describing the strong that "all of us" felt, builds on the idea that the whole room was effected by Doe's words. The severity of the speakers life events are better represented by illustrating how the audience felt. Since the reader is ^{was} not at the speech, showing the audiences emotions forthat allows the reader to further comprehend the strong impact of the speech.</p> <p>Similarly, figurative language was present in the news story to provide a more in depth description of the audience's emotions and the atmosphere of the room. The author describes the crowd as "animals in a zoo" to illustrate their behavior when the speaker entered the room. This simile acts as a description of how the audience</p> <p>went bad wild com by comparing them to animals. This alludes to the reader the excitement of the atmosphere in the room. Another example would be when the author speaker was telling the audience of when her man passed away. The audience felt like they had been "hit by a truck" at the sound of this information. The</p> <p>metaphor allows the reader to know how the audience was feeling at this moment. The severity of the impact of the speaker's words is exemplified by this comparison. The atmosphere depressing atmosphere of</p>
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10 The candidate needs to use more precise terminology, for example 'first person pronouns'.

11 The candidate provides a clear explanation of the simile.

12 The candidate's comment on the metaphor gives a brief explanation about why the metaphor was chosen, but does not elaborate in detail on the intended effect on the audience.

Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

Examiner comments

1	b	<p>scene is illustrated through this metaphor. Figurative language gives the reader a further understanding of the impact of the speaker's words on the audience and atmosphere.</p> <p>On a separate note, the author includes quotes from the speaker to allow the reader to feel as if they were there. Adding direct quotes from the speaker builds on the description of the speech and atmosphere. Going back to the death of the speaker's mother, using the speaker's exact words exemplifies the severity of the event. The speaker's mother dying was the "worst thing that ever happened to her." Using the speaker's first-hand emotion provides insight to the atmosphere of the scene.</p> <p>To conclude, the author used multiple language techniques to display the impact of the speech on the reader and the atmosphere in the room. Personal pronouns showed how the audience felt. Figurative language provided a more in-depth description of the atmosphere, and quotes provided direct evidence to the speaker's emotion.</p>
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13 The candidate includes a clear analysis of the reasons for using direct quotations.

14 The candidate makes some clear points about some of the author's language choices but does not comment at all on the form or structure of the news report.

Mark for (b) = 6 out of 10

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

How the candidate could have improved their answer

(a)

- To improve their answer, the candidate needed to structure their news story in clear paragraphs and use more compound and complex sentences.
- The candidate needed to clearly address the audience of the writer's peers.
- The candidate should have been more consistent in their use of tenses.

(b)

- Although the candidate commented on the language used in the news report, to improve their answer they also needed to comment on the form and structure of the news report as well.
- To improve their answer, the candidate needed to consistently use a 'Point, Evidence, Explanation' format to analyse the form, structure and language of their news report.

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

7	a	The queen is coming. The queen of england is coming to our school. can you believe is? surely not, we never in a million years though we would meet her. yet here we are sitting in the assembly hall listening to her spread her wisdom and life story. She doesnt look a day over 70. long live the queen indeed. As far as our eyes can see is red, white and royal blue, our flags colours everyone was buzzing with energy hoping th her highness would look their way. I myself was so excited it was embarising. as soon as she spoke the hall got dead silent, waiting for her to tell her story. She was radiating and so smiley it put a smile on our faces as well. She told us that our time here on earth does not matter, what matters is who we share it with. everyone looked around for their friend, sibling or and/or significant other. did you turn to anyone as she said this? no? its okay because she also told us to be brave and make new life companions. shes so wise. "long live the queen" we chanted as she got off the stage to show our gratitude to her and her words. Thank you my queen, you truly truly changed our lives and made us incredibly happy. Long live the queen.
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- 1 The candidate misses several capital letters at the beginning of the proper nouns they use here, for example 'Queen' and 'England'.
- 2 The candidate introduces several spelling errors in common words, such as 'believe', 'surely', 'thought' and 'listening'.
- 3 The candidate uses the pronouns 'I', 'we' and 'our' to successfully take on the role of a student reporting on the visit.
- 4 The candidate uses tenses inconsistently in the news story, sometimes writing in the present tense and sometimes in the past tense.
- 5 The candidate misses several capital letters at the beginning of their sentences.
- 6 The candidate does not break their answer down into paragraphs and this affects the structure of the news story.
- 7 The candidate misses several apostrophes, such as in 'its', 'shes' and 'doesnt'.
- 8 The news story is only about 220 words long. While this fulfils the requirement of being under 400 words, the candidate can only develop their ideas in a limited manner.

Mark for (a) = 4 out of 15

Question 2

Example Candidate Response – high

Examiner comments

2	<p>Plan:</p> <p>Opening - start with the white, blaring sun</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • walking up to the playground at the park (colorful) • kids were yelling and giggling • you could see the sweat sliding off their faces, (each bread racing to see which would hit the ground first) <p>Body -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • some kids were playing soccer (kick back and forth) • kicking stopped (probably passed out from dehydration) • the grass was drying up and getting brown by the second • even the bugs (ants) seemed sluggish as they trudged along the fiery pavement <p>Closing -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sizzling of footsteps on pavement while walking out of the park • the children still playing on the playground (pool of sweat) <p style="text-align: center;">The Heat Is On</p> <p>If you looked up, past eye level, all you could see was the blaring white sun. The news should have called for a th warning in the morning, not for the dreadful heat, but for the obvious risk of going blind from just glancing up at the sky. It was Sunday and Sunday's were park days; admissions were free and that was enough to get all the families in town to rush to the park at maximum speed to beat the mid-afternoon heat. At However, the heat was unbeatable.</p> <p>Upon entering the park, there was a large playground full of brightly-colored slides, bridges, and climbing obstacles. You could hear all of the little girls nagging at</p>
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1 The candidate writes a plan before they begin their answer.

2 The candidate focuses on the question in the opening paragraph, which set the scene for the descriptive piece.

3 The candidate successfully focuses on describing sounds, as required by the question.

Example Candidate Response – high, continued

Examiner comments

one another waiting to go down the hot pink slide at the very top of the play ground. Below was an orange slide that was comparable to ~~the outside~~ a traffic cone. None of the children went down that slide. Perhaps it ~~reminded~~ reminded them of the dreaded cones marking the ~~drop off~~ car line at their school. Most kids their age refused to leave their parents, but at the playground, it was fair game.

Two kids had wandered off to the soccer fields. The sun was causing the ~~white~~ bright yellow field paint to fade away; mid-field no longer existed. You could hear the two kicking the ball back and forth at a steady pace. "Thunk, thunk, thunk, thunk." This went on for a solid five minutes then stopped. It was highly possible that one of them had passed out due to lack of hydration.

Later on, the heat had gotten even worse. The children on the playground began to resemble little cherries as they ran around with their cheeks ~~redder~~ than standing out, but not more than the large beads of sweat dripping off their faces. It was as if each bead was trying to race the others down to the searing asphalt. Each drop would have been sure to sizzle as it hit the ground.

The only available bench to sit on was ^{away from} ~~out of~~ any ~~sort~~ of shade. The decision was quite simple, however; sit in the sun and burn, or sit in the dirt under a tree and still burn. The tree was the best option. There was a large ant pile swarming with little red ants. They were carrying all sorts of food scraps ranging from ~~bits~~ yellow pieces of cheese snack crackers to green pieces of kiwi, it looked like. Usually the ants moved a lot faster though. Maybe they too could sense the unbearable heat as they

4

4

The structures are not always complex but the candidate's writing is accurate, with very few errors.

5

5

The candidate successfully describes movement, as required by the question, and effectively incorporates some imagery.

6

6

The candidate uses some less common lexis, such as 'swarming' and 'trudged' in this paragraph.

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

	seemingly trudged to and fro.
7	As a young couple passed by, all that could be heard was their tireless panting. Their child was slowly catching up behind them whimpering and begging for water, "Mama, water, please, water!" The poor child paused in between each word as if it took every last bit of his breath to utter four words out of his mouth. Of course, his parents were just as sluggish and once they reached the silver water fountain, shining in the sun, they had been saved.
8	Since arriving at the park, there was a clear difference in the grass surrounding it. After the morning dew had evaporated, the grass went from a vibrant green to a dull green and almost brown color. Even the grass was struggling to survive the heat. Each time you took a step on the grass, all you could hear was a loud "crunch".
9	As the day went by and the evening was approaching, the sun had become a little less blinding. At the playground, the once hot pink slide had turned into a faded, light pink and the bright orange slide had become a pastel. Usually this process would have taken months or even years, but it had been so hot that it was inevitable to experience such rarities.
	It was finally time to leave, the park was closing. Why it was open at all that day was truly a mystery. Each parent was ecstatic to leave the park and had to drag their children out like large rice bags that couldn't be moved. They were all drenched in sweat and wouldn't have looked out of place had they been next to a pool.
	Everyone was flooding the exit and heading toward the parking lot. One by one, each car pulled up and each engine was deafening, most likely due to the air conditioning that was on in every single one of them.

7 The response is well structured in paragraphs, with a clear topic for each paragraph.

8 The candidate successfully focuses on describing colours, as required by the question.

9 The candidate uses some complex structures in this paragraph and throughout the descriptive piece.

Total mark awarded = 21 out of 25

How the candidate could have improved their answer

- The candidate needed to further develop and give more detail on the ideas within each paragraph.
- The candidate should have used a wider range of vocabulary, sentence structures and language techniques, example similes, personification and pathetic fallacy.

Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

Examiner comments

2	<p>time, the whistling of the wind through the trees draws out all the other obnoxious noises to give peace and tranquility to those who need it so desperately.</p>
5	<p>On occasion, the skys would darken and the clouds would thicken. Soon enough enough the slight sound of raindrops could be heard as they hit the ground giving away their identity. In no time</p>
6	<p>the sound of the rain goes from the slight beating of a drum to a full drum solo, but yet it is still peaceful and is like music to your ears. The heat never fades though; as to grey as it could be the humidity and heat from the sun on the other side of the clouds always finds its way back as if its done this a million times before.</p>
	<p>In no time; the darkness fades once more to haunt another town or city. The children come from the shadows to splash in the puddles. Mud flying everywhere as children hop around and chase each other, till the scorching hot sun burns them out and the</p>

5 The candidate structures the answer well into paragraphs, with a clear topic for each paragraph.

6 The candidate successfully focuses on describing sounds, as required by the question. They incorporate some metaphorical language.

Example Candidate Response – middle, continued

Examiner comments

2	<p>The chatter among the parents continues as their children entertain themselves once again. Swirls and rabbits come out from the shadows</p>
7	<p>that haunt the park's edges.</p>
	<p>Birds Birds fly from tree to tree</p>
	<p>chirping as if their lives depended</p>
	<p>on it. On occasion birds would fly</p>
	<p>past making them sound like the</p>
	<p>crack of a whip just so they could</p>
	<p>feel the breeze pass through their</p>
	<p>feathers.</p>
	<p>The sound of the ice</p>
	<p>cream truck would be the</p>
	<p>only thing to hear for miles</p>
	<p>when it would pull it in to the</p>
	<p>park. Children go quiet, parents</p>
	<p>stop their chatter. But the second</p>
	<p>the truck doors flew open,</p>
	<p>children ran and screamed</p>
	<p>with excitement as they all</p>
	<p>shouted what flavours they want.</p>
	<p>The parents only agreeing to the</p>
	<p>ice cream due to the fact that</p>
	<p>the sun beamed down so</p>
	<p>brightly it felt like never</p>
	<p>ending. Sweat was the only</p>
	<p>smell you could sense. The refreshing</p>
	<p>cold taste sent shivers through</p>
	<p>out everyone's bodies as they</p>
	<p>tried to eat the ice cream</p>
	<p>before the sun melted it away</p>

7 The candidate uses some complex structures in this paragraph but there are several errors such as the incorrect spelling of 'among', 'squirrel' and 'occasion', and a missing apostrophe in 'park's'.

8 The final sentence of the paragraph does not flow well.

Example Candidate Response – low

Examiner comments

2	i	The Heat is On
	1	"Whoa Hoo!" No more school it's summer. "Tweet Tweet" the birds are chirping and singing and the bees are buzzing. I think today im going to go to the park.
	2	Better get ready. I put on a pink top and these jean shorts with my white vans and hopped into my black pumped out jeep. Woah its hot its about 94 degrees here in Florida. I'm still going to go to the park. The road is so bumpy and the traffic is very heavy. It doesn't even feel like im moving. I looked out the window and saw my reflection in the building as i went by.
	3	"Ping, Bing" its my phone "Hello" I said "Hey want to do something" said Ken "Sure lets go to the park" I replied "Okay text me the address and i'll meet you there" said Ken "Okay" I replied and hung up. Great now i have some friends coming with me. This will be so fun. I arrived at the park and sat in my car with the air on high and waited for my friends to arrive.
	4	"Beep" there here, I got out to go meet them and Ken said "Boy its hot out did you bring water?" "Yes" i said and handed him a nice ice cold water. "This park is huge when did you find this place?" "A while ago I thought it be cool to come" "Well it is come on lets go play." We played for about

1 The candidate begins with a reasonable focus on the descriptive task in the opening paragraph, although with very frequent errors, such as incomplete sentences, a spelling error in 'chirping', an unnecessary apostrophe in 'bees' and a missing apostrophe in 'I'm'.

2 The candidate does not always write in complete sentences.

3 The use of tenses is inconsistent throughout the response, with verbs in a mixture of present tense and past tense.

4 The candidate writes in narrative form and only provides a small amount of the description required by the question.

Example Candidate Response – low, continued

Examiner comments

2	i	2 hours then we took a break and ate lunch. We had so much fun but its time to go home we said goodbye and went our correct ways.
		I got into my jeep and ken got into his black truck. I put my AC back on high and started to drive home. On the way home I hit every traffic light in the city and there was stop and go traffic. I finally got home and went inside to take a cold shower. It felt so nice. Once I was done I sat down in my living room and watched some tv. By 9:00pm it was time for me to hit
	5	the bed. I was exhausted it was way to hot today. But I had a really fun time. I got up and went to the bathroom to wash up. I washed my face with this blue sparkly face wash and brushed my teeth with this aqua paste and my black and blue brush. When I finished with that I put on my black and white polka dot p.j's and went to my bedroom. I tucked myself in my bed with my big fluffy bear blanket and my two pillows. I turned on spongebob and watched that until I got tired. I though in my head about what I done today and tried to dream of it although I didn't like how hot it was. I'm suprized we didn't pass out or even worse. I couldn't fall asleep so I put on the news and read a book I finally fell asleep and slept the whole night.
		I slept so good and didn't want to wake up but I did I remembered it was the summer and there's no school so I got up
	6	got in the shower this time a steaming hot one

5 The candidate's expression is basic, with frequent errors, for example (in this sentence), a missing full stop before 'it' and spelling mistakes in 'exhausted' and 'to'.

6 The candidate loses control of their writing in this 55 word sentence, with two missing full stops.

Example Candidate Response – low, continued		Examiner comments
2	i	<p>7 Overall the candidate does not fulfill the descriptive task successfully. Much of the content lacks relevance and the candidate does not develop their descriptive ideas.</p> <p>Total mark awarded = 4 out of 25</p>
<p>And got another outfit on today its a black tank top and white jeans with my addies. I called up my friend once again were meeting at a park but this time were going to eat ice cream and swing on the swings not running around and playing because today's even hotter than yesterday at a whopping 98 degrees. However im going to still have another nice summer day full of plans.</p>		

How the candidate could have improved their answer

- To improve their answer, the candidate needed to write consistently in one tense, either the present tense or the simple past tense.
- The candidate should have written more accurately with fewer errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- The candidate should have maintained their focus on the descriptive form of the task, rather than narrative.

Common mistakes candidates made in this question

- Many candidates wrote a narrative response to the question, with insufficient focus on descriptive detail.
- Many candidates mixed tenses and often jumped between the present tense and simple past tense.
- Some higher level answers used a slightly restricted range of complex structures.
- Some lower level answers tried to write in complex sentences, which resulted in a loss of control of sentence structure.
- Some candidates did not structure their answers in clear paragraphs.
- Some candidates wrote fewer than the stipulated minimum of 600 words. This usually resulted in a lack of development and/or task fulfilment.
- Some candidates didn't check their work. This would have eliminated as many technical errors as possible.

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