basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS/ NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

ENGLISH FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE P3

MAY/JUNE 2026

MARKING GUIDELINES

MARKS: 100

These marking guidelines consist of 13 pages.

Copyright reserved

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

These marking guidelines must be used together with the attached English FAL assessment rubrics for SECTIONS A, B and C.

SECTION A: ESSAY

QUESTION 1

Instructions to Markers:

- Candidates are required to write on ONE topic only.
- The ideas listed below the topics are only **some ways** in which the topic could be interpreted.
- Full credit must be given for the candidates' own interpretation.
- Marking must be objective. Give credit for relevant ideas.
- Use the 50-mark assessment rubric to mark the essays. The texts produced by candidates must be assessed according to the following criteria as set out in the assessment rubric:
  - Content and planning (30 marks)
  - Language, style and editing (15 marks)
  - Structure (5 marks)

NOTE:

- Adhere to the length of between 250 and 300 words as prescribed in the CAPS document. However, should the maximum word count be exceeded, refer to the *First Additional Language Examination Guidelines Grade 12, 2021.*
- No additional penalties may be imposed as the rubric itself imposes penalties.

1.1 **A view from my window**

Descriptive/Narrative/Reflective/Discursive/Argumentative

- If descriptive, the candidate should create a picture in words, using as many senses as possible to make the description clear.
- If narrative, the essay must have a strong story line and an interesting ending.
- If reflective, the essay should convey the writer's/candidate's reactions and feelings.
- If discursive, the arguments for and against the topic must be well-balanced and clearly analysed in the essay. The candidate must provide supporting evidence for his/her arguments. The candidate may come to a particular conclusion at the end of the essay, which should include recommendations.
- If argumentative, the essay must reflect a specific argument or viewpoint for or against the topic. The candidate should give a range of arguments to support and substantiate his/her view. The conclusion should be a strong, clear and convincing statement of the writer's opinion.

NOTE: A candidate may write an essay which contains elements of more than one type of essay/any other essay type, relevant to the topic. **[50]**

1.2 **The day I stopped pretending**

Narrative/Reflective/Descriptive/Discursive/Argumentative

- If narrative, the essay must have a strong story line and an interesting ending.
- If reflective, the essay should convey the writer's/candidate's reactions and feelings.
- If descriptive, the candidate should create a picture in words, using as many senses as possible to make the description clear.
- If discursive, the arguments for and against the topic must be well-balanced and clearly analysed in the essay. The candidate must provide supporting evidence for his/her arguments. The candidate may come to a particular conclusion at the end of the essay, which should include recommendations.
- If argumentative, the essay must reflect a specific argument or viewpoint for or against the topic. The candidate should give a range of arguments to support and substantiate his/her view. The conclusion should be a strong, clear and convincing statement of the writer's opinion.

NOTE: A candidate may write an essay which contains elements of more than one type of essay/any other essay type, relevant to the topic. **[50]**

1.3 **It felt like a lifetime**

Reflective/Narrative/Descriptive/Discursive/Argumentative

- If reflective, the essay should convey the writer's/candidate's reactions and feelings.
- If narrative, the essay must have a strong story line and an interesting ending.
- If descriptive, the candidate should create a picture in words, using as many senses as possible to make the description clear.
- If discursive, the arguments for and against the topic must be well-balanced and clearly analysed in the essay. The candidate must provide supporting evidence for his/her arguments. The candidate may come to a particular conclusion at the end of the essay, which should include recommendations.
- If argumentative, the essay must reflect a specific argument or viewpoint for or against the topic. The candidate should give a range of arguments to support and substantiate his/her view. The conclusion should be a strong, clear and convincing statement of the writer's opinion.

NOTE: A candidate may write an essay which contains elements of more than one type of essay/any other essay type, relevant to the topic. **[50]**

1.4 **The most important conversations are the ones we never have.**

Discursive/Argumentative/Reflective/Narrative/Descriptive

- If discursive, the arguments for and against the topic must be well-balanced and clearly analysed in the essay. The candidate must provide supporting evidence for his/her arguments. The candidate may come to a particular conclusion at the end of the essay, which should include recommendations.
- If argumentative, the essay must reflect a specific argument or viewpoint for or against the topic. The candidate should give a range of arguments to support and substantiate his/her view. The conclusion should be a strong, clear and convincing statement of the writer's opinion.
- If reflective, the essay should convey the writer's/candidate's reactions and feelings.
- If narrative, the essay must have a strong story line and an interesting ending.
- If descriptive, the candidate should create a picture in words, using as many senses as possible to make the description clear.

NOTE: A candidate may write an essay which contains elements of more than one type of essay/any other essay type, relevant to the topic. **[50]**

1.5 **'To get lost is to learn the way.' – African Proverb**

Discursive/Argumentative/Reflective/Narrative/Descriptive

- If discursive, the arguments for and against the topic must be well-balanced and clearly analysed in the essay. The candidate must provide supporting evidence for his/her arguments. The candidate may come to a particular conclusion at the end of the essay, which should include recommendations.
- If argumentative, the essay must reflect a specific argument or viewpoint for or against the topic. The candidate should give a range of arguments to support and substantiate his/her view. The conclusion should be a strong, clear and convincing statement of the writer's opinion.
- If reflective, the essay should convey the writer's/candidate's reactions and feelings.
- If narrative, the essay must have a strong story line and an interesting ending.
- If descriptive, the candidate should create a picture in words, using as many senses as possible to make the description clear.

NOTE: A candidate may write an essay which contains elements of more than one type of essay/any other essay type, relevant to the topic. **[50]**

Interpretation of pictures

The candidate:
- must give the essay a suitable title.
- may interpret the pictures in any way.
- may choose to write any type of essay.
- must link the interpretation to the picture.
- may write in any appropriate tense.

1.6 Picture: **Happy children**

Narrative/Descriptive/Reflective/Argumentative/Discursive

- Literal interpretations: children, happiness, relaxation
- Figurative interpretations: friendship, socialising, diversity **[50]**

1.7 Picture: **Rhinoceros**

Narrative/Descriptive/Reflective/Argumentative/Discursive

- Literal interpretations: wildlife, separation, poaching
- Figurative interpretations: family, strength, survival **[50]**

1.8 Picture: **Blood donation sign**

Narrative/Descriptive/Reflective/Argumentative/Discursive

- Literal interpretations: blood donation, water conservation, kindness
- Figurative interpretations: saving lives, protection, benefactor **[50]**

TOTAL SECTION A: 50

SECTION B: LONGER TRANSACTIONAL TEXT

QUESTION 2

Instructions to Markers:

- Candidates are required to answer ONE question.
- Marking must be objective. Give credit for relevant ideas.
- Use the 30-mark assessment rubric to mark the responses in this section. The texts produced by candidates must be assessed according to the following criteria as set out in the assessment rubric:
  - Content, planning and format (18 marks)
  - Language, style and editing (12 marks)

NOTE:

- Adhere to the length of between 120 and 150 words as prescribed in the CAPS document. However, should the maximum word count be reached mid-sentence, read to the end of that sentence.
- No additional penalties may be imposed as the rubric itself imposes penalties.

2.1 FORMAL LETTER

A letter to the municipal manager

- Allow for acceptable variations of the format.
- The letter must be addressed to the municipal manager.
- The tone and register of the letter must be formal.
- The letter must include an introduction, a body and a conclusion.
- The following aspects of format **must** be included:
  - Address of sender
  - Date
  - Recipient: The Manager
  - Name of the municipality
  - Address of recipient
  - Greeting/Salutation
  - Subject line
  - Suitable ending
  - Signature
  - Name of sender
- The following information **must** be included in the letter, **among others**:
  - Areas of water wastage
  - Causes of water wastage
  - Possible solutions to the problem

[30]

2.2 **E-MAIL**

An e-mail to the mayor

- The e-mail should be addressed to the mayor.
- The tone and register of the e-mail should be formal.
- The following aspects of format **must** be included:
  - The recipient's e-mail address
  - Subject
  - Salutation/Greetings
  - Message
  - Suitable ending
  - Sender's name
- The following information **may** be included:
  - CC: an e-mail address of another recipient whose attention is called to the e-mail
  - Other alternative contact details at the end
- The e-mail must include recommendations on how the library could be saved. **[30]**

2.3 **OBITUARY**

An obituary for a friend

- The tone must be formal.
- The following aspects of format **must** be included:
  - Full name of the deceased
  - Date of birth
  - Date of death
  - Birthplace
  - Where the person was living at the time of death
  - Key survivors (e.g. parents, siblings) and their names
  - Date, time and place of funeral
  - A tribute to the deceased
- The following information **may** be included:
  - Biographical information
  - Cause of death **[30]**

2.4 **DIALOGUE**

A conversation between a mother and her child

- A brief context must be provided at the beginning of the dialogue.
- The tone should be appropriate.
- The following aspects of the dialogue format **must** be included:
  - The names of the speakers written on the left side of the page
  - A colon after the name of the character who is speaking
  - A new line to indicate each new speaker

Where necessary, actions must be given in brackets. **[30]**

TOTAL SECTION B: 30

SECTION C: SHORTER TRANSACTIONAL TEXT

QUESTION 3

Instructions to Markers:

- Candidates are required to answer ONE question.
- Marking must be objective. Give credit for relevant ideas.
- Use the 20-mark assessment rubric to mark the responses in this section. The texts produced by candidates must be assessed according to the following criteria as set out in the assessment rubric:
  - Content, planning and format (12 marks)
  - Language, style and editing (8 marks)

NOTE:

- Adhere to the length of between 80 and 100 words as prescribed in the CAPS document. However, should the maximum word count be reached mid-sentence, read to the end of that sentence.
- No additional penalties may be imposed as the rubric itself imposes penalties.

3.1 **POSTER**

Poster promoting an academic support programme.

- The following information **must** be included in the poster, **among others**:
  - Eye-catching headline, slogan or logo to attract the reader's attention.
  - Catchy words and phrases should be used.
  - Sufficient details of the programme (e.g. subjects offered, how to enrol, etc.)
  - Contact details
- The language may be formal or informal.
- The language must speak directly to the reader.

NOTE: Do NOT award marks for illustrations or drawings. **[20]**

3.2 **DIARY ENTRIES**

Diary entries BEFORE and AFTER you received the message that the race was cancelled.

- There must be TWO diary entries.
- The date/time must be reflected.
- The entries must express the candidate's feelings before and after receiving the message that the race was cancelled.
- The diary entries must be written in the first person.
- The language must be simple and informal (but no slang/colloquial language/abbreviations or SMS language may be used).
- The tone must reflect suitable emotions. **[20]**

3.3 **DIRECTIONS**

Directions from the school to your home

- The directions may be in point or paragraph form.
- Complete sentences are not necessary.
- Directions must be in the correct/logical order.
- Approximate distances in kilometres, directions and landmarks must be included.

NOTE: Do NOT award marks for illustrations or drawings. **[20]**

TOTAL SECTION C: 20
GRAND TOTAL: 100

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR ESSAY – FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE [50 MARKS]

Criteria		Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
CONTENT & PLANNING (Response and ideas) Organisation of ideas for planning; Awareness of purpose, audience and context **30 MARKS**	**Upper level**	**28–30**	**22–24**	**16–18**	**10-12**	**4-6**
		-Outstanding/Striking response beyond normal expectations -Intelligent, thought-provoking and mature ideas -Exceptionally well organised and coherent (connected), including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	-Very well-crafted response -Fully relevant and interesting ideas with evidence of maturity -Very well organised and coherent (connected), including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	-Satisfactory response -Ideas are reasonably coherent and convincing -Reasonably organised and coherent, including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	-Inconsistently coherent response -Unclear ideas and unoriginal -Little evidence of organisation and coherence	-Totally irrelevant response -Confused and unfocused ideas -Vague and repetitive -Unorganised and incoherent
	Lower level	**25–27**	**19–21**	**13–15**	**7–9**	**0–3**
		-Excellent response but lacks the exceptionally striking qualities of the outstanding essay -Mature and intelligent ideas -Skilfully organised and coherent (connected), including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	-Well-crafted response -Relevant and interesting ideas -Well organised and coherent (connected), including introduction, body and conclusion	-Satisfactory response but some lapses in clarity -Ideas are fairly coherent and convincing -Some degree of organisation and coherence, including introduction, body and conclusion	-Largely irrelevant response -Ideas tend to be disconnected and confusing -Hardly any evidence of organisation and coherence	-No attempt to respond to the topic -Completely irrelevant and inappropriate -Unfocused and muddled
LANGUAGE, STYLE & EDITING Tone, register, style, vocabulary appropriate to purpose/effect and context; Word choice; Language use and conventions, punctuation, grammar, spelling **15 MARKS**	**Upper level**	**14–15**	**11-12**	**8- 9**	**5- 6**	**0 – 3**
		-Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Language confident, exceptionally impressive -Compelling and rhetorically effective in tone -Virtually error-free in grammar and spelling -Very skilfully crafted	-Tone, register, style and vocabulary very appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Language is effective and a consistently appropriate tone is used -Largely error-free in grammar and spelling -Very well crafted	-Tone, register, style and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Appropriate use of language to convey meaning -Tone is appropriate -Rhetorical devices used to enhance content	-Tone, register, style and vocabulary less appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Very basic use of language -Tone and diction are inappropriate -Very limited vocabulary	-Language incomprehensible -Tone, register, style and vocabulary not appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Vocabulary limitations so extreme as to make comprehension impossible
	Lower level	**13**	**10**	**7**	**4**	
		-Language excellent and rhetorically effective in tone -Virtually error-free in grammar and spelling -Skilfully crafted	-Language engaging and generally effective -Appropriate and effective tone -Few errors in grammar and spelling -Well crafted	-Adequate use of language with some inconsistencies -Tone generally appropriate and limited use of rhetorical devices	-Inadequate use of language -Little or no variety in sentence -Exceptionally limited vocabulary	
STRUCTURE Features of text; Paragraph development and sentence construction **5 MARKS**		**5**	**4**	**3**	**2**	**0–1**
		-Excellent development of topic -Exceptional detail -Sentences, paragraphs exceptionally well-constructed	-Logical development of details -Coherent -Sentences, paragraphs logical, varied	-Relevant details developed -Sentences, paragraphs well-constructed -Essay still makes sense	-Some valid points -Sentences and paragraphs faulty -Essay still makes some sense	-Necessary points lacking -Sentences and paragraphs faulty -Essay lacks sense

Copyright reserved

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR LONGER TRANSACTIONAL TEXT – FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE [30 MARKS]

Criteria	Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
CONTENT, PLANNING & FORMAT Response and ideas; Organisation of ideas for planning; Purpose, audience, features/conventions and context **18 MARKS**	**15–18** -Outstanding response beyond normal expectations -Intelligent and mature ideas -Extensive knowledge of features of the type of text -Writing maintains focus -Coherence in content and ideas -Highly elaborated and all details support the topic -Appropriate and accurate format	**11-14** -Very good response demonstrating good knowledge of features of the type of text -Maintains focus – no digressions -Coherent in content and ideas, very well elaborated and details support topic -Appropriate format with minor inaccuracies	**8-10** -Adequate response demonstrating knowledge of features of the type of text -Not completely focused – some digressions -Reasonably coherent in content and ideas -Some details support the topic -Generally appropriate format but with some inaccuracies	**5-7** -Basic response demonstrating some knowledge of features of the type of text -Some focus but writing digresses -Not always coherent in content and ideas -Few details support the topic -Necessary rules of format vaguely applied -Some critical oversights	**0–4** -Response reveals no knowledge of features of the type of text -Meaning obscure with major digressions -Not coherent in content and ideas -Very few details support the topic -Necessary rules of format not applied
LANGUAGE, STYLE & EDITING Tone, register, style, purpose/effect, audience and context; Language use and conventions; Word choice; Punctuation and spelling **12 MARKS**	**10–12** -Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Virtually error-free	**8–9** -Tone, register, style and vocabulary very appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Generally grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Very good vocabulary -Mostly free of errors	**6–7** -Tone, register, style and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Some grammatical errors -Adequate vocabulary -Errors do not impede meaning	**4-5** -Tone, register, style and vocabulary less appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Inaccurate grammar with numerous errors -Limited vocabulary -Meaning obscured	**0–3** -Tone, register, style and vocabulary do not correspond to purpose, audience and context -Error-ridden and confused -Vocabulary not suitable for purpose -Meaning seriously impaired

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR SHORTER TRANSACTIONAL TEXT – FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE [20 MARKS]

Criteria	Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
CONTENT, PLANNING & FORMAT Response and ideas; Organisation of ideas; Features/conventions and context **12 MARKS**	**10–12** -Outstanding response beyond normal expectations -Intelligent and mature ideas -Extensive knowledge of features of the type of text -Writing maintains focus -Coherence in content and ideas -Highly elaborated and all details support the topic -Appropriate and accurate format	**8-9** -Very good response demonstrating good knowledge of features of the type of text -Maintains focus – no digressions -Coherent in content and ideas, very well elaborated and details support topic -Appropriate format with minor inaccuracies	**6-7** -Adequate response, demonstrating knowledge of features of the type of text -Not completely focused –some digressions -Reasonably coherent in content and ideas -Some details support the topic -Generally appropriate format but with some inaccuracies	**4-5** -Basic response, demonstrating some knowledge of features of the type of text -Some focus but writing digresses -Not always coherent in content and ideas -Few details support the topic -Necessary rules of format vaguely applied -Some critical oversights	**0-3** -Response reveals no knowledge of features of the type of text -Meaning obscure with major digressions -Not coherent in content and ideas -Very few details support the topic -Necessary rules of format not applied
LANGUAGE, STYLE & EDITING Tone, register, style, vocabulary appropriate to purpose and context; Language use and conventions; Word choice; Punctuation and spelling **8 MARKS**	**7–8** -Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Virtually error-free	**5-6** -Tone, register, style and vocabulary very appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Generally grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Very good vocabulary -Mostly free of errors	**4** -Tone, register, style and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Some grammatical errors -Adequate vocabulary -Errors do not impede meaning	**3** -Tone, register, style and vocabulary less appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Inaccurate grammar with numerous errors -Limited vocabulary -Meaning obscured	**0–2** -Tone, register, style and vocabulary do not correspond to purpose, audience and context -Error-ridden and confused -Vocabulary not suitable for purpose -Meaning seriously impaired

Copyright reserved