basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS/ NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMINATIONS

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE P3

MARKING GUIDELINES

MAY/JUNE 2026

MARKS: 100

These marking guidelines consist of 9 pages.

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INFORMATION FOR THE MARKER

In assessing a candidate's work, the following aspects, among others, drawn from the assessment rubric, must be borne in mind:

- The overall effect of planning, drafting, proofreading and editing of the work on the final text produced
- Awareness of writing for a specific purpose, audience and context – as well as register, style and tone – especially in SECTION B
- Grammar, spelling and punctuation
- Language structures, including an awareness of critical language
- Choice of words and idiomatic language
- Sentence construction
- Paragraphing
- Interpretation of the topic that will be reflected in the overall content: the introduction, the development of ideas and the conclusion

SUGGESTED APPROACH TO MARKING

SECTION A: ESSAY

Refer to SECTION A: Rubric for Assessing an Essay found on pages 7 and 8 of these marking guidelines.

CRITERIA USED FOR ASSESSMENT	
CRITERIA	**MARKS**
Content and planning (60%)	30
Language, style and editing (30%)	15
Structure (10%)	5
TOTAL	**50**

1. Read the whole piece and decide on a category for CONTENT AND PLANNING.

2. Re-read the piece and select the appropriate category for LANGUAGE, STYLE AND EDITING.

3. Re-read the piece and select the appropriate category for STRUCTURE.

NOTE:

An essay cannot be without any indication that it has been read and awarded marks accordingly. The final mark awarded to the essay must be justifiable.

Unlike the summary where there is a very strict word limit, an essay is creative work. If an essay is flowing in terms of creativity and captivating to the reader, it becomes unfair to focus only on the length at the expense of the content. The rule of thumb is that:

- No additional penalties may be imposed as the rubric itself imposes penalties.

SECTION B: TRANSACTIONAL TEXTS

Refer to SECTION B: Rubric for Assessing Transactional Texts found on page 9 of these marking guidelines.

CRITERIA USED FOR ASSESSMENT	
CRITERIA	**MARKS**
Content, planning and format (60%)	15
Language, style and editing (40%)	10
TOTAL	**25**

1. Read the whole piece and decide on a category for CONTENT, PLANNING AND FORMAT.
2. Re-read the piece and select the appropriate category for LANGUAGE, STYLE AND EDITING.

NOTE:

- Various formats of transactional/referential/informational texts have been taught/are in current practice. This has to be considered when assessing the format.
- Give credit for appropriateness of format.
- Look for a logical approach in all writing.

NOTE:

- **The points given below each topic in these marking guidelines serve only as a guide to markers.**
- **Allowance must be made for a candidate's own interpretation of the topic, even if it differs from the given points or a marker's own views or interpretations.**

SECTION A: ESSAY

QUESTION 1

Candidates are required to write ONE essay of 400–450 words (2–2½ pages) on ONE of the given topics. Candidates may write in any genre: narrative, descriptive, reflective, discursive, argumentative, or any combination of these.

1.1 **Why do we fear the unknown?**

- Candidates could explore their own/universal fears of the unknown. **[50]**

1.2 **The world is spinning out of control.**

- Candidates could argue for or against the topic, or present a mixed response.
- Anecdotal content could be included. **[50]**

1.3 **'There are always flowers for those who want to see them.'**

– Henry Matisse

- Credit literal and/or figurative responses. **[50]**

1.4 **The road to my paradise**

- Credit literal and/or figurative responses.
- Candidates could reflect on their journey to happiness/fulfilment. **[50]**

1.5 **I was looked at with such pleading eyes. Walking away would have meant keeping my dreams but sacrificing my humanity.**

- Responses could be literal or metaphorical.
- The candidate could focus on an overwhelming experience that caused her/him to feel empowered but less of a person. **[50]**

NOTE: There must be a clear link between the essay and the picture chosen.

1.6 **Hands holding barbed wire**

- Credit literal, figurative and/or mixed responses. **[50]**

1.7 **Letters**

- Credit literal, figurative and/or mixed responses. **[50]**

1.8 **Building with people**

- Credit literal, figurative and/or mixed responses. **[50]**

TOTAL SECTION A: 50

SECTION B: TRANSACTIONAL TEXTS

QUESTION 2

Candidates are required to respond to TWO of the topics set. The body of each response should be 180–200 words (20–25 lines) in length. The language, register, style and tone must be appropriate to the context.

2.1 DIALOGUE

- The candidate should present a relevant discussion in response to the topic.
- Appropriate dialogue format should be used. **[25]**

2.2 E-MAIL

- The candidate must comment on his/her observations, which may be positive and/or negative.
- Format: sender's and recipient's e-mail addresses, subject line, salutation, and signing off **[25]**

2.3 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE

- The candidate must present information about online scamming.
- Format: headline is essential; by-line is optional. **[25]**

2.4 LETTER TO THE PRESS

- The candidate must present his/her views on the value for money that consumers are receiving.
- Format: own address, date, recipient's address, salutation, subject line and signing-off **[25]**

2.5 FORMAL REPORT

- The candidate should present his/her report on the conversion of roads into pedestrian and cycling lanes.
- Format: title, terms of reference, procedure, findings, conclusion, recommendations, sign-off, date **[25]**

2.6 SPEECH

- The candidate must provide his/her narrative about/views on moving from the state of fear to hopefulness.
- An awareness of the audience, namely fellow youth delegates at a conference, should be apparent. **[25]**

TOTAL SECTION B: 50
GRAND TOTAL: 100

NOTE:

- Always use the rubric when marking the creative essay (Paper 3, SECTION A).
- Marks from 0–50 have been divided into FIVE major level descriptors.
- In the Content, Language and Style criteria, each of the five level descriptors is divided into an upper-level and a lower-level sub-category with the applicable mark range and descriptors.
- Structure is not affected by the upper-level and lower-level division.

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR ESSAY – HOME LANGUAGE [50 MARKS]

Criteria		Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
CONTENT AND 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, including introduction, body and conclusion	-Very well-crafted response -Fully relevant and interesting ideas with evidence of maturity -Very well organised and coherent, including introduction, body and conclusion	-Satisfactory response -Ideas are reasonably coherent and convincing -Reasonably organised and coherent, including introduction, body and conclusion	-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, including introduction, body and conclusion	-Well-crafted response -Relevant and interesting ideas -Well organised and coherent, 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

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR ESSAY – HOME LANGUAGE [50 MARKS] (continued)

Criteria		Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
LANGUAGE, STYLE AND 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 -Exceptionally impressive use of language -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 sentences -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

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR TRANSACTIONAL TEXT – HOME LANGUAGE [25 MARKS]

Criteria	Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
CONTENT, PLANNING AND FORMAT Response and ideas; Organisation of ideas for planning; Purpose, audience, features/conventions and context **15 MARKS**	**13–15**	**10–12**	**7–9**	**4–6**	**0–3**
	-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	-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	-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	-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 -Has vaguely applied necessary rules of format -Some critical oversights	-Response reveals no knowledge of features of the type of text -Meaning is obscure with major digressions -Not coherent in content and ideas -Very few details support the topic -Has not applied necessary rules of format
LANGUAGE, STYLE AND EDITING Tone, register, style, purpose/effect, audience and context; Language use and conventions; Word choice; Punctuation and spelling **10 MARKS**	**9–10**	**7–8**	**5–6**	**3–4**	**0–2**
	-Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Virtually error-free	-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	-Tone, register, style and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Some grammatical errors -Adequate vocabulary -Errors do not impede meaning	-Tone, register, style and vocabulary less appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Inaccurate grammar with numerous errors -Limited vocabulary -Meaning obscured	-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

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