

HONG KONG DIPLOMA OF SECONDARY EDUCATION EXAMINATION
ENGLISH LANGUAGE
LEVEL DESCRIPTORS

Writing Descriptors

Level 5

Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The content is relevant and extensive, shows an awareness of purpose, and engages the reader's interest.• Creativity and imagination are shown when appropriate.
Language and style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A wide range of sentence structures is used accurately and appropriately.• Meaning is conveyed through accurate and appropriate punctuation and grammar.• Vocabulary is wide and appropriate, with some use of more ambitious and sophisticated language.• Register, tone and style are appropriate to the text type.
Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The structure of the writing is wholly coherent and appropriate to the genre and text type.• Paragraphing is effective.• Cohesion between sentences and paragraphs is sophisticated.

Level 4

Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The content is relevant, in parts detailed and engages the reader's interest.• Creativity and imagination are shown in most parts of the writing.
Language and style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A range of sentence structures is used accurately and appropriately.• Punctuation and grammar is sufficiently accurate to convey meaning. Errors do not affect overall clarity.• Vocabulary is moderately wide, appropriate, and most words are spelt correctly.• Register, tone and style are mostly appropriate to the text type.
Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The structure of the writing is coherent in most parts and appropriate to the genre and text type.• Paragraphing is sufficiently effective for overall coherence to be maintained.• Cohesion between most sentences and paragraphs is successful.

Level 3

Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Most of the content is relevant.• Several examples of creativity and imagination are evident in the writing.
Language and style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simple sentences, and some complex sentences are well formed.• Basic punctuation and some basic grammatical structures are accurate.• Common vocabulary is used appropriately and spelt correctly.• There is some evidence of use of register, tone and style appropriate to the text type.
Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some sections of the writing are coherent and appropriate to the genre and text type.• Paragraphing is effective in parts.• Cohesion between some sentences and paragraphs is successful.

Level 2

Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are some examples of relevant content.• Some features of familiar genres are used.
Language and style
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Simple sentences are well formed.• Most basic punctuation is used correctly. Grammatical accuracy is sufficient to make some sentences comprehensible.• Simple vocabulary is appropriate and most is spelt correctly.
Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The structure of the writing can be discerned when the genre and text type is simple and familiar.• There is some evidence of paragraphing.• There are some simple links between sentences and paragraphs.

Level 1

Content
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A few content points are relevant.
Language
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are a few simple, comprehensible sentences.• There are a few examples of simple vocabulary used appropriately.
Organization
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are a few links made between sentences.