

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH (0500) - 40 ESSENTIAL DESCRIPTIVE AND NARRATIVE COMPOSITIONS

Updated for May 2023 exams



This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.

Author: **Victor Tan**

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH (0500) - 40 ESSENTIAL DESCRIPTIVE AND NARRATIVE COMPOSITIONS

Updated for May 2023 exams

This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.

Author: **Victor Tan**



Copyright © 2023 by Victor Tan @ Ascendant Education. All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the copyright owner, Victor Tan. The material in this publication may contain inaccuracies or typographical errors. Changes may be periodically incorporated into this publication. Ascendant Education reserves the right to make improvements and/or changes in the material in this publication without any notice.

This English IGCSE Essay book is provided "as is" without warranty of any kind, either expressed or implied, including but not limited to implied warranties of fitness for a particular purpose.

Neither Ascendant Education nor Victor Tan nor any of its staff warrant or make any representations regarding the use or the results of or from the use of the materials or information, or the accuracy, adequacy, completeness, legality, or the material in this publication.

This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.

Foreword

What makes good descriptive writing, and how do you write a wonderful story?

The English language is an incredibly beautiful language, but it's often difficult, isn't it? This is especially true if you haven't experienced good writing in your life before and don't know what it looks like.

Well, to write well, it's important that you have good examples to emulate and to understand what constitutes the gold standard. That's where this wonderful book comes in!

Updated with top quality essays written in response to all Section B prompts from Paper 2 of the Cambridge IGCSE 0500 First Language English exams from May 2022 to May 2023, the 40 example essays in this book will give you wonderful ideas on how to approach each prompt and help you learn about effective essay construction as you go forward on your journey and practice to excel on the exam.

Each essay, written to the highest possible standards, comes with comments that explain why the essay is excellent, justifying them according to the marking criteria set forth by Cambridge, providing invaluable insights into the thought process and techniques of grading that you'll need for your own IGCSE success.

As you read through the essays and comments, you'll gain a great understanding of how to achieve top marks in your own writing and develop the inspiration that you need to move forward on your journey. These essays will also be a pleasure to read, enjoyable not only in that intense revision session but also as leisure reading.

As you proceed onwards with your journey of learning and writing, whether you're a secondary schooler who's looking for inspiration on how to write well, or a parent who cares deeply about your children, you'll find this compilation of top-standard essays tremendously useful.

These essays will also be a pleasure to read, enjoyable not only in that intense revision session but also as leisure reading. A source of guidance, inspiration, and wonderful written examples, you will find it tremendously useful as you proceed on your journey. As someone who would have absolutely loved this when he was a student, it is my absolute honour to pass this on to you and to help you, the next generation, achieve the success that you're looking for.

This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.

and may this book be the key to accomplishing the A*

May/June 2023 Exams

This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.

Prompt: Describe a shop you remember visiting in the past.

Essay:

The bell above the door chimed as I stepped into the antiquarian bookstore, a portal to a world forgotten by time. The musty scent of old paper and leather-bound spines immediately enveloped me, pulling me deeper into its embrace. The shop was a labyrinth of towering shelves, each one groaning under the weight of stories that had traveled through countless hands and hearts.

Sunbeams filtered through the dusty windows, casting a warm, golden light that danced upon the rows of books. Each volume, from floor to ceiling, was a sentinel of history, its pages a repository of dreams, fears, and adventures. I ran my fingers over the spines, feeling the embossed titles and the texture of time-worn covers, each touch a connection to a distant past.

In the far corner, an elderly shopkeeper sat, his spectacles perched precariously on his nose as he perused a large tome. His presence added to the shop's timeless aura, a guardian of the literary treasures that surrounded him. Around him, stacks of books created miniature skylines, a testament to the unending quest for knowledge and escape.

The shop was quiet, save for the gentle rustle of pages and the occasional creak of the wooden floorboards. It was a sanctuary, a haven for those who sought solace in the written word. As I delved deeper, I discovered a nook cradled by bookshelves, a cozy armchair waiting patiently for its next reader. Here, time seemed to pause, inviting one to lose themselves in the embrace of a good book.

Each book I pulled from the shelf was a journey unto itself. Some were grand epics, their pages filled with the bold deeds of heroes and heroines. Others were intimate diaries, whispering secrets of love and loss. Every book was a promise of a new adventure, a new world to explore.

As the day waned and the sunlight dimmed, the shop took on a mystical quality. Shadows played across the shelves, turning them into silhouettes against the fading light. The air was thick with the magic of stories untold, of lives lived through the words on the pages.

Leaving the shop, the chime of the bell was like a soft farewell. The world outside seemed harsh and bright after the dim, comforting embrace of the bookstore. But in my heart, I carried the memory of that magical place, a reminder of the timeless power of books to transport, to transform, and to transcend.

Comment:

This essay effectively captures the essence of a memorable visit to an antiquarian bookstore, meeting the criteria W1 to W5. The content (W1) is rich and vivid, creating an immersive experience for the reader. The structure (W2) flows naturally, guiding the reader through the shop and emphasizing its enchanting atmosphere.

The style (W3) is characterized by descriptive and evocative language, such as "a portal to a world forgotten by time" and "the texture of time-worn covers," which creates a profound emotional impact. The consistent, reflective tone (W4) enhances the narrative's nostalgic quality.

While the essay is strong in its current form, further exploration of sensory details could deepen the reader's connection to the shop. Studying Ray Bradbury's "Fahrenheit 451" could inspire the writer to explore the power and magic of books in a more profound way, blending descriptive prowess with a strong thematic undercurrent.

Mark awarded for content and structure = 15/16

Mark awarded for style and accuracy = 24/24

Total marks awarded = 39/40

This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.

May/June 2022 Exams

This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.

Prompt: Write a story which involves an injustice.

Essay:

The courtroom was silent, a heavy air of anticipation hanging over us as the judge prepared to deliver the verdict. I sat there, my hands clenched tightly, my heart pounding in my chest. This was more than just a trial; it was a battle against an injustice that had shaken my life to its core.

It all began six months ago when I was wrongfully accused of a crime I did not commit. The evidence against me was circumstantial at best, yet the prosecution had painted a convincing picture, twisting facts and preying on the prejudices of the jury. My lawyer, a young and passionate defender of truth, had fought tooth and nail, unravelling the inconsistencies and highlighting the lack of concrete evidence. But as the trial progressed, I could see the scales of justice tipping unfavorably.

I had always believed in the fairness of the law, in the idea that truth would prevail. But sitting in that courtroom, facing years of imprisonment for a crime I didn't commit, my faith wavered. The thought of losing my freedom, of being torn away from my family, was unbearable.

The judge's voice broke through my thoughts, clear and authoritative. "In the case of the State versus..." he began, and time seemed to slow down. With each word, my hope dwindled, the weight of the impending verdict like a physical force pressing down on me.

Guilty. The word echoed through the courtroom, a single word that shattered my world. Murmurs rippled through the crowd, some in shock, others in satisfaction. My lawyer's face was a mask of disbelief and despair. The injustice of the verdict was palpable, a stark reminder of the flaws in a system I once trusted.

As I was led away, handcuffed and defeated, I looked back at my family. Tears streamed down their faces, their expressions a mix of sorrow and outrage. This wasn't just my battle anymore; it was ours. The fight against this injustice would continue, even if it took every ounce of our strength.

The cell door closed with a resounding clang, a sound that marked the beginning of a different kind of journey—a journey for justice, for the truth to be heard. This was not the end. It was a new beginning, a vow to right the wrongs and clear my name.

This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.

Comment:

This narrative effectively addresses the theme of injustice, meeting the criteria W1 to W5. The content (W1) is emotionally charged and engaging, creating a strong connection with the reader. The structure (W2) is well-organized, clearly depicting the progression of the trial and its impact.

The style (W3) is characterized by descriptive language and a variety of sentence structures, like "the scales of justice tipping unfavorably," enhancing the narrative's intensity. The tone (W4) is consistent and somber, suitable for the story's grave subject.

To further refine the essay, deeper exploration of the protagonist's inner turmoil and the broader implications of the injustice could add more depth. Studying Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" could provide inspiration in crafting narratives that explore the complexities of justice and prejudice, adding layers of societal commentary to the storytelling.

Mark awarded for content and structure = 16/16

Mark awarded for style and accuracy = 24/24

Total marks awarded = 40/40

This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.

Prompt: Write a story that involves looking after a child.

Essay:

In the heart of the bustling city, in an apartment filled with books and the hum of creative energy, lived Leo, a child of extraordinary intellect and curiosity. I had the privilege of being Leo's caretaker, a role that far transcended the usual boundaries of childcare. Each day with Leo was an adventure into the realms of knowledge and imagination.

At just eight years old, Leo's mind was a whirlwind of questions and ideas. His eyes, bright and inquisitive, saw the world not just as it was, but as it could be. He devoured books with an insatiable hunger, each story, each fact, fuelling his ever-expanding view of the universe.

Our days were structured yet fluid, a balance of learning and play. Mornings were dedicated to exploring subjects that piqued Leo's interest – from the mysteries of the cosmos to the intricacies of ancient civilizations. His capacity to grasp complex concepts was astonishing. He wasn't just learning; he was connecting the dots in a vast web of knowledge.

In the afternoons, we ventured outside, turning the city into our classroom. Museums, science centers, and art galleries – each visit was an expedition, with Leo leading the way, his curiosity our compass. I watched, often in awe, as he engaged with experts and enthusiasts, his questions insightful, his understanding deepening with each interaction.

Leo's potential was boundless, and my role was to nurture it, to help him cultivate his ambitions, which reached as high as the stars he so loved to study. But beyond the intellect, there was a child – a boy with a heart full of wonder and a spirit brimming with joy.

As the sun set each day, we'd sit by the window, Leo's head resting on my shoulder, and talk about dreams – not just the ones that come in sleep, but the dreams that shape our lives. I encouraged him to dream big, to believe in the power of his mind and the strength of his heart.

Looking after Leo was not just a job; it was a journey of growth for both of us. In teaching him, I learned – about the world, about potential, and about the profound impact of nurturing a young, brilliant mind.

Leo wasn't just a child I cared for; he was a light, a beacon of hope for the future, a reminder that within the mind of a child lies the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.

Comment:

This narrative beautifully captures the experience of caring for a highly intelligent child, meeting the criteria W1 to W5. The content (W1) is engaging and insightful, portraying the unique relationship between caretaker and child. The structure (W2) is well-composed, balancing the intellectual and emotional aspects of their journey.

The style (W3) is characterized by vivid and eloquent language, as seen in phrases like "a whirlwind of questions and ideas" and "the city into our classroom," which enhances the narrative's richness. The tone (W4) is consistent and nurturing, suitable for the story's theme of fostering a child's potential.

To further refine the essay, exploring more nuanced aspects of Leo's personality and challenges could add depth. Reading and analyzing Torey Hayden's "One Child" could provide insights into effectively portraying complex child-caretaker relationships, adding layers of emotional depth and realism to the storytelling.

Mark awarded for content and structure = 16/16

Mark awarded for style and accuracy = 24/24

Total marks awarded = 40/40

This is a sample publication and not for reproduction. Permission to share is required.
To purchase, please visit englishfirstlanguage.net.