

KUPASAN MUTU JAWAPAN

BAHASA INGGERIS 1
1119/1

SPM 2017

ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT

Code	:	1119/1
Type	:	Subjective
Marks	:	85
Time	:	1 hour 45 minutes

ASSESSMENT DESIGN

Paper 1 comprises 2 parts: Section A and B. Both sections are to be answered.

Section A:	Directed Writing
	35 marks
	45 minutes.
Section B:	Continuous Writing
	50 marks
	1 hour.

SPECIFIC PERFORMANCE

Section A : Directed Writing

Getting to school on time is very important but many students in your school often arrive late. The Principal has asked you to carry out a survey to find out why they arrive late.

Based on your findings, write a **report** to the Principal and suggest ways to solve the problem.

In your report, include the following:

Details of survey:

- purpose of the survey
- why arriving on time is important
- when the survey was carried out
- number of students involved in the survey

Reasons given by students:

- waking up time
- transport
- distance from home
- [give **one** more reason]

What school can do:

- awareness campaign
- [suggest **one** more idea]

What students can do:

- use alarm clocks
- [suggest **one** more idea]

When writing the **report**, you must:

- use the appropriate format (write to the Principal, provide a title and give your name as the writer)
- develop **all** the points given
- give your **own ideas** when needed

GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES ACCORDING TO THEIR GROUPS

Candidates who scored high marks displayed very good linguistic ability and were able to address the task accurately and clearly. Few grammatical mistakes were made and a flair for the language was shown. Vocabulary was precise and varied. Varied sentence types and structures were employed to achieve an intended effect. The writing was coherent with appropriate use of punctuation and paragraphing. They were able to use cohesive and logical connectors to link sentences. Candidates in this group had no problems with the format. Ideas were well-developed and the response had appropriate tone and style. Overall, the reader would be convinced that the response could be a real report from a student to the principal.

Candidates with average performance showed understanding of the requirements of the task but lacked the linguistic ability to write effectively. They were unable to sustain accuracy throughout. However, most of the errors were single word errors. Vocabulary was limited and sentence structures were very often repetitive. Answers generally displayed a lack of organisation and coherence. The content points were expressed clearly with most candidates scoring above 10 marks for them. Ideas were developed but were at times disorganised. The correct format, a report, was used

The rest of the report will provide details on the performance of candidates in the above three groups. Authentic responses are used (errors included) to give teachers and students an insight into the finer points of what a good answer should be like as well as some of the pitfalls to avoid. This can be realised by looking at the strengths and weaknesses of the candidates. Some recommendations for teachers and students are provided at the end of each section. Examples are taken from candidates' responses.

Format

Examples Of Answer

Examples of appropriate address to the principal (F1) are given below.

To: The Principal of SMK Ayer Dalam

To : The Principal of SMK Sungai Besi

Examples of suitable title (F2) are given below:

Report on the Findings of a Survey on Why
Students Arrive Late to School

Report on the Findings of the Survey and Actions that should be Taken

Examples of name of writer (F3) given below:

Reported by,
Omar
(OMAR JAISY)

Reported by,
Adli
(ADLI HARIJ)
Head Prefect,
SMK Ayer Dalam.

Candidate is able to provide a proper format for a report.

Content

These content points are the details to be included in the report based on the question. The candidate is supposed to include all of them.

- Marks for the Content

All the content points were stated in the rubric and the candidates were given clear instructions to use and to develop all the points given to them. The content points were :

- 1 purpose of the survey
- 2 Why arriving on time is important
- 3 When the survey was carried out.
- 4 Number of students involved in the survey.
- 5 Waking up time
- 6 Transport
- 7 Distance from home
- 8 **One reason** for arriving late
- 9 Awareness campaign
- 10 **One way by the students**
- 11 Use alarm clock
- 12 **One way by the students**

Students have to respond to the questions posed in proper sentences.

Accuracy

Examples Of Average Answer

I suggested a few ways to solve the problems. From the school's angle, teachers ~~can~~ in school can conduct a awareness campaign for students. Teachers can tell students the importances of not coming late to school. ~~on the~~ Furthermore, ~~dis~~ dicipline teachers in school can ~~note~~ down the student's name who is late to school and give punishment, ~~after a few times.~~ such as standing outside the classroom

School have become the hotbeds of indiscipline cases such as arriviny late to school. in this digital age. ~~where teacher~~ student is singly blamed by both teachers and parents. However, there are actually many ~~causes~~ causer of this problem.

Although there is an attempt, candidate struggles to communicate meaning in his writing. Errors are made by the candidate reflecting a lack of understanding of some grammar items. The common errors made by the candidates are shown in the examples.

Examples Of Excellent Answers

Personally, I would suggest the school to take action in order to solve this problem. My first suggestion is to launch an awareness campaign to involve not only the students and their parents but the general public especially those who live nearby the school. This campaign ~~is to see~~ is ^{the} a golden opportunity for the school to get in touch with the parents in order for them to be informed of their children's lack of punctuality. On the other hand, the members of the public that show up can be advised to be more considerate of the traffic nearby the school to minimize traffic congestion. My second suggestion is to enforce stricter rules in the school for those who arrive late. Heavier punishments will eventually deter the students from ~~com~~ arriving late to school very ~~effectively~~ effectively.

The candidate is able to produce a piece of writing that is almost entirely accurate. Very few errors are made as the candidate understands the rules of the language (grammar). As a result, the meaning is brought across clearly and effectively and the reader has little difficulty understanding the report.

Results of the survey

One of the undisputed reasons why our students arrive late to school is their failure to master their waking up time. Some argued that the malfunction of their alarm clock is to blame, while some claim that their parents forgot to wake them up. On the other hand, in some rare cases, ~~transport~~ a small number of students lack the necessary transport to arrive on time to school. There are also some whose drivers fail to arrive early to pick them up to school. In spite of that, while some pin the blame on their transport, some of the students who arrives late to school might be due to geological factor as they live far away from home. Last but not least, in an unfortunate event, accidents occurring at the streets and roadways might disrupts the flow of traffic, hence ~~see~~ a minute portion of pupils might find themselves stuck in traffic.

Another example of a good piece of writing:

Sentence Structure

Examples Of Average Answers

Every morning, they have to arrive school after a long distance from home. Other than that, there is also a few more students / said they are late because ~~of~~ it's it is raining. Car tends to drive slower, ^{and more carefully} than ordinary weather when it is raining. ~~to~~ This causes traffic jam on the ~~the~~ road.

There is poor handling of sentence structures except for simple structures. An example of clumsy sentence structure is in the example

Another example of awkward sentences shown below:

^{waking} Furthermore, up ~~to~~ late is the most ^{stated} ~~given~~ reasons ^{ed} suggestion by students with excuse that they ^{have} ~~are~~ burned the midnight oil yesterday for the purpose of study.

Examples of Excellent Answers

Being punctual to school is of utmost importance as it is a display of the standard of discipline and order of a school. The survey focused on the reasons for students arriving late to school was carried out last week on the 30th of October 2017.

Sentence structure is **varied and sophisticated** – shows that the candidate is able to use sentence length type to achieve an intended effect.

The consequences of arriving late to school will indeed lead to inability to cope with studies, hence grades obtained may plummet. Hence, as a means to obtain a much more accurate result, a total of 500 students consisting of both male and female students were asked to participate in this survey done under the strict supervision of our Head of ~~Disciplinary~~ Disciplinary Department, Madam ~~Madam~~ Waheeda binti Nurylana.

Another example of good handling of complex structures:

Vocabulary

Examples Of Average Answers

Waking up time at 7.00 a.m is a suffer for them.

Other than that, the ~~the~~ most common reason given by the students is due to traffic jam. They are fed up with traffic jam and ~~feel~~ ^{feel} unfustrated to it.

Vocabulary is imprecise or inappropriate at times.

Examples Of Excellent Answers

Secondly, students many students
require the use of public transport to school and once in a while the efficiency of
public transport is lacking as they sometimes do not reach ~~at~~ on time causing the students
to face
to many difficulties. Subsequently, many of the students live quite a far distance from
school and require a much longer time to reach as it is the peak hour in the
morning where everyone is busy rushing to work, causing the roads to be
astonishingly jammed. Students will no longer dare to come to school at the time
according to their own whims and fancies. I hope that this report will help the school
department to take the necessary action in order to keep this issue at bay as this

Vocabulary is wide and used with precision. The phrases and words, “**efficiency**” “**peak hour**”, “**astonishingly**” and “**whims and fancies**”, “**issue at bay**” are used accurately and convey the precise meaning that is required.

Organisation

Examples Of Average Answers

Also, transport has been an issue to make them late to school. Some of their transporter need to get many students on board before coming to school. So, they might have ^{problem of} ~~a~~ misarrangement of their timetable to fetch students.

3. Not many students ~~are~~ are staying nearer to their respective school. Some may have to take train while others may just ^{need to} walk to school. For those who ~~staying~~ staying at a distance from home, they might be facing the problem of being late to school.

Paragraphs are used but show **lack of planning and unity**.

Examples Of Excellent Answers

In some ways, the school can take the opportunity to hold an awareness campaign on a large scale to remind and advise students on management of time. Moreover, teachers can also carry out lessons on the important etiquettes of arriving at time at schools. In another manner, students are advised to use alarm clocks more often so that they may wake up early to prepare for school. Last but not least, students should remind their transporters to drive safely and arrive on time to pick them up on a ~~regular~~ regular basis.

After listing down the causes of students arriving late to school, ~~then~~ here are some suggested ~~ideas~~ ideas for the school to implement. First of all, the school ~~shou~~ should start an awareness campaign to raise awareness of students that arrive late to school that they should be punctual. ~~Moreover~~, Moreover, students will also be more obedient to the time they should reach school. Other than that, the school board should create awards for students who do not arrive late to school. For example if a student has arrived to school on time for the past 1 year, they receive an award. Through this award, students will be more motivated to arrive ~~to~~ at school on time and less students will arrive late.

Paragraphs are well-planned and aid in the **smooth flow of ideas**. Linkers are used to link ideas from the preceding paragraphs. The ideas flow smoothly and the reader is able to follow the ideas expressed easily.

Punctuation

Examples Of Average Answers

As a conclusion, there are ways to solve all problems. If there's ~~an~~ a problem, there's surely a solution.

Punctuation is generally correct but **does not clarify meaning**.

Examples Of Excellent Answers

Then, students are advised to ~~used~~ use alarm clocks to wake themselves up and not rely on their parents. This will develop their self-discipline and allow them to wake up early at will. Furthermore, students need to practice regular sleeping habits such as waking early on weekends. This tunes the body's ^{biological} ~~natural~~ alarm clock, allowing them to get used to waking up early. Another thing is that students should also sleep at regular times as well to get a healthy sleep cycle.

Punctuation is **accurate** and helpful to the reader. The full-stop and comma are used accurately, thus making the meaning clear to the reader.

Spelling

Examples Of Average Answers

Principle

serious matter. School should mark their names down and warning them by taking disciplin action. Students should have the habit of using alarm clocks. If students affraid that one alarm is not enough, do set few alarms and place the alarm clocks /different places to make yourself awake. My last suggestion is students should have disciplin and plan a timetable for their studies. Students should done their homework before 10 p.m. everyday and get ready for bed. With a proper time management, students will get enough of rest thus woking up early

Simple words will be spelt correctly but more spelling errors will occur. The common words spelt wrongly like "**principal-principle**"; "**disciplin-dicipline-discipline**"; "**advise-advice**"; "**every day- everyday**".

Examples Of Excellent Answers

In this era of technological advancement, students eyes and hands are usually locked to the screen of a mobile phone ^{or a} computer. The infinite entertainment and capabilities that an electronic gadget provides will often lead students clicking deep ~~in to~~ into the night, rendering them unable to wake up on time the next day. Secondly, many students have to take public transport ~~or transporters cars~~ to come to school. In the current situation, our public transport still isn't the most efficient, journeys to school may take up to 2 hours and arriving late to school becomes an inevitability. With transporters however, loads of people are usually cramped together in a small van. ^{As a result} ~~and~~ the driver has to pick up many students each morning by wriggling through small residential roads thus a lot of time is used and students may arrive late to school.

Spelling is accurate across the full range of vocabulary used, especially with difficult or tricky words. Words that are often spelt wrongly by students, such as **technological advancement**, **infinite**, **entertainment**, **rendering**, **efficient**, **inevitability** and **wriggling** are spelled correctly.

Style and Tone

Example Of Average Answers

Being late to school has coming a vexatious issue in our school. Left unaddressed, it will definitely brings a lot of significant effect like indiscipline cases and studies problem if it is not solved. Ergo, it is critical to determine its causes and nip the matter in the bud.

Average candidates are not able to write a report using an appropriate style and tone or sometimes style and tone are hidden by errors.

Remember, Rome was not build in a day. School authorities as well as students themselves should find the most suitable ways to avoid being late to school because they may ~~miss~~ miss out many important things. ~~Thank~~ you! There are all ~~for~~ from me. Thank you!

The second sample made the reader feel not convinced that this could be a genuine report meant for the intended audience; the principal.

Examples Of Excellent Answers

In a nutshell, these are the reasons mentioned by students and recommendation of ways to solving ~~their problems~~ this problem. I hope that immediate action will be taken to improve the punctuality of the students as well as their overall health before the situation worsens as time and tide wait for no man.

The style and tone is appropriate; it engages the audience: the school principal. The language used is polite and respectful.

I hope that we may soon find a solution to solve the problem of students being late for school. The school and the students should work together to find the answers for this problem.

Tone is polite and respectful: Excellent candidates displayed mastery in writing, thus producing entirely accurate responses. A **wide variety of sentence structures and lengths** are used, showing superior control of word choice with a clear, concise style. The style and tone were appropriate with compelling, persuasive examples and reasons, leading the reader to strongly believe that this could be a real report to the principal.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CANDIDATES

1. Read the instructions/rubric carefully before answering the question – be sure of the format and the task. Underline the key words or task so that you do not forget to complete the task as you write the essay.
2. Use all the content points given in the rubric. Tick the content points you have used to ensure that all the content points are in.
3. Use appropriate tone: be aware of the audience so that you know whether you need to be formal or informal in your approach.
4. Use varied structures and precise vocabulary. For average students, do not write long sentences because the tendency to make mistakes is higher.
5. Improve spelling – use a dictionary when necessary.
6. Do not take punctuation lightly. Punctuation errors can be serious errors.
7. Read widely to improve general knowledge and vocabulary.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TEACHERS

1. Teach students to understand the task of the question and to identify the main content points.
2. Give practice on writing in different formats/layout like letter, report and article.
3. Remind the students to allocate the last 5 to 10 minutes for checking.
4. Teach students to use Standard English.
5. Remind the students to use all the content points given in the rubric.
7. Devote more time on grammar so that the students will be able to write grammatically correct sentences.
8. Train students to write a variety of sentence structures. Teach them how to use the different types of structures appropriate to the tone required in the task.
9. Encourage reading

SECTION B : CONTINUOUS WRITING

Question

Write a composition of about 350 words on one of the following topics.

- 1 If you had the opportunity to move to another part of Malaysia, where would you choose to live?
Explain your choice.
- 2 Write a story in which you had to keep a friend's secret.
In your story, give details of the secret and explain why it was important to keep that secret.
- 3 The Malaysian tradition of having open houses is important and should be practised more.
Do you agree? Give reasons to support your view.
- 4 Write a story of a small town girl who worked hard to become a successful chef.
Begin your story with:
"She had used the last of her savings to get to the cooking competition in the big city and ..."
- 5 Describe the first time you went on a camping trip.
You should write about the activities at the camp and explain how you felt about the experience.

The questions covered a wide range of genres:

- a) Descriptive (Q5 and Q1)
- b) Argumentative /opinion (Q3)
- c) Expository (Q1)
- d) Narrative (Q2 and Q5)
- e) Reflective

In this section, the main objective is to assess the candidates' ability to produce a piece of continuous prose in accurate Standard English. It tests the candidates' ability to respond relevantly and creatively to a task chosen from a number of alternatives. As in previous years, five different topics are given and the candidate has to write a composition of about 350 words on one of the topics. Candidates are advised to spend one hour on this section and the mark allocated for it is 50.

GENERAL PERFORMANCE OF CANDIDATES ACCORDING TO THEIR GROUPS

Candidates in the average achievement group:

The candidates in this group showed adequate understanding of the requirement of the task. Development of ideas lacked creativity, depth and maturity. Vocabulary lacked precision with a tendency to use repetitive words and structures. This was mainly due to a lack of linguistic ability to write effectively. They were not able to sustain accuracy for long. Linguistic errors were frequent and serious. The writing in this category often displayed a lack of organisation and coherence, making the composition uninteresting or lacking in liveliness and interest value.

Candidates in the high achievement group:

This group showed a marked linguistic ability and creativity. They were able to produce a relevant and creative piece of continuous prose. They also displayed a flair for the language. The language used was almost entirely accurate and very few errors which were first draft slips or minor errors were made. Sophistication, maturity of thought, creativity and originality were clearly visible when they put their ideas and thoughts onto paper. Vocabulary and expressions were apt, precise, stimulating and inspiring. Paragraphs were well-planned and the topic was addressed with consistent relevance. Ideas were well-organised, well-developed and coherent. Hence, the writing was able to arouse the reader's interest and the interest was sustained throughout.

Accuracy

Examples Of Average Answers

It's very noisy, a crazy, noisy and bizzare night. There's a girl singing and dancing in front of me. I have no idea who she is until 2 hours ago. I don't know why I'm here, why I'm doing nothing and just standing in the middle of crowd. It was 2 hours ago, my sister intruded my room and begging me to bring her to a concert. It was her favourite idol's, Carly's concert. In order to shut her mouth up, I decided to bring her to the concert. Now, my sister is yelling, shouting or maybe she is cheering. It was a discord to me and I can't wait to go home. Few moments later, the concert has finally ended. While I was cheering that I can finally go home, my sister dragged my shirt. As I turn my body around, she gave me are card, and ask me to get Carly's ~~signature~~ autograph. In order to end this madness, I quickly grab ~~the~~ the card and go to the backstage. A staff lead me to Carly's room as I don't know where she is. I'm standing in front of the door, taking a deep breath, preparing to do this embarassing ~~action~~ thing. As soon as I open the door, I immediately noticed that I forgot the knock, the door. However, the door opened. I can't believe what I saw, there is no girl inside, not an idol, just my classmate, Jack holding a wig

The candidates' lack of proficiency in the language is reflected in the various kinds of errors made. The common errors made by the candidates include:

Tenses, subject-verb agreement, contractions, word choice, word omission as shown in the sample.

Malaysia are famous with our delicious cuisine. By having open houses we will be able to share not only joy but also our well-known dishes to everyone. People who are invited will be able to try out the delicious food and we can also teach them the recipe. If people from other country or tourist are invited, we will have a chance to show them and promote our Malaysia cuisine. This will also able to attract their taste buds to come back Malaysia for the food again. Thus, Malaysia economy will be able to grow as the increase of the tourist come to Malaysia for vacation increases.

The second sample for the average band also includes spelling error.

Examples Of Excellent Answers

Some opine that open house is a great way to sow the seeds of unity in the hearts and minds of our younger generation and ~~to this opinion~~ I wholly agree to this opinion. An open house ~~might not seem~~ event might not seem much in the eyes of ~~the foreigner~~ a foreigner, but it does mean a lot to Malaysians. As open house events promote the mingling of all races, the younger generation will be more accustomed ^{and comfortable} ~~and comfortable~~ to work with people from other races when they grow up. ~~This~~ The open house events help promote the spirit of camaraderie between the people of our nation and ensure that we Malaysians stand hand in hand together ~~even~~ in times of economic crisis ~~or even wars~~ and even wars and strife. It gives us a sense of safety and feeling of warmth when we know that ~~to~~ in any problem we face, Malaysians will be at our back, supporting and aiding us.

From another perspective, having open houses also allows us to give a warm welcome to foreign ~~apex~~ visitors. During the apex of holiday cheers, ~~the~~ a great number of travellers from foreign lands decided to take a breather by exploring our country, rich in hidden treasures and filled with many notable historical landmarks. With that, it is our responsibility as citizens of this exceptionally outstanding country, to keep up to our image as highly educated and civilized people. Through open houses, our strengthened community can work together to parry the influence of many wrong-doers, thus reducing the frequency of crimes occurring in neighbourhoods and cities.

Good candidates are able to use the English language with flair and competence. They have the ability to use **precise vocabulary and phrases** to show intended meaning. Two examples of good candidates' work are given in the excerpts above

Sentence Structure

Examples Of Average Answers

Carly, a cheerful girl, dreamed to be an idol since 5 year ~~is~~ old. After her dedication for years, she finally became an idol. While she ~~is~~ think that she found her happiness, she was caught in a car accident. The situation became even worse when the doctor tell that the lower part of her body is paralysed. She can't dance on the stage anymore. As her twin brother, Jack was begged by Carly to continue her dream. For ~~his~~ his dearest sister happiness, he decided to do so. It was so successful that even Carly's manager did not find out about ~~Jack~~ it. The disguise was perfect until the day I opened the door. It was at that moment, I became the only one who know the truth.)

The language is sufficiently accurate to communicate meaning clearly to the reader. There will be patches of clear, accurate language, particularly when simple vocabulary and structures are used. There is some variety of sentence type and length but the purpose is not clearly seen.

Malaysians should practise more on having open house tradition so that we will get to know each other well. Living in a residential area without communication and knowing each other is a bad sign that show people are not united. Through open houses, we will be able to know new friends, and also pull each other heart closer together. We will be able to talk to each other and share stories about our own life. In this case, we will be able to know what's happening around our friends. When we have problems at least we have people nearby to ask for rescue. When we are outstation or neighbours/outstation, we can help to look for their house or the other way round. This can show that the people are becoming more united by knowing each other well after open houses.

Another sample shows that the patches of clear accurate language only appear when simple structures used:

Examples Of Excellent Answers

With the news of racism spread throughout ~~of~~ the pages of our daily newspapers and internet, the threat it ~~brings~~ brings is wide and clear for everyone to see. Therefore, in the sake of the unity of our homeland, we ~~shot~~ should practice the open house tradition as it is important in ^{maintaining} ~~maintaining~~ the unity of our country. How? you may ask. Well, in open houses, people of all levels of society are invited to join in the fun. Thus, people of different race, religion and culture have the opportunity to be under the same ~~for~~ roof. Through communication, we learn more about the different cultures and learn how to tolerate them which also prevents the misconception of different cultures and abolish stereotypes ^{to} ~~at~~ a particular race. Through ~~which~~ open houses, we will be able to ~~see~~ respect one another more and not 'discriminate' against each other. This unity is very incredibly crucial as shown, ~~evident~~ in history, is the occurrence of the 13th May Tragedy where Malays were slaughtering the Chinese.

Allow me to start with a brief introduction of what exactly is open house. To be frank, open house is an event in which the host prepares a feast and invites all members of the general public to attend. This feast, in particular, is often held at the host's house and can drag on from early evening to late at night. Normally, people from the neighbourhood gather to enjoy the food and beverages prepared and make new friends. As people of all races come and join the event, they get the ~~chance to~~ opportunity to strengthen their bonds with their neighbours, and forge new bonds with those they ~~chance to~~ get to meet. This promotes peace and harmony throughout the community and eventually the country as a whole.

Sentence structure is **varied** and **sophisticated** showing the candidate's proficiency in the language and the ability to use sentence length and type to achieve an intended effect. The following example shows the candidate's marked ability to use various simple and sophisticated sentence structures to make his writing effective. There is a good range of well-structured sentences including **complex sentences**. The following are two examples of excerpts with good and varied sentence structures.

Vocabulary

Examples Of Average Answers

Malaysians will be able to know about each other religions while talking with each other during open houses. By inviting everyone we know and stay around us, we will get to know better about other people's culture and religions. We should also allow them to invite their own friends, bring them along to open house so that more friends can be make. Religions is a very sensitive issue in our country.

I'm standing, still standing and thinking how should I react. According to my memory, Jack once said he is not interested in idols. Then why is he crossdressing now, why is he singing and dancing on the stage? Maybe I should just leave now, but how should I tell my sister about the autograph? ~~telling~~ Tell her that Carly is male? No way, she will hate me forever.

Vocabulary is usually adequate to show intended meaning but this is not developed to show precision. Simple words will be spelt correctly but more spelling errors will occur.

Examples Of Excellent Answers

The word 'open house' sparks the spirit of joy and merriment in every Malaysian's heart. This wonderful and splendid tradition ignites the sense of togetherness, unity and most importantly, the thought of three mighty races uniting as one under the same roof. It is apparent that open house is ~~an~~ a social event unique to Malaysia and only to us Malaysians.

Furthermore, the ~~smell~~ irresistible aroma of food ~~originally~~ prepared during open house events are certainly more than enough to attract we Malaysians. If there is something that we Malaysians love to do in ~~our~~ our pastimes, it is to savour the various scrumptious food cooked in the three main cuisines of our country, namely Malay, Indian and Chinese. The colourful variety of food in an open house event is ~~the~~ ~~from~~ one of the many advantages we Malaysians enjoy in contrast to other countries especially ~~the western~~ those in the western world.

our next generation so that they may continue down the path of generosity and community values. Although ~~the~~ our community consists of varying layers and interestingly unique characters, where some of us might be born with a silver spoon in our mouths while ~~some~~ a great deal of us may also be as poor as a church mouse, ^{thus} it is imperative that our future leaders of our country hold no grudge or discrimination against any individuals. With this, our people will be able to stand up together, hand in hand, striving to drive our economy forward, making us a formidable ~~the~~ competitor in today's harsh world that we call reality. On the contrary, without trust and acceptance amongst ~~the~~ our community, many of our members of community burrow themselves in an endless void of self-centeredness, sheltered in a societal bubble, eventually ~~missing~~ their network of communication ~~with~~ ^{to} merely a handful of people.

Vocabulary is wide, sophisticated and used with precision. These essays have a number of merit ticks on good usage of precise vocabulary. Apart from the sophisticated nature of the sentence structures, these essays are also rich with precise adjectives and vocabulary. Some of the examples of good usage of vocabulary and structures are:

Punctuation

Examples of Average Answers

It was horrible, did I just s a man, wearing skirt, and dressed like a girl? Jack immediately noticed me and his face turn pale. It looks like both of us have no idea what to do now. Jack, 17 years old, single, one of my classmate, hardworking and always serious in the class, but doesn't stand out too much, whenever ~~we~~ we invited him for lunch, we can't tell if he is enjoying, but he is not a bad people.

Punctuation is generally correct but does not clarify meaning. Punctuation of simple structures is accurate on the whole but errors may occur in more complex uses. The sample below shows errors in using commas result in “run-on” sentences.

Examples of Excellent Answers

One might start to wonder, Can't the people of Malaysia meet in daily life?
Why is it so important to practise this tradition just for the sake of making new friends?
Well, ~~these~~ events as such are often held during festive seasons and special
celebrations such as the birth of a baby ~~one~~ or even a pre-marriage
ceremony. As everyone attending one from a myriad of different backgrounds, ~~and~~

On the whole, punctuation is accurate and helpful to the reader. In the following examples, the candidate uses a **range of punctuation marks** (the comma, question mark, exclamation mark and dashes) and this helps in the reading as well as the meaning of the writing.

Being a celebrity, he brought worldwide attent
to her with a single yet simple sentence, "I admire your
determination". When she had finished preparing her dish,
she presented it to the judges. As the judges leaned in to
take a bite, her heart was beating faster and faster, sh
was so afraid ^{that} The judges would not like it.

The punctuations for dialogues are correctly used as shown in the next sample:

Spelling

Examples Of Average Answers

I will definatly agree with you.

Beside having good
food and interesting places to visit, visitors would also
like to try out and feel Malaysia's tradition.

unforgettable and memorable memories.

As I'm thinking about this ~~situation~~ akward situation

sucess

Simple words may be spelt correctly but errors may occur when more sophisticated words are used such as "**definatly-definitely**", "**beside-besides**", "**trandition-tradition**", "**unforgettable-unforgettable**", "**akward-awkward**", "**sucess-success**".

Examples of Excellent Answers

It is because of this tradition, that Malaysians are not prejudiced against each other and face national crisis such as apartheid that occurred in Africa and the Rohingya genocide occurring in Myanmar.

Spelling is accurate across the full range of vocabulary used. Here, the candidate handles words like, "prejudiced", "apartheid", "genocide" accurately.

Subject Matter

Examples Of Average Answers

Not only that, we can ~~meet~~ also make new friends through open houses. ^{on event} When one of our family members bring new friends to our ~~houses~~ ^{house}, we can know the new friends together. This can help us to ~~im~~ enlarge our ~~social~~ social circles by making different ~~types~~ types of friends.

Although average candidates could come up with relevant subject matter, it lacks interest value.

Examples Of Excellent Answers

In this era of globalisation, more and more emphasis has been put ^{on} developing ~~more~~ advanced technology and ~~communication methods~~ and boosting the economy. As a matter of fact, electronic gadget sales have ~~be~~ witnessed a spike in sales after the new millennium. ~~This~~ These electronic inventions are a manmade marvel created for the purpose of easing communication between homo sapiens and allowing people all over the world to be connected ^{and pull us closer together}.

In the following example, the candidate is able to provide a lively introduction. The reader's interest is immediately aroused to read more about the importance of open house.

She had used the last of her savings to get to the cooking competition in the big city and she was then dead broke. She was thinking to herself, "~~was~~ Is this all worth it? what if I don't win, what if I don't even make it past the ~~pre~~ preliminary rounds?". She was literally taking a leap of faith, she could achieve greatness or she could lose everything she had worked for.

The reader's interest is also immediately aroused to read more about the young chef.

Suggestions to Teachers and Students:

1. Incorporate different teaching strategies to teach writing especially for weak students e.g. parallel writing, paragraph writing, process writing,
2. Teach students to plan before they start to write. Use mind-maps etc. Train the students to have higher order thinking skills so that they are able to write creatively.
3. Cultivate the reading habit to enrich their vocabulary
4. Remind students to write the required number of words, as some wrote far short of the required number of words.
5. Organise the essay in paragraphs.
6. Edit the essay after completing it.
7. Emphasise grammar and spelling. Have sufficient grammar practice.
8. Do not encourage the use of correctional fluid/tape as writing can be smudged or words omitted.
9. Remember to indicate the question number of your answer.
10. Be more ambitious in terms of :
 - variety of sentence structures.
 - sophisticated and extended vocabulary
 - interesting expressions