
Minimum Standard Writing Test

Sample answers – Level 2

This sample answer is typical of Level 2. The HSC minimum standard is at Level 3.

The sample answer addresses the question:

Should school canteens be encouraged to sell healthy food and snacks?

Sample answer: Canteen

Should school canteens be encouraged to sell healthy food and snacks? I think that at school students should be able to buy from the canteen healthy foods and snacks since being fit and healthy is important and so they participate in sports they do at school, they don't need to do all the sports but they should do some. I believe they should eat healthy foods because when they're young a healthy diet is really important for growing and it's good to have an active lifestyle. If the school lets students eat junk food all the time, I'm just putting it out there when these kids get older they will probably have health problems and be sick. Their parents will be unhappy if their children were getting fed badly then getting sick. Students need to eat chocolate and junk food less maybe one time a week healthy foods are not that bad. I would rather students eat good food than junk foods. Also being lazy and just hanging around the house all day on weekends is boring and gets you in the habit of eating junk food sports can be more fun. When schools get kids to eat healthy they would be more fit and would play sports more at school after school and on weekends. I really think schools should serve salad and other good foods, rather than unhealthy foods like chips, sausage rolls and lollies. It means that doctors won't need to treat so many people for health problems that come from having a bad lifestyle. The canteen workers, I think will need to put more thought into what they're going to sell before break times the profits will get less but it would really do good to get the children healthy for when they grow older. In the long term some students might actually keep playing sports longer when they get old and maybe in their late 30s they will still play competitive sports instead of being retired from sports. Less of the children will be fat and obese in their later years in the schools stop serving unhealthy foods and help them be fit.

I suggest that mums and dads see how it's important for their kids to eat healthy teach them to be active then they could enjoy school more keeping involved in sports.

Features that make this answer typical of Level 2:

This response is relevant to the question. The vocabulary is appropriate and includes relevant action words. Simple, compound and some complex sentences are used but control of sentence structure is inconsistent. The paragraphing is inappropriate and there is little sequencing or structure, causing the response to lack cohesion. Simple pronouns and prepositions are used appropriately. Question marks, apostrophes and commas are sometimes used correctly; however, basic punctuation is often incorrect and there is unnecessary capitalisation of words. Some simple words are inconsistently spelt and there is confusion with the spelling of homonyms. Grammatical errors are common.

To achieve at Level 3, the student would need to demonstrate:

- appropriate writing structures including paragraphing
- correct punctuation
- a greater control of sentence formation
- sequencing of ideas
- basic grammar.

Getting ready for the Writing Test

The following activity is designed to be completed in class. It will help you prepare for the writing test by focusing on the qualities of writing at Level 3.

1. Read the original response below. As you read, highlight areas where you think you could improve the response.
2. Read the edited response. Highlight where the response has been edited.
3. For three edited sections, explain why the change has occurred. Share your answers with your class and discuss aspects of writing that are important for reaching minimum standard.

The sample answer addresses the question:

In Australia, young adults can obtain a P-plate driver's licence from the age of 17.

Should this driving age be raised to 21?

Sample answer: Young adults

Should we rise driving age from 17 to 21?

In todays world young adults has been involved in some of the worst accidents many, caused by them. There actions have brang a huge impact to innosent people, right at the start of there lives. Nearly all the accidents caused by the young adults, are from them not experienced enough, careless driving and doing drugs and alchohol, and to reduce these issues happening something should be done. We should rise up the driving age from 17 to 21 .

Grown adults are more serious then young adults, who do stupid things to empress there mates. Like when both adults and young people are on the road together the drive coming up to a set of lights might be to slow, the young adult might take over and speed thru the light, but the adult would be pachent and think about safety instead of getting there fast and this can be to dangerous and they dont think that there going to cause an accident and maybe even die themselves. Thats why its really important to rise the driving age from 17 to 21.

Finally, the numbers of people whose lifes lost as a result of car accident, about $\frac{3}{4}$ are cuase young people are influenced by there friends and this causes a unecessary trajedy, ending up with many family and friends upset. To help stop this we need to take a inportant step to rise up the driving age to 21.

Features that make this answer typical of Level 2:

In this text the student presents an argument in favour of raising the age for the commencement of driving. The text is structured with paragraphs and words indicating time and place used to sequence ideas. Different sentence types with simple joining techniques are used. Some incorrect word choices are made and there is some confused expression at times due to a lack of clarity about appropriate

grammatical structures and the use of tense. Relevant vocabulary, including action words, simple adjectives and some words specific to the context, is used. There are some issues with sentence punctuation and some missing punctuation. There are issues with the spelling of homonyms but reasonable approximations are made in the spelling of unfamiliar words.

To achieve at Level 3, the student would need to demonstrate:

- closer attention to word formation
- control of appropriate grammatical structures
- correct punctuation
- a greater control of sentence formation.

Edited work sample: Young Adults

This sample answer has been edited to be consistent with typical performance at level 3. Errors still exist in this response; however, simple, compound and complex sentences are used with greater success and the response is more coherent and concise. Students are encouraged to use part of the allocated 45 minutes to edit their work.

Should we raise the driving age from 17 to 21?

In today's world young adults have been involved in some of the worst accidents, many of which they have caused. Their actions have created a huge impact on innocent people, right at the start of their lives. Nearly all accidents caused by young adults are because of a lack of experience, careless driving and due to the influence of drugs and alcohol. To reduce these issues, something should be done. We should raise the driving age from 17 to 21.

Grown adults are more serious than young adults, who do stupid things to impress their mates. For example, when both adults and young people are on the road and they each encounter a driver ahead approaching a set of lights too slowly, the young adult might overtake and speed through the light, but the adult would be patient and think about safety instead of getting to their destination quickly. This behavior from the young adult can be too dangerous and they don't think that they could cause an accident and maybe even die themselves. That's why it's really important to raise the driving age from 17 to 21.

Finally, of the numbers of people whose lives are lost as a result of car accidents, about $\frac{3}{4}$ are because young people are influenced by their friends and this causes an unnecessary tragedy, resulting in many family members and friends being upset. To help stop this we need to take an important step to raise the driving age to 21.