

## Minimum Standard Writing Test

### Sample answers – Level 3 (the HSC minimum standard)

The following sample answers demonstrate achievement at Level 3 (HSC minimum standard). They are reflective of responses constructed by students under test conditions. They are annotated to show how the quality of the response is consistent with the writing achievement level descriptions.

The sample answers illustrate that there are a variety of ways in which students can demonstrate performance at Level 3 (HSC minimum standard). The common feature of all samples is:

- relevance to the writing prompt
- evidence of the structuring and sequencing of ideas
- language has been controlled.

The 500 word limit is a guideline; students do not need to stretch their writing responses to reach 500 words nor write for the full 45 minutes. Part of the allocated time can be used for planning and editing purposes.

This sample answer addresses the question:

Look at the photograph below.



Write about a time when you felt like this.

## Sample answer: Dancer

When I was younger, growing up I always wanted to be out of the box. Before kindy, I just knew I was going to be a princess, in year 1 I decided to become a nurse instead, when I turned 8 I just knew I wanted to be an acrobat in a circus, when I was 11, I was going to be an avenger because they were just so awesome! At the age of 12, I had definitely decided to be barrel racer because I always loved to ride horses fast.

I have always been determined and have remained dedicated towards achieving my goals. But when I was in year 8 I realised that I should stop trying so hard and just relax more and enjoy life. It was not important if I was fat, thin, blonde or brunette.

I have been dancing my whole life but I never really thought about going anywhere with it at all. So one day at school my music teacher, Mrs Finn, came up to me with a note about auditioning as a featured dancer for school spectacular. I had a lot of doubt about actually making it, but I thought why not give it a try? I asked my dad and he said to go for it so we did the application, Mrs Finn and I then sent in a video of myself dancing.

I got a letter a few weeks later informing me that I was through to the auditions round for both classical and contemporary, a week after myself and my mum drove to Wollongong. I had the live auditions and they went very well, although they were demanding it was a great experience but I questioned myself, a lot. I always doubted that I'd actually make it through.

A few months later I was taking a dancing class with Tap Academy, I had just finished learning a new routine and had to video it. I ran inside to my father who was talking to Dan Delaney so I could borrow his phone to record. My dad stopped me and said 'I've got news!' I was about to ask if he got a new car or something when he said 'You're in!' I was so shocked my heart was pumping like crazy, I had never been so excited. I made it through as a featured dancer for NSW school spectacular.

From that time I have taken every chance in front of me, because it is the high points in life that really count. I know that if it's going to be, it's up to me.

### Features that make this answer typical of Level 3

This response is relevant to the question. It is mostly coherent with a logical structure and clear paragraphing which sequences events. The language suits the purpose, and some of the vocabulary is relevant to the specific context. There are some sentence construction errors, but most sentences are well formed and some complex sentences are used. There are some errors in grammar and expression, but they do not detract from the overall communication of ideas. A range of punctuation is used appropriately, but there is some inconsistency in the use of capital letters for names, and commas are not always used correctly. Some common spelling errors are made but there are reasonable approximations of misspelt words.

This sample answer addresses the question:

Look at the photograph below.



Compose a piece of writing about the importance of teamwork.

## Sample answer: Teamwork

Teamwork is about working with others to complete a task or goal. Nowadays, teamwork is relied upon in many things we do, we need teamwork to help resolve issues. Teamwork is critical for success in many sports and when it is not relied on, the opposition can win.

In the workplace you need to use teamwork to get jobs done, Then without teamwork a workplace would not be effective. Most great inventions didnt happen without teamwork for instance the invention of the coclear implant happened because a group of people each did their part to get the job done, without teamwork people would not have the hearing benefits that come from this invention.

In our global environment teamwork is ESSENTIAL, without it our country would stop and so would the world. Countries that trade can only do this because of teamwork, a Factory will need it's workers to buy supplies from overseas and use its workers to make the products. They then need to rely on coordination, to export the product overseas.

Construction sites, railways, offices and schools all over the country use teamwork to continue their operation and without it there would be lots of waste and many people who don't get the things they need. This can be as basic as having someone answer the phone because without it questions would go unanswered and mistakes would be made.

In our modern lives, teamwork is central. It is so crucial that we can see it everywhere. It is present in all workplaces, in our private lives and when we go to an event such as a concert. If you think about going to a concert where 50 000 people are trying to get to their seats in the space of 10 minutes. We all work together so that people can get in and out without getting hurt. Without teamwork we could not survive as we do today.

### Features that make this answer typical of Level 3

This response about teamwork is logically structured using paragraphing and generally appropriate grammatical conventions. The selection of language is appropriate for the sequencing of ideas and precise vocabulary is used effectively to communicate. Tense is adequately controlled throughout the response and different sentence types are used with some success. Complex sentences are attempted; however, some clauses are not joined correctly. Although there are examples where commas and apostrophes have not been used when required, punctuation is generally successful. Frequently used words are spelt with some accuracy, and where there are errors, the approximation is reasonable.

This sample answer addresses the question:

Look at the photograph below.

The photograph below shows people enjoying themselves.



Write about an enjoyable day in your life.

## Sample answer: Fiji

The most enjoyable day in my life was on one of the days I went with my family to Fiji. It was last year in January and I went with my family, which included my Mum, my sister, and my brother. We were there for about a week in the middle of Summer so it was very sunny and warm. We had planned to stay in Viti Levu and take day trips to various places.

On the first day, we got up at 6:00 because we were taking a day trip on a boat with a company called Coral Cats. We got ready really quickly, had breakfast and took a mini bus to the warf. When we got to the warf, I saw the boat and it looked really small. But the trip itself was fantastic and we saw so many fish when we went for a swim.

The next day we went to some hot springs. We went from Denarau on a minibus with a small group, quick visit on a 1/2 day trip. We all covered up with the mud and a quick dip in the hot spring. The mud was a bit smelly but was meant to be good for your skin (I'm not so sure) it was fun anyway.

On the second last day, we went on a hike up an extinct volcano. I can't remember the name of the volcano but it was a pretty big walk. There was a boredwalk and it was really hard going but it was worth it when we got to the top. My brother was wingeing the whole way, and I had to keep pointing out things for him to look at, it made the day a bit of a trek. Once we made it to the top my Mum and sister were waiting for me and my brother, they were wondering what had taken so long. I then left them on the way down, I couldn't wait to get away from my brother.

Overall, Fiji was excellent. I really enjoyed the pool in the resort and all the activities that were happening there, I even made some friends who live just 2 suburbs away and hope to see them again. Looking back, it was a fantastic holiday, where I had some of the most enjoyable days of my life.

### Features that make this answer typical of Level 3

This response about a family holiday is logically structured and uses appropriate grammatical structures and paragraphs. The text is cohesive and language has been varied to assist communication and meaning. Vocabulary choices show some precision and the formality of the language is successful. Tense is maintained throughout the response. Simple and compound sentences are generally correct, and complex sentences are attempted with some accuracy. Punctuation is used to aid understanding; however, some commas and full stops are missing. Strategies are used to spell less familiar words.

This sample answer addresses the question:

Look at the photograph below.



Compose a piece of writing about the importance of teamwork.

## Work sample: Reliable

### Teamwork

The words that come to my mind when I hear the word teamwork are cooperation, reliability and communication. Teamwork is really important. For it to work you need to be reliable and rely on others.

Sometimes it is difficult to put your confidence in another person and let them do a task that you would normally do yourself, especially if you don't know that person real well. Like You and a teammate are doing a high ropes course and you are up high and the other person is on the ground. you need to rely on that person and trust that they are watching and holding the rope in case you lose your balance. That's where teamwork only works when you can talk through the problem and rely on the team.

Secondly is cooperation. By agreeing what needs to be done, and working out the parts that each persons going to do teamwork can be useful. Saying you are going to do your part and then not sticking to that, can be a problem. You need to pull your weight when working in a team and ensure that you cooperate with your team so that the whole task gets done. Sometimes, you might have a problem with completing your task but being part of a good team means you cooperate to overcome the challenge, working together to resolve the issue.

The next part of teamwork is communication. A good team is where you can talk through your problems. You also need to listen too, a good team is where people can talk about the good things and the bad.

Overall, without being a reliable person and placing your confidence in others, your team will not work. Teamwork is an important part of everyone's life so it's important that we can be reliable.

### Features that make this answer typical of Level 3

In this response about teamwork, familiar paragraph sequencing is used to construct a cohesive text. There is some confusion about appropriate grammatical structures. Language choices are made to suit the audience and purpose with some success. Common vocabulary is used and strategies are employed at times to spell unfamiliar words. Tense is not always maintained and sentences are sometimes incorrect, particularly in the case of complex sentences. Punctuation is used correctly in some instances but there are errors in the use of commas and apostrophes.



This sample answer addresses the question:

The person who has had the most influence on you.

### **Work sample: Basketballer**

Le Bron James is the person who has had the most influence on me because he plays the way I would like to play. He is on my favourite NBA team the Lakers. He is such an inspiration not just to me but to everyone who loves basketball. Some people say he is the best player of all time and has won 4 NBA MVP awards.

Le Bron James is a really smart basketballer who sees a way to score in every possible situation. He's a great athlete, he's big and tall, but a lot of players are like this except they just don't compare to Le Bron whose brains and focus help him overcome anything he comes across. Le Bron has been playing competitive basketball since he was in the fifth grade. Another reason he inspires me so much is because he has come from a difficult life where things were hard at home. He had no dad in his life, that's something I can relate to but he did not let that stop him. He took the chances given to him and took up football and basketball from an early age.

James dominates on court. He was able to dunk in junior high, when he was just 13. You might think that's not that special but not many people can dunk. Not only can he dunk, but he gets plenty of rebounds and assists per game too. He spends hours and hours perfecting his game, can play in any position and is loyal to his teammates.

Le Bron is also a good person. He recently opened a school in a really poor neighbourhood, helping kids who might not have a good home life themselves. He has given his time and money to helping kids who might go to school with no food, have no good role models and who could drop out of school and become another statistic.

Le Bron James is an example of what you can do if you work hard and stay focused.

### **Features that make this sample answer typical of Level 3:**

In this response about a sports person, appropriate grammatical structures and writing conventions assist the composition of the text. Ideas are sequenced in a logical manner and language is varied to support the purpose of the response. Precise vocabulary choices of personal relevance are used. Tense is consistently appropriate. Compound and complex sentences are attempted with errors; however, meaning is not impeded. Punctuation is used to support understanding but commas are sometimes missing or incorrectly placed. Spelling is mostly accurate with minor exceptions.