

**Mock Exam July English Marking Scheme**

Candidate Number: 265E

2. Descriptive Essay

Parameters	Weightage	Marks
Striking <b>opening</b> and <b>ending</b> (not in the form of a story)	<b>3</b>	3
<b>Figurative language</b> used:		
<b>Personification</b> (0.5 mark for each use)	<b>3</b>	3
<b>Metaphors</b> (0.5 mark for each use)	<b>3</b>	2
<b>Onomatopoeia</b> (0.5 mark for each use)	<b>2</b>	2
<b>Similes</b> (0.5 mark for each use)	<b>2</b>	1
<b>Alliteration</b> (0.5 mark for each use)	<b>2</b>	1
<b>Hyperbole</b> (0.5 mark for each use)	<b>2</b>	0
<b>Sensory language</b> used (5 senses to describe, 'showing' not telling)	<b>10</b>	8.5
Range of impressive <b>vocabulary</b> for the purpose of description (good use of adverbs and adjectives; use of above-average words or 3 wow words)	<b>5</b>	5
<b>Unique, engaging writing</b> which followed the question well	<b>5</b>	4.5
Use of <b>varied sentence types</b> (use of simple or short, crisp sentences for effect along with complex sentences)	<b>3</b>	2.5
<b>Organisation</b> and cohesion of ideas/paragraphs	<b>2</b>	2
Accuracy of <b>grammar and punctuation</b>	<b>3</b>	1.5
<b>Spellings</b>	<b>2</b>	1.5
<b>Length</b> requirement met	<b>2</b>	2
<b>Handwriting and presentation</b>	<b>1</b>	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>50</b>	40.5



## Feedback

### Positives

- An imaginative piece of descriptive writing.
- The semicolon and colon have been attempted.
- Plenty of sensory, figurative and descriptive language has been used.
- Planning phase used wisely to jot down points.
- Variety in sentence starters to a great extent.
- Both the opening and the conclusion are well-written.
- Strong vocabulary displayed at many places.

### Scope for Improvement

- The first step to writing a descriptive piece is to come up with an eye-grabbing title. For example: *The Bustling Platform* or *The Last Train*
- Make use varied punctuation (such as semicolon, colon, parenthesis and dashes) to make your writing sophisticated and to improve your score. Learn the correct use of the colon and semicolon.
- Try to make use of extended metaphors to score extra points. This topic gives us the opportunity to imagine a train (at the station) as a snake. For example:  
*It was a long coiling serpent: sometimes asleep, sometimes crawling. At moments of inactivity and impatience, it hissed and spat, at no-one in particular, at everyone in general. Slowly and slowly, it slithered down the endless railway line to its destination.*

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Picture 2The ~~is~~ 5:00 PM

- Busy - hectic - frantic setting.
- Smoke and heat of July.
- Noise + din, and chatter of parents and children.
- omnipresent (omniscient).
- snatches of speech (children and parents).
- reunions of family.
- enormity of station and pillars + benches.
- trains coming in and out.

smoke from what?

The sweltering heat of July pressed in from all sides, combined with the stench of acrid smoke, malodorous, scorching smoker ~~created an extremely uncomfortable~~ ~~uncomfortable~~ environment. The thunderous din of hundreds of commuters sliced through the air, only exacerbating the already deafening chatter of children stomping their feet on the floor in immense frustration, angry at their hot and both bothered parents. CHUG, CHUG, CHUG went the steam trains, carrying thousands of annoyed passengers, just waiting to greet their families. As aforementioned, the colour of

Insert 'who' (children were stomping, not their chattering)

Use a comma instead. The words after a semicolon should form a complete sentence



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disgusting ~~devel~~ smoke wafted into people's noses, making them cough and splutter terribly. WOOO, rang a shrill whistle to signify the end of the journey.

Change to 'sellers'

Desperate ~~people~~ <sup>were</sup> trying to get ~~travellers~~ <sup>people</sup> to buy their fresh food, only to find that their efforts were futile as they were brusquely brushed away on the train-side like specks of dust on a sheet.

Where is this tunnel? At the end of the platform?

A man greeted his eager family with many presents for his sons and daughters that he had brought from abroad. Mammoth pillars supported an endless ~~tunnels~~ tunnel that was like the mouth of hell, swallowing up many trains that ventured through. Hurried shopkeepers hastily attended to their hungry customers waiting for the day to end and head homeward to a warm supper

Use a comma for the pause here

waiting for them. 5:00 PM had whizzed past and as the day drew to a dreary close ~~to~~ children started to nag "Can we go home now?" like grates. Benches were finally ~~released~~ <sup>for</sup> able to relax as their occupants started to leave the station. ~~Less~~ ~~E~~

Eventually, all was silent and calm as the

It had been just another busy, frantic and ...'

night arrived. Just another: Busy; frantic; hectic day at the railway.

Incorrect use of the colon and semicolon