



Sample Mark Scheme: P000301

NCFE Functional Skills Qualification in English at Level 2 - Writing (600/0140/9)

Markers' Briefing Note

Marks in the English Writing component are awarded for 'independent construction of written text to communicate in a purposeful context'. Whilst the learner may use the content of any Source Documents to inform their writing, the Writing Activities do not assess Reading skills.

Learners are expected to produce an open response. Depending on the context of the activity, a learner may support either side of an argument, or adopt any well-reasoned stance, using the Source Documents and/or their own ideas and experiences. What should be assessed is their ability to do so whilst meeting all the coverage and range criteria of the Writing Skill Standard.

SPAG Mark Scheme

Each writing paper consists of **two** activities. There are 9 marks awarded for Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation (SPAG) for each activity. These are evenly distributed with 3 marks awarded for each skill. The tiered scheme for awarding marks is detailed in this document.

Activity 1: Write a letter.	Marks	Skill standard assessed
<p>Content:</p> <p>Award 1 mark for each of the following, up to a maximum of 5 marks:</p> <p>The letter should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> explain clearly why they are writing: what they are applying for and on whose behalf (1 mark) give clear and detailed reasons/explanations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mark for a simple explanation of why they would be suitable for the show to which they are applying 2 marks for a full explanation with at least two reasons why they would be suitable 3 marks for a detailed and well justified explanation of why they would be particularly suitable include any further plausible/reasonable information which focuses on the prescribed purpose of the letter. 	5 (max)	<p>2.3.1 Present information/ideas concisely, logically, and persuasively</p> <p>2.3.2 Present information on complex subjects clearly and concisely</p>
<p>Format and style:</p> <p>Award 1 mark for each of the following, up to a maximum of 4 marks:</p> <p>The letter should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> employ language, tone and features suitable for the formal audience and purpose include the sender's address, the recipient's address and the date. The learner's own name should not appear above the sender's address have a formal salutation (should address the recipient generically i.e. Dear Sir/Madam) and a formal closing (i.e. Yours faithfully) be persuasive. 	4 (max)	2.3.3 Use a range of writing styles for different purposes
<p>Structure:</p> <p>Award 1 mark for each of the following, up to a maximum of 2 marks:</p> <p>The letter should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have a clear structure with writing organised into appropriate paragraphs use complete and complex sentences to convey thoughts and ideas. 	2 (max)	2.3.4 Use a range of sentence structures, including complex sentences, and paragraphs to organise written communication effectively
<p>Punctuation: NB Learner must write a minimum of 150 words to be considered for full marks, otherwise they <i>will not</i> be considered for the full 3 marks.</p> <p>Use a 'best fit' policy to award the corresponding mark for one of the bulleted statements.</p>	3 (max)	

<p>Maximum of 3 marks available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> punctuation is almost totally accurate (i.e. a range of punctuation including full stops, capital letters, commas, question marks and speech marks is generally used accurately) 3 marks a range of punctuation including full stops, capital letters, commas, question marks and speech marks is used accurately most of the time (i.e. with at least 75% accuracy) 2 marks punctuation is accurate at least 50% of the time (i.e. full stops and capital letters are sometimes used accurately). 1 mark <p>Zero marks can be awarded <i>if there is no progression</i> from Level 1 and if answer is written all in capitals.</p>	<p>3 2 1</p>	<p>2.3.5 Punctuate written text using commas, apostrophes and inverted commas accurately</p>
<p>Spelling: NB Learner must write a minimum of 150 words to be considered for full marks, otherwise they <i>will not</i> be considered for the full 3 marks.</p> <p>Use a 'best fit' policy to award the corresponding mark for one of the bulleted statements. Base the judgement on the notes contained below which identify the particular words/skills desired at Level 2.</p> <p>Maximum of 3 marks available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the spelling of L2 words is almost totally accurate and meaning is clear (there may be one or two lapses) 3 marks the spelling of L2 words is usually accurate (with at least 75% accuracy) 2 marks the spelling of L2 words is accurate at least 50% of the time, but there are several lapses 1 mark <p>Notes - At Level 2, a candidate is expected to correctly spell words used most often in work, studies and daily life, including irregular words and familiar technical words such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> words using the <i>-ing, -ed, -ful or -less</i> suffixes: wonderful, exciting, interesting, characterless, populated, inhabited words containing a silent <i>k</i> or <i>w</i>, <i>know, knowledge, write, wrong, wreck</i> confusing pairs: <i>are/our, of/off, quite/quiet</i> <i>oi</i> or <i>oy</i> confusions: <i>noisy, toilets, spoilt, enjoy, annoying, joy</i> plurals ending in <i>s, sh, ch</i> and <i>x</i>: <i>addresses, watches, complexes, approaches, reaches, branches, benches</i> common irregular plurals: <i>children, crises, people</i> 	<p>3 (max)</p> <p>3 2 1</p>	<p>2.3.6i Ensure written work is fit for purpose and audience, with accurate spelling and grammar that support clear meaning in a range of text types</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> irregular / commonly misspelled words: <i>acceptable, occasionally, definite</i> words ending in the <i>-ible</i>, or <i>-able</i> suffixes: <i>available, desirable, horrible, incredible, responsible, visible, acceptable</i> irregular plurals: <i>bases, analyses, radius, oasis</i> <p>Candidates should also be able to spell Level 1 words correctly. At Level 1, a candidate is expected to correctly spell regular, common words used most often in work, studies and daily life such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> words using the <i>-ly, -er, -age</i> suffixes: <i>completely, quieter, village, damage, average, heritage</i> homophones: <i>four/for, were/we're, their/they're/there, sights/sites</i> single vowels + consonant: <i>family, surprise, most</i> two different vowels in the middle of a word: <i>failure, break, true</i> unstressed vowels: <i>different, general, offering</i> <i>ie</i> or <i>ei</i> confusions: <i>receive, height, either, leisure, believe, field, pier</i> pluralising words ending in <i>y, f, fe</i> or <i>o</i>: <i>families, photos, lorries, valley, journey, life</i> <p>Zero marks can be awarded <i>if there is no progression</i> from Level 1.</p>		
<p>Grammar: NB Learner must write a minimum of 150 words to be considered for full marks, otherwise they <i>will not</i> be considered for the full 3 marks.</p> <p>Use a 'best fit' policy to award the corresponding mark for one of the bulleted statements.</p> <p>Maximum of 3 marks available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the grammar is almost totally accurate (i.e. subject-verb agreement, consistent use of tenses and pronouns - any errors stand out as untypical or "one-off" mistakes) 3 marks the grammar is accurate at least 75% of the time (i.e. subject-verb agreement and consistent use of tenses and pronouns, although there may be some errors) 2 marks the grammar is at least 50% accurate (i.e. there may be some basic grammatical errors in e.g. subject-verb agreement or consistency of tenses) 1 mark <p>Zero marks can be awarded <i>if there is no progression</i> from Level 1.</p>	<p>3 (max)</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2.3.6ii</p> <p>Ensure written work is fit for purpose and audience, with accurate spelling and grammar that support clear meaning in a range of text types</p>
Total marks:		20

Activity 2: Write an article.	Marks	Skill standard assessed
<p>Content:</p> <p>Award 1 mark for each of the following, up to a maximum of 5 marks</p> <p>The article should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> clearly express their opinion give clear and detailed reasons for their opinion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 mark for a simple explanation with generic reasons 2 marks for a full explanation with at least two well justified reasons 3 marks for a full explanation with either at least two very well justified reasons or at least three well justified reasons include any further plausible/reasonable information or details which focuses on the purpose of the article (this might include personal anecdote). 	5 (max)	<p>2.3.1 Present information/ideas concisely, logically, and persuasively</p> <p>2.3.2 Present information on complex subjects clearly and concisely</p>
<p>Format style and structure:</p> <p>Award 1 mark for each of the following, up to a maximum of 6 marks</p> <p>The article should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> have clear structure with writing organised into paragraphs include an appropriate headline be persuasive use complete and complex sentences to convey thoughts and ideas have an appropriate conclusion include language and features suitable for the audience and purpose. 	6 (max)	<p>2.3.3 Use a range of writing styles for different purposes</p> <p>2.3.4 Use a range of sentence structures, including complex sentences, and paragraphs to organise written communication effectively</p>
<p>Punctuation: NB Learner must write a minimum of 150 words to be considered for full marks, otherwise they <i>will not</i> be considered for the full 3 marks.</p> <p>Use a 'best fit' policy to award the corresponding mark for one of the bulleted statements.</p> <p>Maximum of 3 marks available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> punctuation is almost totally accurate (i.e. a range of punctuation including full stops, capital letters, commas, question marks and speech marks is generally used accurately) 3 marks a range of punctuation including full stops, capital letters, commas, question marks and speech marks is used accurately most of the time (i.e. with at least 75% accuracy) 2 marks punctuation is accurate at least 50% of the time (i.e. full stops and capital letters are sometimes 	3 (max)	<p>2.3.5 Punctuate written text using commas, apostrophes and inverted commas accurately</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • words using the <i>-ly, -er, -age</i> suffixes: <i>completely, quieter, village, damage, average, heritage</i> • homophones: <i>four/for, were/we're, their/they're/there, sights/sites</i> • single vowels + consonant: <i>family, surprise, most</i> • two different vowels in the middle of a word: <i>failure, break, true</i> • unstressed vowels: <i>different, general, offering</i> • <i>ie</i> or <i>ei</i> confusions: <i>receive, height, either, leisure, believe, field, pier</i> • pluralising words ending in <i>y, f, fe</i> or <i>o</i>: <i>families, photos, lorries, valley, journey, life</i> <p>Zero marks can be awarded <i>if there is no progression</i> from Level 1.</p>		
<p>Grammar: NB Learner must write a minimum of 150 words to be considered for full marks, otherwise they <i>will not</i> be considered for the full 3 marks.</p> <p>Use a 'best fit' policy to award the corresponding mark for one of the bulleted statements.</p> <p>Maximum of 3 marks available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the grammar is almost totally accurate (i.e. subject-verb agreement, consistent use of tenses and pronouns - any errors stand out as untypical or "one-off" mistakes) 3 marks • the grammar is accurate at least 75% of the time (i.e. subject-verb agreement and consistent use of tenses and pronouns, although there may be some errors) 2 marks • the grammar is at least 50% accurate (i.e. there may be some basic grammatical errors in e.g. subject-verb agreement or consistency of tenses) 1 mark <p>Zero marks can be awarded <i>if there is no progression</i> from Level 1.</p>	<p>3 (max)</p> <p>3</p> <p>2</p> <p>1</p>	<p>2.3.6ii</p> <p>Ensure written work is fit for purpose and audience, with accurate spelling and grammar that support clear meaning in a range of text types</p>
Total marks:	20	

Overall marks:	40
Pass mark:	29

Activity 1: Write an article.				
Activity type: Free response extended writing				
Skill standard	Coverage and range	Marks available	Total marks	
Write a range of texts, including extended writing documents, communicating information, ideas and opinions, effectively and persuasively.	2.3.1 - Present information/ideas concisely, logically, and persuasively 2.3.2 - Present information on complex subjects clearly and concisely	5	20	
	2.3.3 - Use a range of writing styles for different purposes	2		
	2.3.4 - Use a range of sentence structures, including complex sentences, and paragraphs to organise written communication effectively	4		
	2.3.5 - Punctuate written text using commas, apostrophes and inverted commas accurately. 2.3.6 - Ensure written work is fit for purpose and audience, with accurate spelling and grammar that support clear meaning.	9		
Activity 2: Write a letter.				
Activity type: Free response extended writing				
Skill standard	Coverage and range	Marks available	Total marks	
Write a range of texts, including extended writing documents, communicating information, ideas and opinions, effectively and persuasively.	2.3.1 - Present information/ideas concisely, logically, and persuasively 2.3.2 - Present information on complex subjects clearly and concisely	5	20	
	2.3.3 - Use a range of writing styles for different purposes	4		
	2.3.4 - Use a range of sentence structures, including complex sentences, and paragraphs to organise written communication effectively	2		
	2.3.5 - Punctuate written text using commas, apostrophes and inverted commas accurately 2.3.6 - Ensure written work is fit for purpose and audience, with accurate spelling and grammar that support clear meaning	9		
Coverage and range		Marks available	Actual weighting	Weighting spec
2.3.1 - Present information/ideas concisely, logically, and persuasively 2.3.2 - Present information on complex subjects clearly and concisely 2.3.3 - Use a range of writing styles for different purposes 2.3.4 - Use a range of sentence structures, including complex sentences, and paragraphs to organise written communication effectively		22	55%	55-60%

2.3.5 - Punctuate written text using commas, apostrophes and inverted commas accurately 2.3.6 - Ensure written work is fit for purpose and audience, with accurate spelling and grammar that support clear meaning in a range of text types	18	45%	40-45%
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