

HOLISTIC SCORING GUIDE FOR ORIGINAL COMPOSITION

6 : Unique answers that clearly employ advanced techniques

The six paper is superior and may draw upon any number of factors: maturity of style, depth of discussion, effectiveness of argument, use of literary and/or rhetorical devices, sophistication of wit, or quality of imagination. This essay exhibits an effective writing style and a sophisticated use of language. Despite its clarity and precision, this paper need not be error-free.

5 : Well answered and well written

The five paper is an example of proficient writing. It displays some manipulation of language to achieve a desired effect. It exhibits a strong voice and clear sense of audience. Content is thoughtful and interesting. Errors do not detract from the marker's understanding. Vocabulary and sentence structure are varied and serve the writer's purpose successfully.

4 : Answers the question well but structure and vocabulary are unsophisticated.

The four paper is clearly adequate. The prose is able to convey the writer's ideas, but without flair or strong control. Diction and syntax are usually appropriate, but lack variety. Structure, regardless of type, is predictable and relatively mechanical. The marker has a clear sense of the writer's purpose, but is not engaged by the prose. Conventions of language are usually followed, but the marker is aware of errors.

3 : The lowest PASSING mark represents basic writing

The three paper is barely adequate. The paper may feature underdeveloped paragraphs. Transition[s] may be weak or absent. Support for obvious and simplistic ideas is frequently in the form of listed details. Little variety in diction and sentence structure is discernible. Although the marker may be aware of some purpose, errors impede the fluency of the paper.

2: The question is not adequately answered and the writing is very weak

The two paper shows underdeveloped ideas that are simply and/or awkwardly expressed, as they might be in casual conversation. The paper reflects little knowledge of the conventions of language. Even though the marker can perceive meaning, the errors are frequent and rudimentary.

1: The writing cannot be readily understood

The one paper is so compromised by its deficiency of composition, content, diction, syntax, structure, voice and conventions of language as to render its meaning/purpose almost unintelligible.

0: Zero

The zero paper manifests an achievement less than outlined in scale-point one, is written in verse, is off-topic, or is a restatement of the topic. **Any paper that includes profanity,**

references to drugs or alcohol, or promotes hate or violence, will be assigned a zero.