

**Content**

Candidates did extremely well on questions where their own experiences could be used as a basis for their writing, even weaker candidates producing sincere, moving and sound work. Every effort should be made by schools to recognise the validity of candidates life experiences and allow them the opportunity to express this.

Conversely candidates did poorly when the question required them to discuss topics which they were not familiar with.

**Language usage**

The quality of grammar and general language proficiency is poor. Schools should attempt to cover basic grammar rules as thoroughly as possible. ABET institutions need as much support as possible to help part-time candidates but this is obviously a problem in full-time candidates as well.

**General**

Candidates knowledge of different formats and conventions to be used in various transactional or functional pieces is poor and this often pulls their marks down. Again ABET institutions need support in this regard and schools need to drill their learners in the different formats used.