

ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE HG PAPER 3

1. Poor expression: A general laxness pervaded the responses of candidates. In numerous cases no attention was given to paragraphing, concord, verb tenses, punctuation, comma splicing, register and tone.
2. Questions and instructions not being read carefully: Some candidates answered more than one question per section even though the instructions were quite clear. Questions were not read carefully and candidates on many occasions digressed from the topic. E.g. Section A, Question 2. Here candidates had to write about a life-changing experience at a flea market. However, many candidates used the topic to write clichéd boy meets girl or girl meets boy responses.
3. No knowledge of different genres of writing: In the paper candidates are expected to respond to questions which require them to write in a variety of genres – essays, letters, articles, play-form dialogue, posters, invitations, brochures, web sites, journals, news reports, etc. – as outlined in the guidelines provided by the department. The formats and styles of these genres must be taught.
4. Section E: Creative response to a prescribed short story: It was disturbing to note that many candidates had not been prepared in any way to respond to this section. In some instances, candidates had not been given the list of prescribed stories and a few did not even know that the prescribed stories formed part of this paper.