

Commentary on candidate evidence

The evidence for the candidates within this pack has achieved the following marks for this course assessment task.

Candidate 1: Society

Health is the most important thing in life, do you agree?

You could discuss what you do to stay healthy. You could discuss the benefits of exercise. You could also mention the importance of having a healthy diet and what you should and should not eat.

The candidate was awarded **12 marks** because...

Content

The title is competently addressed and content is relevant. The candidate expresses a range of ideas on the topic of health, writes in an organised way and draws a conclusion.

Accuracy

The candidate tries unsuccessfully to use some ambitious verb forms which are more appropriate to Advanced Higher level; this led to some serious errors within the essay. The use of accents, gender and plurals is not secure at times (“e”, “da”, “i sport”). There is some omission or mis-positioning of reflexive pronouns (“sono iscritta in palestra”, “mi sempre sento meglio”). There is some misuse of the dictionary (*ciò può promuovere la gara e l'autodisciplina*). Overall, there is more correct language than incorrect.

Language resource

The candidate attempts to use detailed and complex language throughout. The use of a variety of paragraph openers help to give a discursive flavour to the piece (“Secondo me ...” “Tuttavia ...” “Almeno che sia ...”, “In conclusione ...”) There is a good range of verbs.

There is also some good use of idiom, “... è più facile dire che fare!” and some success at handling detailed and complex language with accuracy: “Facendoli”, “Dovremmo tutti cercare di rimanere il più attivo possibile”, “Avendolo fatto ...”

Candidate 2: Learning

Is my High School a good School?

The candidate was awarded **4 marks** because...

Content

The candidate has not included the full stimulus which should follow the question. The candidate does address the title, and, although the content is mostly relevant, the final paragraph changes the essay focus to future plans and is not relevant. Content is repetitive in several areas: *“che si chiama”* (used twice) and *“Frequento ”* (used twice as a paragraph opener). Some sections read like lists and limit the candidate’s opportunity to express a range of ideas and opinions. For example, there is a list of school subjects, school rules and school uniform items. Different viewpoints and arguments are not addressed as the candidate merely describes the good points about the school throughout the essay. The piece is factual rather than discursive and there is no conclusion.

Accuracy

There are serious grammatical errors with possessive adjectives and plurals: (*“le mie insegnante”, “Gli insegnanti”, “I professori”*) and an insufficient degree of accuracy in spelling for Higher level, (*“professori”, “usuare”, “soprattutto”*). There is dictionary misuse in the phrase *“contro le prepotenze”*. Two phrases cannot be clearly understood: *“Mi anno scomodo”* and *“un’ altro estereo”*.

Language resource

The candidate makes little attempt to use detailed and complex language. Many structures remain within the National 5 areas of the Productive Grammar Grid framework. There is a limited range of verbs and structures and an over-reliance on the use of the structure *“dovere + infinitive”* – used five times.

Candidate 3: Society

Living in the countryside is so much better than living in a city but living in a city is much more tempting when you are young. Do you agree?

You could talk about the advantages of living in the countryside but also about what the problems might be. You could set out all of the advantages of living in a town or city, especially for young people, but also set out any drawbacks, especially environmental ones. You could also refer to places where you have lived and talk about what you thought of these places.

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** because...

Content

The candidate expresses the pros and cons of living in the country and city but ideas and reasons are limited and opinions are repeated, for example paragraph 3: *"il campagna è noiosa"/"La campagna è sempre noiosa!"* The candidate does not draw a conclusion.

Accuracy

The candidate demonstrates an inadequate degree of grammatical accuracy corresponding to Higher level. Verb formation is insecure throughout, for example. *"...ho abitavo"*, and the infinitive is often used instead of a conjugated verb form, for example *"... perche abitare"*, *"... dunque visitare gli amici vedere più sfido"*, *"La nuova generazione andare ..."* There are lapses with gender and plurals, for example *"Il campagna"*, *"La persone"*, *"il spiaggia"*, *una grande teatro"*.

Language resource

Language is largely repetitive, for example frequent use of *"c'è"/"ci sono"*, repeated use of *"Quando ero"*, and sentences are simple and brief. Some sections of the piece read like a list, for example in paragraph four the candidate simply lists places to visit in the town: *"Puoi andare al cinema ...al ristorante ...spiaggia ... giardino pubblico ...teatro ..."*. There is a limited amount of detailed and complex language and indeed much of the language remains within the National 5 areas of the Productive Grammar Grid.

Candidate 4: Society

Young people nowadays are under too much pressure to take part in competitive sport. Do you agree?

The candidate was awarded **20 marks** because...

Content

The candidate has not included the full stimulus which should follow the statement and question. The candidate addresses the title in a full and balanced way. Content is relevant with a wide range of ideas, opinions and reasons being expressed. The piece is very well structured and the candidate draws a conclusion. The language flows well.

Accuracy

The piece demonstrates a very good degree of accuracy throughout. All aspects of grammar are used accurately while the candidate demonstrates accuracy in language, which would be appropriate even at Advanced Higher level, for example “... *cercano di rivivere i propri successi passati*”, “*i giovani vengono spinti ad allenarsi senza tener conto del dolore ...*”

Language resource

Detailed and complex language is used throughout. The candidate uses a variety of openers and subordinating conjunctions which give a discursive flavour to the piece and allow the candidate to elaborate on viewpoints, for example “*Ovviamente*”, “*Comunque*”, “*Inoltre*”, “*dunque*” “*perché*”, “*Molti studi mostrano che ...*” “*Questo può portare a ...*” “*L’inevitabile conclusione a cui siamo arrivati è che ...*”. A wide range of structures and verbs is used.

Candidate 5: Society

Addiction in today's society is affecting peoples health discuss

The candidate was awarded **16 marks** because...

Content

The candidate has not included the full stimulus which should follow the statement. However, the candidate addresses the title in a full and balanced way and content is relevant. A range of ideas is expressed and the candidate writes in a very structured and organised way. A conclusion is drawn in the last paragraph.

Accuracy

The candidate mostly demonstrates a good degree of grammatical accuracy. A few errors in the first and second paragraphs (*"delle scozia"*, *"...il più grande"*, *"seguire una dieta a sana"*) do detract a little from the overall impression. One phrase - *"influenzano i volti"*, suggests dictionary misuse and the meaning is not clear.

Language resource

Detailed and complex language is used throughout. A wide range of structures, verbs and tenses is used. The candidate makes good use of discursive language, for example *"La statistica dimostra che ..."* *"Comunque ..."* *"Di conseguenza"*, *"Tuttavia ..."* *"... per me ..."* *"Penso che ..."*, *"... a dispetto delle ..."*, *"Sono d'accordo con ..."*, *"Il governo dovrebbe ..."*.

Candidate 6: Society

Living in the countryside is so much better than living in a city but living in a city is much more tempting when you are young. Do you agree?

You could talk about the advantages of living in the countryside but also about what the problems might be. You could set out all of the advantages of living in a town or city, especially for young people, but also set out any drawbacks, especially environmental ones. You could also refer to places where you have lived and talk about what you thought of these places.

The candidate was awarded **8 marks** because...

Content

The candidate uses content which is relevant to the title but expresses a limited amount of ideas and opinions. A few viewpoints are expressed but some are repeated. The candidate does not draw a conclusion.

Accuracy

There are sections of very accurate language. However the language in these sections is basic for Higher level. There is dictionary misuse: “*è molto migliore reggere*”, and there are errors in spelling, for example “*sembrara*”, “*migliorare*”, “*rumore*”, “*...più essere*”, “*uno sfido*”.

There is a lack of control of tenses, especially in the final paragraph, for example “*la grande città sempre sembrato*”, “*... quando sarò grande sono vivo nella campagna*”.

Language resource

A limited amount of detailed and complex language is used. A lot of repetition is evident throughout the piece, for example repeated use of “*c'è/ci sono*”. The subjects of traffic and noise are discussed twice in different paragraphs. There is repetition of “*potere*” + infinitive and the structures “*... quando ero più giovane*” and “*ivantaggi/gli svantaggi di ...*”. Two lines in the first paragraph are repeated in the final paragraph.