

SCORING IN SECONDARY ENGLISH ESSAY WRITING

What do you need to know to do well?



Situational Writing and Continuous Writing are the two most significant sections in Paper 1 of the English examination in terms of mark allocation. Below are some tips to score well in these sections.

Situational Writing

Know your purpose, audience and context (PAC). This will help you understand *why* you are writing (the purpose), *whom* you are writing to (the audience), and *what* the circumstances are (the context). Clues can be found in the question. In addition, look out for keywords that indicate the writer's role (e.g. resident) and the format (e.g. email or letter).

Choose the right tone and register. Identifying the PAC will help you determine the appropriate tone and register to use. Also, pay attention to instructions in the question that indicate the tone you should use (e.g. a warm and appreciative tone).

Address the task requirements thoroughly. These are the bulleted points in the question. You may be asked to choose from options in the

visual, explain why you have chosen to do something, or give an opinion about a certain choice. Make references to relevant information from the visual stimulus as needed.

Continuous Writing

There are usually four topics of different essay types in this section. Different types of essays have different requirements, so learn to correctly identify each type.

Argumentative: This type of essay requires you to convince readers to adopt a certain point of view. Therefore, state your stand on the issue clearly, and provide strong supporting reasons for it. Further explain each idea by giving examples, such as facts and statistics.

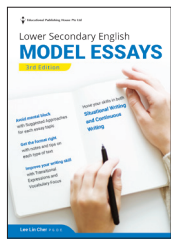
Expository: While you are not required to take a stand, you are expected to present an objective discussion of the topic by exploring its various aspects. Define key terms in the topic, and use each body paragraph to present one point. At the end, offer a reflection of the points considered.

Narrative: This type of essay tells a story, so it is crucial to keep readers interested. Engage them immediately with an interesting

opening, lead them towards the conflict or climax, then provide a satisfying resolution or conclusion.

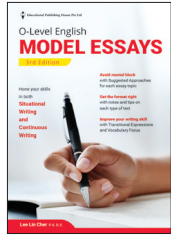
Descriptive: Unlike a narrative essay, a descriptive essay should create a strong image in readers' minds about a person, place, experience, etc. Some ways to achieve this are using figurative language and including descriptions based on the five senses.

For more ideas on how you can excel at Secondary English essay writing, you may refer to *Model Essays* by Educational Publishing House Pte Ltd.



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