**WRITING EXAMPLE FOR PROFICIENCY EXAM**

***TIPS FOR THE WRITING SECTION***

**DO**

* practice writing English in different formats.
* revise the topics in your books.
* read the instructions carefully.
* organize your ideas logically and use some transitions. ***(Coherence)***
* check your sentences for grammar. ***(Grammar)***
* use correct capitalization and punctuation. ***(Structure & Punctuation)***
* use appropriate word phrases and spell the words correctly. ***(Vocabulary)***
* check the number of words. *(Minimum word limit)*
* use your time wisely.

**DON’T**

* write off-topic. ***(Content)***
* memorize a model paragraph & essay.
* get nervous in the exam. Just relax and do your best!

***IMPORTANT!!***

If the text is **completely off-topic**, it will be graded as **1 pt.**

* *Choose* ***ONE*** *of the topics below. Follow the instructions to achieve a coherent text. Do not forget to sign the topic you have chosen.*
* **TOPIC A:** Popular entertainment.

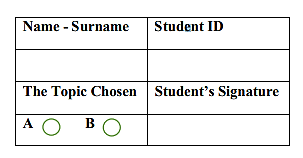
Some believe that society puts entirely too much emphasis on popular entertainment. Although people need to be distracted occasionally, if people spend a lot of time browsing their favorite websites, watching television, playing video games, or updating our social networking accounts, they are merely avoiding life’s more important realities. Moreover, none of these activities help people develop any of the skills or acquire any of the knowledge they need to succeed in the real world.

**Write an opinion essay about whether popular entertainment offers society anything of value or it is just a worthless distraction (At least 200-250 words).**

* **TOPIC B:** Dress code in high school.

In some high schools, many teachers and parents have encouraged the administration to adopt a dress code that sets guidelines for what students can wear to school. Some teachers and parents support a dress code because they believe that such policies will improve the learning environment. Other teachers and parents do not support a dress code; they think it restricts an individual student’s freedom of expression.

**Write an opinion essay about whether schools should adopt a dress code or students should be allowed to wear what they choose (At least 200-250 words).**



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| **Categories** | **Excellent** | **Strong** | **Average** | **Weak** | **Poor** |
| **Content**  *(5 pts.)* | Always on topic / All questions answered. Very well developed thesis with details. Achieved word limit or slightly over it.  *(5 pts.)* | On topic and most of the questions answered. Accurate and complete information. Slightly under word limit.  *(4 pts.)* | Somehow off-topic. Introduced the main point, but it lacks information and details. Inadequate amount of words.  *(3 pts.)* | Usually irrelevant. Inadequate answers for the questions. Lack of information / too many unnecessary details. Far below word limit.  *(2 pts.)* | Almost wholly irrelevant. No proper answers for the questions. Only a few words / fragments / sentences.  *(1 pt.)* |
| **Coherence**  *(5 pts.)* | Smooth, skillful and coherent all the time. Various transitions. Consistent and appropriate tone.  *(5 pts.)* | Clear writing, intelligible information. Effective transitions. Rarely inconsistent.  *(4 pts.)* | Usually intelligible. The tone and purpose is inconsistent from time to time. A few transitions.  *(3 pts.)* | Often inconsistent information.  Inadequate coherence.  No transitions.  *(2 pts.)* | Confusing and hard to follow. No logical organization.  *(1 pt.)* |
| **Grammar**  *(4 pts.)* | Accurate grammar with almost no errors. Correct tense structures and compound sentences.  *(4 pts.)* | A few minor grammar mistakes. Usually correct at using tenses and complex sentences.  *(3 pts.)* | Several mistakes, but the text still can be discerned. Only a few complex sentences.  *(2 pts.)* | Simple sentences with major grammar mistakes. Displays inappropriate tense forms frequently.  *(1 pt.)* | Distracting and major errors. No accurate grammar structures.  *(0 pts.)* |
| **Vocabulary**  *(4 pts.)* | Advanced vocabulary with almost no typos. Appropriate and correct word phrases.  *(4 pts.)* | Usually strong and appropriate vocabulary with a few spellings. Correct word choice almost all the time.  *(3 pts.)* | A few inappropriate words with several typos. Needs improvement.  *(2 pts.)* | Most of the words are inappropriate or unnatural. Weak word choice and many spelling mistakes.  *(1 pt.)* | Inappropriate and irrelevant vocabulary. Spelling mistakes make the text incomprehensible.  *(0 pts.)* |
| **Structure & Punctuation**  *(2 pts.)* | Required text format achieved.  Correct punctuation and capitalization.  *(2 pts.)* | | The text is sometimes out of format.  A few mistakes of punctuation and capitalization.  *(1 pt.)* | | No proper text form or punctuation.  *(0 pts.)* |