

Example 2: e-mail to a friend

Written work

Foundation level

MYP year: 5

Criterion	A	B	C	D	E
Level achieved	–	–	3	3	–

Background

Students were asked to write an e-mail, in English, to their friends, describing the country, the people, their new house and their school. Their e-mail had to be at least 150 words long.

The students in the foundation course were all new to Fiji. They came from many different countries so this task was authentic as their classmates, teachers, and people within the community such as taxi drivers often asked them what they thought of Fiji. The language of this topic had been practised many times in class.

The students had one hour to complete the task, which was done under examination conditions. The students did not know the topic before the exam. No notes, dictionaries or textbooks were allowed.

Note: As the work was done under examination conditions, the student's e-mail was handwritten. It has been retyped here to facilitate reading. All orthographical and grammatical errors remain as per the original work.

Assessment

Criterion C: writing—message and organization

Maximum 8

Achievement level	Descriptor
3–4	<p>The student communicates information most of the time, on a limited variety of aspects within common/everyday topics.</p> <p>The student's ideas are usually relevant, though they contain limited detail and/or support.</p> <p>The presentation shows a good attempt at structure, though there are some lapses. The student uses few cohesive devices.</p>

This work achieved level 3 because the student:

- communicates information on a limited variety of aspects within everyday topics
- writes in the required format of an e-mail even though she omits the "subject", "from", "date" and "to" that are typical of an e-mail
- uses few cohesive devices but information can be followed
- provides ideas that are sometimes relevant with very limited details; she does not attempt to describe the country, her new house or the school in any great length and is very superficial in describing the people.

The student would have achieved a higher level if she had:

- included the information that was requested in the question (details on the country, the new house and the school)
- developed her ideas by adding more detail.

Criterion D: writing—language

Maximum 8

Achievement level	Descriptor
3–4	<p>The student uses a basic range of vocabulary and grammatical structures; there are some errors that interfere with communication.</p> <p>There are some errors in spelling/writing that sometimes interfere with communication.</p>

This work achieved level 3 because the student:

- uses basic grammatical structures and a basic range of vocabulary
- makes some errors in vocabulary/grammar that interfere with communication
- makes some errors in spelling/writing that interfere with communication.

The student would have achieved a higher level if she had:

- made fewer mistakes in the grammatical structures
- attempted to use more-complex grammatical structures
- made fewer spelling mistakes.

Student work

E-mail to a friend describing Fiji

Hi! my best friend. So long time no see ~*

I'm sorry. I want write an e-mail but I'm too busy. Because my grandmother go back to Korea. So I cooking my grandfather food and cleaning house. I very will cooking and anyhting. Also Fiji is too slow the Internet. Do you know Fiji is like Korea was a very long time ago. So very hard write an e-mail (too much have a times).

How are and your family?? It's good?? or It's bad??? I'm sometime find and sometime bad. Because Fiji is very hot. So my mine(feeling) everyday different. ~*. How about your university?? It's good, enjoy and bad. I think your university life enjoy and good. Because different from school. I'm so bad. I can't make a friend. They are not friendly. I know my English not enough. So I big have problem. but I try to mak e friend. Also working hard.

I want see you. I hope we will meet next years. I pray for you so you pray to me.

I'm write again latter.

Ah!! I want see you latter. So you write latter.

Have nice day my best friend. ~*

Your friend