

## Example 3: a positive experience

Written work

Standard level

MYP year: 5

Criterion	A	B	C	D	E
Level achieved	–	–	6	5	–

### Background

The students were asked to write a 300-word descriptive essay on a positive experience, and had to avoid using the words “good” and “nice”.

There was no prior preparation for this task. The students had three hours to complete the essay, under teacher supervision. The use of an English dictionary was allowed, but no other support material was permitted.

There was no penalty for going over the 300-word limit.

### Assessment

#### Criterion C: writing—message and organization

Maximum 8

Achievement level	Descriptor
5–6	<p>The student communicates information <b>clearly</b>, though there is <b>some difficulty with more-complex ideas</b>. The student’s ideas are <b>relevant but not always supported</b>; opinions are <b>sometimes justified</b>.</p> <p>The student structures the work <b>appropriately</b>, which adds to the <b>clarity</b> of the message; there is an <b>appropriate use of cohesive devices</b>.</p>

This work achieved level 6 because the student:

- communicates information clearly (The use of cohesive devices is, at times, awkward but, generally speaking, it is appropriate. The text does not include any particularly complex ideas.)
- justifies opinions and feelings with examples whenever she expresses them
- structures the work appropriately; the text is clear, and one can easily follow the ideas.

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

- used cohesive devices more appropriately
- introduced complex ideas and supported them.

**Criterion D: writing—language**

Maximum 8

Achievement level	Descriptor
5–6	<p>The student uses a <b>range</b> of vocabulary and structures <b>appropriately</b>; and <b>attempts to use idiom</b> appropriate to the context. Errors <b>rarely interfere</b>.</p> <p>There are <b>occasional mistakes</b> in spelling/writing but these <b>do not interfere</b> with communication.</p> <p>The student shows a <b>sense of audience</b>, though there may be <b>some lapses</b> in using the <b>appropriate register</b>.</p>

This work achieved level 5 because the student:

- uses a range of vocabulary; even though there are some spelling mistakes, these rarely interfere with communication
- makes frequent mistakes in the use of appropriate structures but this does not impede communication
- uses a register that is sometimes inappropriate.

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

- shown more care in choosing the proper structures, namely when it came to following the sequence of tenses appropriate to her story
- verified word spelling
- verified the meaning of some of the words she used that could have been changed for vocabulary more appropriate to the context.

**Student work**An exciting day

Every students are very stressed by their inscription to the Cégep. I have the chance to go in a technic, so I received my answer faster than the others. Last Saturday, I went to an interview for my Cégep, the [REDACTED]. Let me talk to you about this experience.

Everything started when they called me for tell me I was accepted in my program. I was very excited and can't believed that they called me so earlier. After, they said that there was only one condition, is that I had to pass some tests and an interview. This didn't bother me very much; I was so

happy to visit my future school for the first time!

So the next Saturday, I went to [REDACTED] with a big smile in my face. I had just passed the doors that I fell in love with this place. It is an old school, so it is very beautiful, it is almost like a church! Also, there were paintings and sculptures that students had made everywhere. So I walked to the local I had to go. A Saturday, there is nobody, so everything was calm and I was very serene.

The teacher who welcomed me was very gentle. I first had to make two tests, but that was not the harder! I became so nervous

because of the interview. Finally, that was not that bad. The woman I was with made everything to make me feel relaxed. She asked me some questions about me and why I wanted to be in this program. She also informed me about the technic and we talked like this during 15 minutes. At the end, I was feeling calm and above all proud of me. When I quit the Cegep, I was relieved that everything had been without hitches. So, when I went to bed this night, I thought with hope about my program.

After four days, they finally called me back. Unfortunately, I was absent. But when I arrived to my home in

The evening, my mother told me the super news: 'I was accepted.' Suddenly, all my stress was gone and that removed me a big weight from my shoulders. So, I am always in an extra mood since this day and I just have to think about that to make my smile come back when I feel sad.

368 words