



# basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
**REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**NATIONAL  
SENIOR CERTIFICATE**

**GRADE 12**

**ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE P3**

**NOVEMBER 2025**

**MARKS: 100**

**TIME: 3 hours**

**This question paper consists of 7 pages.**



## INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

1. This question paper consists of TWO sections:  
SECTION A: Essay (50)  
SECTION B: Transactional Texts (2 x 25) (50)
2. Answer ONE question in SECTION A and TWO questions in SECTION B.
3. Write in the language in which you are being assessed.
4. Start EACH section on a NEW page.
5. You must plan (e.g. using a mind map/diagram/flow chart/key words), edit and proofread your work. The plan must appear BEFORE the answer.
6. All planning must be clearly indicated as such. It is advisable to draw a line through all planning.
7. You are strongly advised to spend your time as follows:  
SECTION A: approximately 100 minutes  
SECTION B: approximately 80 (2 x 40) minutes
8. Number the answers correctly according to the numbering system used in this question paper.
9. The title/heading must NOT be included when doing a word count.
10. Write neatly and legibly.



**SECTION A: ESSAY**

**QUESTION 1**

Write an essay of 400–450 words (2–2½ pages) on ONE of the following topics. Write down the NUMBER and TITLE/HEADING of your essay.

- 1.1 A room full of mirrors [50]
- 1.2 In the modern world, more is never enough. [50]
- 1.3 With folded arms, plain clothes and an awkward stance, he/she stood out in the room, which was dotted with pockets of smiling, confident and stylish people. [50]
- 1.4 The language of my scars  
[Adapted from *The Language of Scars* by Patricia R Thompson, Carole L King] [50]
- 1.5 This humorous story is a South African reality. [50]

The pictures reproduced on pages 4 and 5 may evoke a reaction or feeling in you or stir your imagination.

Select ONE picture and write an essay in response. Write the question number (1.6, 1.7 OR 1.8) of your choice and give your essay a title.

**NOTE:** There must be a clear link between your essay and the picture you have chosen.



1.6



[Source: [wikimedia.org](https://www.wikimedia.org)]

[50]

1.7



[Source: [shutterstock.com](https://www.shutterstock.com)]

[50]

1.8



[Source: facebook.com]

[50]

**TOTAL SECTION A: 50**



## SECTION B: TRANSACTIONAL TEXTS

### QUESTION 2

- Respond to TWO of the following topics.
- The body of each of your answers should be 180–200 words (20–25 lines) in length.
- Pay careful attention to the following:
  - Audience, register, tone and style
  - Choice of words and language structure
  - Format
- Write down the NUMBER and TITLE/HEADING of the text you have chosen, e.g. 2.1 E-MAIL.

#### 2.1 E-MAIL

**ARE YOU A YOUNG, ASPIRING ENTREPRENEUR?**

**ARE YOU INNOVATIVE AND CREATIVE?**

**ARE YOU AN OUT-OF-THE-BOX THINKER?**

**YOUNGMINDS®**

INVITES BRIGHT, BOLD AND DYNAMIC YOUNG PEOPLE TO SUBMIT AN ENTRY  
FOR THE

**'SIMPLE SOLUTIONS FOR SAVVY LIVING'  
COMPETITION**

WE WANT YOU TO CREATE A TRENDY, CONTEMPORARY AND CLEVER PRODUCT  
THAT WILL TRANSFORM THE LIVES OF PEOPLE FROM *ORDINARY* TO  
*EXTRAORDINARY*.

**PRIZES: R20 000 START-UP CAPITAL, 6 MONTHS FREE ADVERTISING AND  
MENTORSHIP**

TO STAND A CHANCE TO WIN THESE AMAZING PRIZES, TELL US ABOUT THE  
PRODUCT WHICH YOU HAVE INVENTED AND WHY IT WOULD APPEAL TO  
CONSUMERS.

 ENTRIES MUST BE E-MAILED TO [shine@youngminds.co.za](mailto:shine@youngminds.co.za)  
BY 4 JANUARY 2026 .  
*Terms and conditions apply.*

Write an e-mail in response to the above advertisement.

[25]

2.2 **SPEECH**

**'There shall be peace and friendship:** encouragement of peaceful relations for all the peoples of Africa.'

[Excerpt from the *Freedom Charter*, [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com)]

As a public speaker, you have been invited to speak on the quotation above, at an Africa Day rally.

Write the speech.

[25]

2.3 **MAGAZINE ARTICLE**

Write a magazine article titled, 'A survival guide for the modern teenager'.

[25]

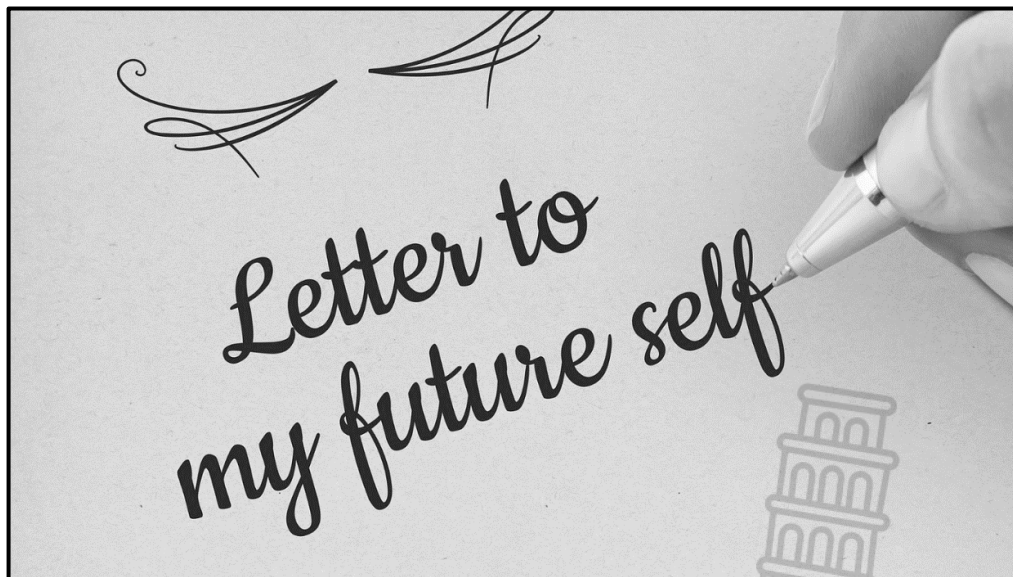
2.4 **FORMAL LETTER**

In recent weeks, you have noticed that parents are frequently posting favourable comments about your school, on social media.

Write a letter to your principal in which you express your views.

[25]

2.5 **BOOK REVIEW**



[Source: [veerkohli17.medium.com](http://veerkohli17.medium.com)]

Write a book review of the bestselling book, *Letter to my future self*.

[25]

2.6 **DIALOGUE**

A critic has reviewed a newly opened restaurant in a popular food magazine. During the critic's second visit, the manager approaches him/her.

Write the dialogue that ensues.

[25]

**TOTAL SECTION B: 50**  
**GRAND TOTAL: 100**



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**MARKING GUIDELINES**

**MARKS: 100**

**These marking guidelines consist of 9 pages.**



## INFORMATION FOR THE MARKER

In assessing a candidate's work, the following aspects, among others, drawn from the assessment rubric, must be borne in mind:

- The overall effect of planning, drafting, proofreading and editing of the work on the final text produced.
- Awareness of writing for a specific purpose, audience and context – as well as register, style and tone – especially in SECTION B.
- Grammar, spelling and punctuation.
- Language structures, including an awareness of critical language.
- Choice of words and idiomatic language.
- Sentence construction.
- Paragraphing.
- Interpretation of the topic that will be reflected in the overall content: the introduction, the development of ideas and the conclusion.



**SUGGESTED APPROACH TO MARKING**

**SECTION A: ESSAY**

Refer to SECTION A: Rubric for Assessing an Essay found on pages 7 and 8 of these marking guidelines.

CRITERIA USED FOR ASSESSMENT	
CRITERIA	MARKS
CONTENT AND PLANNING (60%)	30
LANGUAGE, STYLE AND EDITING (30%)	15
STRUCTURE (10%)	5
TOTAL	50

1. Read the whole piece and decide on a category for CONTENT AND PLANNING.
2. Re-read the piece and select the appropriate category for LANGUAGE, STYLE AND EDITING.
3. Re-read the piece and select the appropriate category for STRUCTURE.
4. An essay cannot be without any indication that it has been read and awarded marks accordingly. The final mark awarded on the essay must be justifiable.

Unlike the summary where there is a very strict word limit, an essay is creative work. If an essay is flowing in terms of creativity and captivating to the reader, it becomes unfair to focus only on the length at the expense of the content. The rule of thumb is that no additional penalties may be imposed as the rubric itself imposes penalties.

**SECTION B: TRANSACTIONAL TEXTS**

Refer to SECTION B: Rubric for Assessing Transactional Texts found on page 9 of these marking guidelines.

CRITERIA USED FOR ASSESSMENT	
CRITERIA	MARKS
CONTENT, PLANNING AND FORMAT (60%)	15
LANGUAGE, STYLE AND EDITING (40%)	10
TOTAL	25

1. Read the whole piece and decide on a category for CONTENT, PLANNING AND FORMAT.
2. Re-read the piece and select the appropriate category for LANGUAGE, STYLE AND EDITING.

**NOTE:**

- Various formats of transactional/referential/informational texts have been taught/are in current practice. This has to be considered when assessing the format.
- Give credit for appropriateness of format.
- Look for a logical approach in all writing.

**NOTE:**

- The points given below each topic in these marking guidelines serve only as a guide to markers.
- Allowance must be made for a candidate's own interpretation of the topic, even if it differs from the given points or a marker's own views or interpretations.

**SECTION A: ESSAY**

**QUESTION 1**

Candidates are required to write ONE essay of 400–450 words (2–2½ pages) on ONE of the given topics. Candidates may write in any genre: narrative, descriptive, reflective, discursive, argumentative, or any combination of these.

**1.1 A room full of mirrors**

- Credit literal, figurative and mixed responses. **[50]**

**1.2 In the modern world, more is never enough.**

- Candidates could argue for or against the topic, or present a mixed response.
- Anecdotal content could be included. **[50]**

**1.3 With folded arms, plain clothes and an awkward stance, he/she stood out in the room, which was dotted with pockets of smiling, confident and stylish people.**

- Credit literal, figurative and mixed responses. **[50]**

**1.4 The language of my scars**

[Adapted from *The Language of Scars* by Patricia R Thompson, Carole L King]

- Credit literal, figurative and mixed responses. **[50]**

**1.5 This humorous story is a South African reality.**

- Credit responses that allow for individual interpretations of humour, within a South African context. **[50]**

1.6 **Stepping stones/Journey**

- Credit literal, figurative and/or mixed responses.

**[50]**

1.7 **Coin toss**

- Credit literal, figurative and/or mixed responses.

**[50]**

1.8 **Child carving wood**

- Credit literal, figurative and/or mixed responses.

**[50]**

**TOTAL SECTION A: 50**



## SECTION B: TRANSACTIONAL TEXTS

### QUESTION 2

Candidates are required to respond to TWO of the topics set. The body of each response should be 180–200 words (20–25 lines) in length. The language, register, style and tone must be appropriate to the context.

#### 2.1 E-MAIL

- The candidate should offer a convincing motivation for his/her product/service/prototype.
  - Format: sender's and recipient's e-mail addresses; date; subject line; salutation; signing off
- [25]

#### 2.2 SPEECH

- The speech should focus on the quotation.
- [25]

#### 2.3 MAGAZINE ARTICLE

- The article should provide advice to the modern teenager.
  - Format: headline is essential; by-line is optional.
- [25]

#### 2.4 FORMAL LETTER

- The candidate should express his/her views to the principal **about the parents' favourable comments** about the school.
  - Candidates could focus on **parents expressing their views on social media**.
  - Format: sender's address; date; recipient's address; salutation; subject line; signing off
- [25]

#### 2.5 BOOK REVIEW

- The candidate should review the book titled, *Letter to my future self*.
  - The review should include the title, the author, synopsis and critique.
  - Valid review format should be used.
- [25]

#### 2.6 DIALOGUE

- The dialogue should focus on the manager's interaction with the restaurant critic.
  - Valid dialogue format should be used.
- [25]

**TOTAL SECTION B: 50**  
**GRAND TOTAL: 100**

**NOTE:**

- Always use the rubric when marking the creative essay (Paper 3, SECTION A).
- Marks from 0–50 have been divided into FIVE major level descriptors.
- In the Content, Language and Style criteria, each of the five level descriptors is divided into an upper-level and a lower-level subcategory with the applicable mark range and descriptors.
- Structure is not affected by the upper-level and lower-level division.

**ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR ESSAY – HOME LANGUAGE [50 MARKS]**

Criteria		Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
<b>CONTENT AND PLANNING</b>  (Response and ideas) Organisation of ideas for planning; Awareness of purpose, audience and context  <b>30 MARKS</b>	<b>Upper level</b>	<b>28–30</b>	<b>22–24</b>	<b>16–18</b>	<b>10–12</b>	<b>4–6</b>
		-Outstanding/Striking response beyond normal expectations -Intelligent, thought-provoking and mature ideas -Exceptionally well organised and coherent, including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	-Very well-crafted response -Fully relevant and interesting ideas with evidence of maturity -Very well organised and coherent, including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	-Satisfactory response - Ideas are reasonably coherent and convincing -Reasonably organised and coherent, including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	-Inconsistently coherent response -Unclear ideas and unoriginal -Little evidence of organisation and coherence	-Totally irrelevant response -Confused and unfocused ideas -Vague and repetitive -Unorganised and incoherent
	<b>Lower level</b>	<b>25–27</b>	<b>19–21</b>	<b>13–15</b>	<b>7–9</b>	<b>0–3</b>
		-Excellent response but lacks the exceptionally striking qualities of the outstanding essay -Mature and intelligent ideas -Skilfully organised and coherent, including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	-Well-crafted response -Relevant and interesting ideas -Well organised and coherent, including introduction, body and conclusion	-Satisfactory response but some lapses in clarity -Ideas are fairly coherent and convincing -Some degree of organisation and coherence, including introduction, body and conclusion	-Largely irrelevant response -Ideas tend to be disconnected and confusing -Hardly any evidence of organisation and coherence	-No attempt to respond to the topic -Completely irrelevant and inappropriate -Unfocused and muddled

**ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR ESSAY – HOME LANGUAGE [50 MARKS] (continued)**

Criteria		Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
<b>LANGUAGE, STYLE AND EDITING</b>  Tone, register, style, vocabulary appropriate to purpose/effect and context; Word choice; Language use and conventions, punctuation, grammar, spelling	Upper level	<b>14–15</b> -Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Exceptionally impressive use of language -Compelling and rhetorically effective in tone -Virtually error-free in grammar and spelling - Very skilfully crafted	<b>11–12</b> -Tone, register, style and vocabulary very appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Language is effective and a consistently appropriate tone is used -Largely error-free in grammar and spelling -Very well crafted	<b>8–9</b> -Tone, register, style and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Appropriate use of language to convey meaning -Tone is appropriate -Rhetorical devices used to enhance content	<b>5–6</b> -Tone, register, style and vocabulary less appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Very basic use of language -Tone and diction are inappropriate -Very limited vocabulary	<b>0-3</b> -Language incomprehensible -Tone, register, style and vocabulary not appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Vocabulary limitations so extreme as to make comprehension impossible
		<b>15 MARKS</b>	<b>13</b> -Language excellent and rhetorically effective in tone -Virtually error-free in grammar and spelling -Skilfully crafted	<b>10</b> -Language engaging and generally effective -Appropriate and effective tone -Few errors in grammar and spelling -Well-crafted	<b>7</b> -Adequate use of language with some inconsistencies -Tone generally appropriate and limited use of rhetorical devices	<b>4</b> -Inadequate use of language -Little or no variety in sentences -Exceptionally limited vocabulary
<b>STRUCTURE</b>  Features of text; Paragraph development and sentence construction	Lower level	<b>5</b> -Excellent development of topic -Exceptional detail -Sentences, paragraphs exceptionally well-constructed	<b>4</b> -Logical development of details -Coherent -Sentences, paragraphs logical, varied	<b>3</b> -Relevant details developed -Sentences, paragraphs well-constructed -Essay still makes sense	<b>2</b> -Some valid points -Sentences and paragraphs faulty -Essay still makes some sense	<b>0–1</b> -Necessary points lacking -Sentences and paragraphs faulty -Essay lacks sense
		<b>5 MARKS</b>				

**ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR TRANSACTIONAL TEXT – HOME LANGUAGE [25 MARKS]**

Criteria	Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
<b>CONTENT, PLANNING AND FORMAT</b>  Response and ideas; Organisation of ideas for planning; Purpose, audience, features/conventions and context  <b>15 MARKS</b>	<b>13–15</b>  -Outstanding response beyond normal expectations -Intelligent and mature ideas -Extensive knowledge of features of the type of text -Writing maintains focus -Coherence in content and ideas -Highly elaborated and all details support the topic -Appropriate and accurate format	<b>10–12</b>  -Very good response demonstrating good knowledge of features of the type of text -Maintains focus – no digressions -Coherent in content and ideas, very well elaborated and details support topic -Appropriate format with minor inaccuracies	<b>7–9</b>  -Adequate response demonstrating knowledge of features of the type of text -Not completely focused – some digressions -Reasonably coherent in content and ideas -Some details support the topic -Generally appropriate format but with some inaccuracies	<b>4–6</b>  -Basic response demonstrating some knowledge of features of the type of text -Some focus but writing digresses -Not always coherent in content and ideas -Few details support the topic -Has vaguely applied necessary rules of format -Some critical oversights	<b>0–3</b>  -Response reveals no knowledge of features of the type of text -Meaning is obscure with major digressions -Not coherent in content and ideas -Very few details support the topic -Has not applied necessary rules of format
<b>LANGUAGE, STYLE AND EDITING</b>  Tone, register, style, purpose/effect, audience and context; Language use and conventions; Word choice; Punctuation and spelling  <b>10 MARKS</b>	<b>9–10</b>  -Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Virtually error-free	<b>7–8</b>  -Tone, register, style and vocabulary very appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Generally grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Very good vocabulary -Mostly free of errors	<b>5–6</b>  -Tone, register, style and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Some grammatical errors -Adequate vocabulary -Errors do not impede meaning	<b>3–4</b>  -Tone, register, style and vocabulary less appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Inaccurate grammar with numerous errors -Limited vocabulary -Meaning obscured	<b>0–2</b>  -Tone, register, style and vocabulary do not correspond to purpose, audience and context -Error-ridden and confused -Vocabulary not suitable for purpose -Meaning seriously impaired