

Smart Exam Resources

0500-IGCSE-English-Paper-2

PAPER 2 COMPOSITION / PAPER-2-DESCRIPTIVE COMPOSITION

Descriptive-task-07-qp-B-Expert Solution

QUESTION:

Describe what you see from the window during a journey by road or rail. [25]

ANSWER:

The train glided smoothly along the tracks, its gentle sway almost hypnotic. From my seat by the window, the world unfolded like a living painting, each scene a fleeting glimpse of life beyond the glass. The early morning sunlight bathed the landscape in a golden glow, its rays slicing through the mist that hung low over the fields, softening the edges of trees and houses.

The fields stretched endlessly, their green carpets interspersed with patches of wildflowers—vivid bursts of yellow and purple that seemed to wave as we passed. In the distance, a cluster of hay bales stood like scattered marbles, their shadows stretching long and thin in the angled light. A lone farmer, clad in a wide-brimmed hat, guided a rusted tractor across the earth, the machine's movements slow and deliberate.

As the train sped on, the scenery shifted. Rolling hills gave way to a dense forest, its canopy so thick that it swallowed the light, casting the ground below into shadowy stillness. The trees, tall and ancient, stood like silent sentinels, their trunks wrapped in vines and moss. Occasionally, a break in the greenery revealed a narrow dirt trail winding into the depths, hinting at hidden stories within.

The rhythm of the train blended with the sounds of nature that filtered through the open window: the chirping of unseen birds, the rustle of leaves caught by the breeze, and the occasional hum of insects. It was as though the world outside were alive, moving in harmony with the train's steady motion.

Soon, the forest thinned, and the train entered a small village. Red-tiled roofs peeked out from clusters of trees, their chimneys puffing wisps of smoke into the cool air. The streets were quiet, save for a few early risers carrying baskets of fresh produce or tending to garden plots. Children, their laughter like wind chimes, chased each other across a cobbled square, their energy a stark contrast to the sleepy tranquility of the place.

Beyond the village, the train crossed a bridge spanning a wide river. The water below shimmered like liquid glass, reflecting the sky's pale blue and the scattered clouds drifting lazily above. Boats, their sails billowing gently in the breeze, dotted the surface, their movement slow and graceful.

As the journey continued, the landscapes blurred together, each scene fleeting yet etched vividly in my mind. The train pressed on, a steadfast traveller weaving through the tapestry of the world, and I found myself lost in the beauty of it all—a kaleidoscope of sights, sounds, and emotions that made the ordinary journey extraordinary.

ANALYSIS:

Analysis of the Writing Based on the Mark Scheme Guidelines:

1. Many Well-Defined, Well-Developed Ideas and Images:

- Detailed Atmosphere:
 - The writing vividly captures the journey's changing scenery with rich sensory descriptions:
 - Visuals: *"The fields stretched endlessly, their green carpets interspersed with patches of wildflowers—vivid bursts of yellow and purple."* and *"The water below shimmered like liquid glass, reflecting the sky's pale blue."*
 - Sounds: *"The chirping of unseen birds, the rustle of leaves caught by the breeze."*
 - Textures: *"The canopy so thick that it swallowed the light."*
 - These details bring the scenes to life, making the journey immersive for the reader.
- Dynamic Transitions: The piece moves smoothly from the open fields to dense forests, villages, and a river, each setting vividly described and unique.
- Complex Atmosphere: Each scene evokes a distinct mood:
 - Tranquillity in the fields.
 - Mystery in the shadowy forest.
 - Warmth and life in the village.

2. Overall Structure Through Devices:

- Movements of the Writer:
 - The journey itself provides a natural structure, as the train moves through different landscapes.
 - The transitions between settings are fluid, with each new scene building on the previous one.
- Short Time Span Creation:
 - The piece captures fleeting moments during the journey, reflecting the transient nature of scenes viewed from a moving train.
- Atmosphere and Tension:

- The rhythm of the train adds a sense of continuity and calm, while the ever-changing views maintain interest and variety.
- The slight contrast between the peaceful forest and the vibrant village adds subtle shifts in mood, enriching the experience.
- **No Confusion with a Story:** The piece remains descriptive, focusing on capturing scenes and emotions without introducing a plot or narrative.

3. Clarity and Sequence:

- **Repetition Avoided:** Each paragraph introduces new elements and descriptions, ensuring variety and preventing redundancy.
- **Clear Sequence:** The progression from fields → forest → village → river follows a logical order, mirroring the train's path.
- **Clarity of Description:** The use of precise and evocative language ensures that each scene is vividly conveyed and easy to imagine.

4. Stylistic and Linguistic Strength:

- **Consistency:** The tone is reflective and descriptive throughout, suited to capturing the wonder of a journey.
- **Stylistic Fluency:** The writing employs varied sentence structures and strong imagery:
 - *"A cluster of hay bales stood like scattered marbles, their shadows stretching long and thin in the angled light."*
 - *"Red-tiled roofs peeked out from clusters of trees, their chimneys puffing wisps of smoke into the cool air."*
- **Linguistic Accuracy:** Grammar, punctuation, and vocabulary are accurate and enhance the writing's overall quality.
- **Sense of Audience:** The piece is crafted to engage readers, inviting them to share in the writer's observations and emotions during the journey.

Overall Assessment:

The writing meets the guidelines effectively:

- It uses vivid, detailed descriptions to create an immersive and evocative atmosphere.
- The structure is logical and clear, guiding the reader through a short, focused time span with natural transitions.

- The style is fluent, linguistically strong, and tailored to captivate the audience.