

Smart Exam Resources

0500-IGCSE-English-Paper-2

PAPER 2 COMPOSITION / PAPER-2-DESCRIPTIVE COMPOSITION

Descriptive-task-08-A-qp-Expert Solution

QUESTION:

Write a descriptive account entitled 'The Flower Seller'.

[25]

ANSWER:

The morning air was crisp, carrying the faint scent of freshly baked bread and the tang of dew-soaked cobblestones. At the corner of the bustling market square, a flower seller stood behind a modest wooden cart adorned with an explosion of colors. The flowers seemed to spill out like a kaleidoscope, their vibrant hues lighting up the dull gray of the city streets.

The flower seller herself was a petite woman with weathered hands and an air of quiet resilience. Her scarf, faded and frayed at the edges, framed a face etched with faint lines that spoke of years spent braving the elements. Despite the cool morning, her smile was warm, her eyes twinkling with the kind of joy that only comes from working with nature's most delicate treasures.

The flowers on display were a feast for the senses. Roses in deep crimson and soft blush pink sat beside cheerful sunflowers with golden faces that seemed to radiate light. Lilies, their petals pristine and white, exuded a subtle fragrance that mingled with the sharp tang of eucalyptus. Tiny violets peeked shyly from their woven baskets, while bold geraniums stood tall, their bright red petals defiant against the autumn chill. Each bloom seemed to tell its own story, as though plucked from some enchanted garden.

Around the cart, the air buzzed with life. A steady stream of customers came and went, their chatter mixing with the rhythmic clinking of coins and the occasional bark of a nearby dog. A child tugged at their mother's sleeve, pointing excitedly at a bunch of daisies, while an elderly man stood silently, his fingers tracing the petals of a single orchid as if lost in thought. The flower seller moved with practiced efficiency, her hands deftly tying ribbons around bouquets or arranging blossoms into harmonious displays. Her voice, soft yet steady, carried a soothing cadence as she exchanged pleasantries with her customers.

As the sun climbed higher, its golden light spilled over the market, making the colors of the flowers even more vivid. The street, once shrouded in the cool blues of dawn,

now glowed with warmth. The flower seller's cart became the heart of the square, drawing in both the hurried and the curious. She was more than a vendor; she was a creator of beauty, her cart a temporary sanctuary of color and life amid the rush of the city.

By mid-morning, the bustle began to wane. The flower seller leaned against her cart, a satisfied smile on her lips as she surveyed her remaining blooms. The street was quieter now, but her presence lingered, like the soft perfume of the flowers she tended. In that small corner of the world, she left a mark—simple yet profound—turning an ordinary morning into something extraordinary.

ANALYSIS:

Analysis of the Writing Based on the Mark Scheme Guidelines:

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

- Detailed Atmosphere:
 - The setting is richly described, immersing the reader in the bustling market:
 - Visuals: *"The flowers seemed to spill out like a kaleidoscope, their vibrant hues lighting up the dull gray of the city streets."*
 - Sounds: *"The rhythmic clinking of coins and the occasional bark of a nearby dog."*
 - Smells: *"The faint scent of freshly baked bread and the tang of dew-soaked cobblestones."*
 - The descriptions create a multi-sensory experience, making the scene vivid and engaging.
- The Flower Seller: The character is depicted with warmth and depth:
 - *"Her scarf, faded and frayed at the edges, framed a face etched with faint lines."*
 - The balance of her resilience and joy adds an emotional layer to the description.
- The Flowers: Each type of flower is described with unique traits:
 - *"Roses in deep crimson and soft blush pink sat beside cheerful sunflowers with golden faces."*
 - The flowers become characters in their own right, enhancing the atmosphere.

2. Overall Structure Through Devices:

- **Movements of the Writer:** The piece uses shifts in time and the progression of the morning:
 - Starts with the quiet early morning.
 - Moves through the bustling activity of the market.
 - Ends with the calm of mid-morning as the pace slows.
- **Short Time Span Creation:** The description captures a single morning in the market, allowing for a detailed focus on the flower seller and her surroundings.
- **Atmosphere and Tension:**
 - The vibrant life of the market creates a dynamic and engaging atmosphere.
 - The flower seller's cart becomes a focal point, a sanctuary of beauty in the rush of daily life.
- **No Confusion with a Story:** The piece avoids narrative elements, focusing solely on descriptive imagery and atmosphere.

3. Clarity and Sequence:

- **Repetition Avoided:** Each paragraph introduces new details, ensuring the writing remains engaging and avoids redundancy.
- **Clear Sequence:** The progression is logical and easy to follow:
 - Initial setting → description of the flower seller → detailed imagery of the flowers → interactions at the cart → closing reflection.
- **Clarity of Description:** The vivid language ensures that the scene is easy to visualize and deeply immersive.

4. Stylistic and Linguistic Strength:

- **Consistency:** The tone remains reflective and descriptive throughout, capturing the quiet charm of the scene.
- **Stylistic Fluency:** The writing employs varied sentence structures and rich vocabulary:
 - *"Lilies, their petals pristine and white, exuded a subtle fragrance that mingled with the sharp tang of eucalyptus."*
 - *"Her cart a temporary sanctuary of color and life amid the rush of the city."*
- **Linguistic Accuracy:** Grammar, punctuation, and sentence construction are precise and enhance readability.
- **Sense of Audience:** The piece is crafted to appeal to readers' imaginations, offering a blend of sensory detail and emotional connection.

Overall Assessment:

The writing effectively meets the guidelines:

- It uses vivid, detailed imagery to create a rich and immersive 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 engage the audience.