



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

GRADE 12

ENGLISH FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE P3

NOVEMBER 2025

MARKING GUIDELINES

MARKS: 100

These marking guidelines consist of 12 pages.

INSTRUCTIONS AND INFORMATION

These marking guidelines must be used together with the attached English FAL assessment rubrics for SECTIONS A, B and C.

SECTION A: ESSAY

QUESTION 1

Instructions to Markers:

- Candidates are required to write on ONE topic only.
- The ideas listed below the topics are only **some ways** in which the topic could be interpreted.
- Full credit must be given for the candidates' own interpretation.
- Marking must be objective. Give credit for relevant ideas.
- Use the 50-mark assessment rubric to mark the essays. The texts produced by candidates must be assessed according to the following criteria as set out in the assessment rubric:
 - Content and planning (30 marks)
 - Language, style and editing (15 marks)
 - Structure (5 marks)

NOTE:

- Adhere to the length of between 250 and 300 words as prescribed in the CAPS document. However, should the maximum word count be exceeded, refer to the *First Additional Language Examination Guidelines Grade 12, 2021*.
- No additional penalties may be imposed as the rubric itself imposes penalties.

1.1 The story behind my smile

Reflective/Narrative/Descriptive/Discursive/Argumentative

- If reflective, the essay should convey the writer's/candidate's reactions and feelings.
- If narrative, the essay must have a strong story line and an interesting ending.
- If descriptive, the candidate should create a picture in words, using as many senses as possible to make the description clear.
- If discursive, the arguments for and against the topic must be well-balanced and clearly analysed in the essay. The candidate must provide supporting evidence for his/her arguments. The candidate may come to a particular conclusion at the end of the essay, which should include recommendations.
- If argumentative, the essay must reflect a specific argument or viewpoint for or against the topic. The candidate should give a range of arguments to support and substantiate his/her view. The conclusion should be a strong, clear and convincing statement of the writer's opinion.

NOTE: A candidate may write an essay which contains elements of more than one type of essay/any other essay type, relevant to the topic.

[50]

1.2 It gets easier

Discursive/Reflective/Narrative/Argumentative/Descriptive

- If discursive, the arguments for and against the topic must be well-balanced and clearly analysed in the essay. The candidate must provide supporting evidence for his/her arguments. The candidate may come to a particular conclusion at the end of the essay, which should include recommendations.
- If reflective, the essay should convey the writer's/candidate's reactions and feelings.
- If narrative, the essay must have a strong story line and an interesting ending.
- If argumentative, the essay must reflect a specific argument or viewpoint for or against the topic. The candidate should give a range of arguments to support and substantiate his/her view. The conclusion should be a strong, clear and convincing statement of the writer's opinion.
- If descriptive, the candidate should create a picture in words, using as many senses as possible to make the description clear.

NOTE: A candidate may write an essay which contains elements of more than one type of essay/any other essay type, relevant to the topic.

[50]

1.3 A promise I could not keep

Narrative/Reflective/Descriptive/Discursive/Argumentative

- If narrative, the essay must have a strong story line and an interesting ending.
- If reflective, the essay should convey the writer's/candidate's reactions and feelings.
- If descriptive, the candidate should create a picture in words, using as many senses as possible to make the description clear.
- If discursive, the arguments for and against the topic must be well-balanced and clearly analysed in the essay. The candidate must provide supporting evidence for his/her arguments. The candidate may come to a particular conclusion at the end of the essay, which should include recommendations.
- If argumentative, the essay must reflect a specific argument or viewpoint for or against the topic. The candidate should give a range of arguments to support and substantiate his/her view. The conclusion should be a strong, clear and convincing statement of the writer's opinion.

NOTE: A candidate may write an essay which contains elements of more than one type of essay/any other essay type, relevant to the topic.

[50]

1.4 When the mask falls off

Reflective/Descriptive/Narrative/Discursive/Argumentative

- If reflective, the essay should convey the writer's/candidate's reactions and feelings.
- If descriptive, the candidate should create a picture in words, using as many senses as possible to make the description clear.
- If narrative, the essay must have a strong story line and an interesting ending.
- If discursive, the arguments for and against the topic must be well-balanced and clearly analysed in the essay. The candidate must provide supporting evidence for his/her arguments. The candidate may come to a particular conclusion at the end of the essay, which should include recommendations.
- If argumentative, the essay must reflect a specific argument or viewpoint for or against the topic. The candidate should give a range of arguments to support and substantiate his/her view. The conclusion should be a strong, clear and convincing statement of the writer's opinion.

NOTE: A candidate may write an essay which contains elements of more than one type of essay/any other essay type, relevant to the topic.

[50]

1.5 'We don't see things as they are, we see them as we are.' – Anaïs Nin

Discursive/Argumentative/Reflective/ Descriptive/Narrative

- If discursive, the arguments for and against the topic must be well-balanced and clearly analysed in the essay. The candidate must provide supporting evidence for his/her arguments. The candidate may come to a particular conclusion at the end of the essay, which should include recommendations.
- If argumentative, the essay must reflect a specific argument or viewpoint for or against the topic. The candidate should give a range of arguments to support and substantiate his/her view. The conclusion should be a strong, clear and convincing statement of the writer's opinion.
- If reflective, the essay should convey the writer's/candidate's reactions and feelings.
- If descriptive, the candidate should create a picture in words, using as many senses as possible to make the description clear.
- If narrative, the essay must have a strong story line and an interesting ending.

NOTE: A candidate may write an essay which contains elements of more than one type of essay/any other essay type, relevant to the topic.

[50]

Interpretation of pictures

The candidate:

- must give the essay a suitable title.
- may interpret the pictures in any way.
- may choose to write any type of essay.
- must link the interpretation to the picture.
- may write in any appropriate tense.

1.6 Picture: Old man

Narrative/Descriptive/Reflective/Argumentative/Discursive

- Literal interpretations: aging, grandparents
- Figurative interpretations: wisdom, maturity

[50]**1.7 Picture: Cub snarling**

Descriptive/Narrative/Reflective/Argumentative/Discursive

- Literal interpretations: wild animals, youth
- Figurative interpretations: strength, tenacity

[50]**1.8 Picture: Eggs on a cloth**

Descriptive/Narrative/Discursive/Reflective/Argumentative

- Literal interpretations: eggs, food
- Figurative interpretations: rebirth, fragility

[50]**TOTAL SECTION A: 50**

SECTION B: LONGER TRANSACTIONAL TEXT**QUESTION 2****Instructions to Markers:**

- Candidates are required to answer ONE question.
- Marking must be objective. Give credit for relevant ideas.
- Use the 30-mark assessment rubric to mark the responses in this section. The texts produced by candidates must be assessed according to the following criteria as set out in the assessment rubric:
 - Content, planning and format (18 marks)
 - Language, style and editing (12 marks)

NOTE:

- Adhere to the length of between 120 and 150 words as prescribed in the CAPS document. However, should the maximum word count be reached mid-sentence, read to the end of that sentence.
- No additional penalties may be imposed as the rubric itself imposes penalties.

2.1 E-MAIL

An e-mail to a former teacher

- Allow for acceptable variations of format.
- The e-mail should be addressed to the former teacher.
- The tone and register of the e-mail should be formal.
- The following aspects of format must be included:
 - The recipient's e-mail address
 - Subject
 - Salutation/Greetings
 - Message
 - Suitable ending
 - Sender's name
- The e-mail must include a message of gratitude and share future plans. **[30]**

2.2 REVIEW

A review of a restaurant

- The review must include the following:
 - The name and location of the restaurant
 - Atmosphere and ambiance
 - Quality of service
 - The type of food offered
 - Rating
 - The review may contain a brief discussion of:
 - Assessment of food quality (specific dishes sampled)
 - Value for money/pricing
- [30]**

2.3 DIALOGUE

A conversation about a damaged book.

- A brief context must be provided at the beginning of the dialogue.
- The tone should be appropriate.
- The following aspects of the dialogue format must be included:
 - The names of the speakers or references to the speakers written on the left side of the page.
 - A colon after the name of the character who is speaking.
 - A new line to indicate each new speaker.

Where necessary, actions must be given in brackets before the words are spoken.

[30]**2.4 SPEECH**

A farewell speech from the outgoing RCL chairperson

- The speech should have a suitable salutation/greeting.
- The tone and register should be appropriate for the audience.
- The speech must include the following:
 - An introduction that captures the listener's attention
 - Well-developed points
 - A suitable conclusion

[30]**TOTAL SECTION B: 30**

SECTION C: SHORTER TRANSACTIONAL TEXT**QUESTION 3****Instructions to Markers:**

- Candidates are required to answer ONE question.
- Marking must be objective. Give credit for relevant ideas.
- Use the 20-mark assessment rubric to mark the responses in this section. The texts produced by candidates must be assessed according to the following criteria as set out in the assessment rubric:
 - Content, planning and format (12 marks)
 - Language, style and editing (8 marks)

NOTE:

- Adhere to the length of between 80 and 100 words as prescribed in the CAPS document. However, should the maximum word count be reached mid-sentence, read to the end of that sentence.
- No additional penalties may be imposed as the rubric itself imposes penalties.

3.1 FLYER

Flyer promoting a career exhibition

- The following information should be included in the flyer, **among others**:
 - Eye-catching headline, slogan or logo
 - Catchy words and phrases should be used.
 - Sufficient details of the career exhibition (e.g. date, time, and venue.)
 - Contact details (school/organiser)
- The language may be formal or informal.
- The language must speak directly to the reader.

NOTE: Do NOT award marks for illustrations or drawings.

[20]

3.2 WHATSAPP MESSAGE

A *WhatsApp* message for movie night ideas

- Allow for acceptable variations of the format.
- The tone and register of the text should be informal.
- The text must be clear and concise.
- Formal salutations and endings are not necessary, but the recipients should be addressed appropriately.

[20]

3.3 INSTRUCTIONS

Instructions on how to clean white sneakers

The instructions:

- may be in point or paragraph form.
- must be logical.
- must be written in the imperative.

[20]

TOTAL SECTION C: 20
GRAND TOTAL: 100

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR ESSAY – FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE [50 MARKS]

Criteria		Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
CONTENT & PLANNING (Response and ideas) Organisation of ideas for planning; Awareness of purpose, audience and context 30 MARKS	Upper level	28–30 -Outstanding/Striking response beyond normal expectations -Intelligent, thought-provoking and mature ideas -Exceptionally well organised and coherent (connected), including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	22–24 -Very well-crafted response -Fully relevant and interesting ideas with evidence of maturity -Very well organised and coherent (connected), including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	16–18 -Satisfactory response -Ideas are reasonably coherent and convincing -Reasonably organised and coherent, including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	10–12 -Inconsistently coherent response -Unclear ideas and unoriginal -Little evidence of organisation and coherence	4–6 -Totally irrelevant response -Confused and unfocused ideas -Vague and repetitive -Unorganised and incoherent
		25–27 -Excellent response but lacks the exceptionally striking qualities of the outstanding essay -Mature and intelligent ideas -Skilfully organised and coherent (connected), including introduction, body and conclusion/ending	19–21 -Well-crafted response -Relevant and interesting ideas -Well organised and coherent (connected), including introduction, body and conclusion	13–15 -Satisfactory response but some lapses in clarity -Ideas are fairly coherent and convincing -Some degree of organisation and coherence, including introduction, body and conclusion	7–9 -Largely irrelevant response -Ideas tend to be disconnected and confusing -Hardly any evidence of organisation and coherence	0–3 -No attempt to respond to the topic -Completely irrelevant and inappropriate -Unfocused and muddled
	Lower level	14–15 -Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Language confident, exceptionally impressive -Compelling and rhetorically effective in tone -Virtually error-free in grammar and spelling -Very skilfully crafted	11–12 -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	8–9 -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	5–6 -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	0–3 -Language incomprehensible -Tone, register, style and vocabulary not appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Vocabulary limitations so extreme as to make comprehension impossible
		13 -Language excellent and rhetorically effective in tone -Virtually error-free in grammar and spelling -Skilfully crafted	10 -Language engaging and generally effective -Appropriate and effective tone -Few errors in grammar and spelling -Well crafted	7 -Adequate use of language with some inconsistencies -Tone generally appropriate and limited use of rhetorical devices	4 -Inadequate use of language -Little or no variety in sentence -Exceptionally limited vocabulary	
LANGUAGE, STYLE & EDITING Tone, register, style, vocabulary appropriate to purpose/effect and context; Word choice; Language use and conventions, punctuation, grammar, spelling 15 MARKS	Upper level					
	Lower level					
STRUCTURE Features of text; Paragraph development and sentence construction 5 MARKS		5 -Excellent development of topic -Exceptional detail -Sentences, paragraphs exceptionally well-constructed	4 -Logical development of details -Coherent -Sentences, paragraphs logical, varied	3 -Relevant details developed -Sentences, paragraphs well-constructed -Essay still makes sense	2 -Some valid points -Sentences and paragraphs faulty -Essay still makes some sense	0–1 -Necessary points lacking -Sentences and paragraphs faulty -Essay lacks sense

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR LONGER TRANSACTIONAL TEXT – FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE [30 MARKS]

Criteria	Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
CONTENT, PLANNING & FORMAT Response and ideas; Organisation of ideas for planning; Purpose, audience, features/conventions and context 18 MARKS	15–18 -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	11–14 -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	8–10 -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	5–7 -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 -Necessary rules of format vaguely applied -Some critical oversights	0–4 -Response reveals no knowledge of features of the type of text -Meaning obscure with major digressions -Not coherent in content and ideas -Very few details support the topic -Necessary rules of format not applied
LANGUAGE, STYLE & EDITING Tone, register, style, purpose/effect, audience and context; Language use and conventions; Word choice; Punctuation and spelling 12 MARKS	10–12 -Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Virtually error-free	8–9 -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	6–7 -Tone, register, style and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Some grammatical errors -Adequate vocabulary -Errors do not impede meaning	4–5 -Tone, register, style and vocabulary less appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Inaccurate grammar with numerous errors -Limited vocabulary -Meaning obscured	0–3 -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

ASSESSMENT RUBRIC FOR SHORTER TRANSACTIONAL TEXT – FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE [20 MARKS]

Criteria	Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
CONTENT, PLANNING & FORMAT Response and ideas; Organisation of ideas; Features/conventions and context 12 MARKS	10–12 -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	8–9 -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	6–7 -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	4–5 -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 -Necessary rules of format vaguely applied -Some critical oversights	0–3 -Response reveals no knowledge of features of the type of text -Meaning obscure with major digressions -Not coherent in content and ideas -Very few details support the topic -Necessary rules of format not applied
LANGUAGE, STYLE & EDITING Tone, register, style, vocabulary appropriate to purpose and context; Language use and conventions; Word choice; Punctuation and spelling 8 MARKS	7–8 -Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Virtually error-free	5–6 -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	4 -Tone, register, style and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Some grammatical errors -Adequate vocabulary -Errors do not impede meaning	3 -Tone, register, style and vocabulary less appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Inaccurate grammar with numerous errors -Limited vocabulary -Meaning obscured	0–2 -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