

Subject Based Strategies 2019

4NA EL Paper 1 (Writing), Duration: 1 hour 50 minutes

Section A (Editing)

Strategies on tackling Section A

1. Read through the whole passage to get an understanding of the content.
2. Pay attention to the tense used in the passage.
3. Now, read line by line taking note of any grammatical errors.
4. Once corrected, read through the passage once again to ensure that all the errors are identified and corrected.
5. Note that there are no spelling errors, only grammatical, so don't waste your time looking for spelling errors.
6. Remember the first and the last lines are correct; there are no mistakes.
7. Do not spend more than 15 minutes on this section of the paper.

Section B (Situational Writing)

Strategies on tackling Section B

What is Situational Writing?

Situational Writing is found in Section B of Paper 1. The question assesses two components:

(a) Task Fulfilment (10 marks)

- your ability to discuss the Purpose, Audience and Context of scenario
- address the question requirements (given in bulleted points)
- extract and use information from given visual text

(b) Language (20 marks)

- Demonstrate accurate use of grammar and vocabulary
- Demonstrate the ability to use language to convey the proper tone for different scenarios (formal/Informal)

The question is made up of a scenario presented to you in a short paragraph, a few bulleted points that state what you have to address in your writing and a visual text for you to get information to write about. (Note: You must address all the bulleted points)

30 marks is allocated to situational writing, spend no more than 45 minutes on this section of the paper.

Time Management guide for Section B (Total Duration: 45 minutes)

- Planning: 10 minutes
- Writing: 30 minutes
- Checking: 5 minutes

Word-length

- 180 - 250 words
- You are strongly encouraged not to under-write as your content quality may be compromised.
- You are strongly encouraged not to over-write as you will be wasting precious time and possibly make more grammatical errors.
- It is advisable to keep to the word limit range.

How to use the Visual Texts?

The visual texts can be in any form; articles from newspapers or magazines, webpages, weblogs, extracts from print materials like books and magazines, graphs, charts, maps, diagrams, letters, advertisements or testimonials. You will need to interpret the information in the visual text and use the information to provide some content for your writing. You should also use contextual/background knowledge that you have on the scenario or visual text to create additional content to support your writing.

You must read and analyse as well as understand the visual texts. Then, use the information from the question from the question and the visual text to answer the question in a coherent manner. For visual texts that are loaded with words, take note and highlight essential details which are relevant for your writing. Rephrasing the given text for your writing is strongly recommended.

What is the Purpose and Context?

In this question, you can find who you are supposed to write for (the audience) as well as the purpose and the context of the letter (the imaginary situation you are in). For example, you may be asked to write a speech (text type) to your school's student population (audience). You will be informing them about your proposal to renovate the student councillors' room during morning assembly (purpose). This makes up the context.

What Tone to use?

The use of tone depends on the audience and purpose of writing. If the text type is a formal letter for someone of higher authority or a person you do not know, then you will have to use words that are more polite and be formal to suit the occasion.

Likewise, if the text type is an informal letter for someone who is close to you, then you will have to use words that show a friendly and casual demeanour to take an informal stance. Depending on the purpose of the writing, the tone can take a 'persuasive' nature, an 'appealing' nature or be in the form of a 'request'.

Section C (Continuous Writing)

1. In this section you are to write on a suitable topic, there are a number of topics given for you to choose from.
2. Read through all the given topics.
3. Choose the one that you are most comfortable with to write on.
4. Make sure you are using the correct/appropriate tense and be consistent with your tense usage.
5. Always ensure that your writing is on point and based on the topic given.
6. Word-length: Write between 250 – 400 words; do not write less than 250 words as this will affect the quality of your content.
7. Likewise, do not write more than 400 words as this may cause you to make more grammatical and spelling mistakes.
8. Time Management guide for Section C (Total Duration: 50 minutes)
 - Planning: 10 minutes
 - Writing: 35 minutes
 - Checking: 5 minutes
9. Once completed, read through to ensure that the content is sound and there are no spelling or grammatical mistakes.

All the best for your examination.

4NA EL Paper 2 (Comprehension), Duration: 1hour 50minutes

There are 3 sections to this paper; Section A, Section B and Section C.

Section A

1. In this section you are required to respond to questions based on Text 1, a visual text.
2. Study the text carefully to understand the content of the visual text and specific messages if any.
3. Read through the questions and understand what is being asked, and answer accordingly, use the given marks in brackets to guide you when answering.
4. Do not spend more than 10minutes in this section.

Section B

1. In this section you are required to respond to a variety of questions based on Text 2, which can be a narrative or recount.
2. Read through Text 2 carefully and understand the content of the text. Take note of 'difficult' words and infer the meaning by using contextual cues/clues.
3. Make a mental note of what is happening in each paragraph and how one paragraph is linked to the next.
4. You must also be able to read between the lines for questions that may need you to form informed inferences. Use contextual cues/clues or background knowledge to assist you in answering such questions.
5. Read through the questions and understand what is being asked, and answer accordingly, use the given marks in brackets to guide you when answering.
6. Do not spend more than 50minutes in this section.

Section C

1. In this section you are required to respond to a variety of questions based on Text 3, which is a non-narrative text.
2. You are also required to write an 80-word response to a summary writing task. For the summary writing task, you must use your own words and your writing must be in continuous writing and **not** in note form.

3. Read through Text 3 carefully and understand the content of the text. Take note of 'difficult' words and infer the meaning by using contextual cues/clues.
4. Make a mental note of what is happening in each paragraph and how one paragraph is linked to the next.
5. You must also be able to read between the lines for questions that may need you to form informed inferences. Use contextual cues/clues or background knowledge to assist you in answering such questions.
6. Read through the questions and understand what is being asked, and answer accordingly, use the given marks in brackets to guide you when answering.
7. Where you are specifically told to 'Answer in your own words' in the comprehension questions, **do not** lift from the passage, instead answer using your own words.
8. For the summary question, you **must use your own words** as far as possible. Your summary writing must not exceed 80 words (not counting the words given to help you).
9. Likewise, do not write less than 80 words as this usually means that you may have missed out some points related to the summary writing.
10. Read the summary question carefully to ascertain the relevant points that you need to gather for your summary writing.
11. Do not spend more than 50minutes in this section.

All the best for your examination.