

Subject Based Strategies 2019

P6 (Foundation) Paper 1 (Writing), Duration: 1hour 10minutes

The components for Paper 1 (Writing) are:

1. Situational Writing (10 marks) and
2. Continuous Writing (30 marks)

Total marks: 40

1. Situational Writing

Candidates will be required to write a short functional piece (e.g. letter, email, report) to suit purpose, audience and context of a given situation.

Task fulfilment: You must provide the key information required. Read through the question carefully and understand what is expected of you before you start writing.

You must show understanding and awareness of the following:

PURPOSE (**why** are you writing), AUDIENCE (**who** are you writing for) and CONTEXT (**what** is the situation about)

Language, Organisation and Context: You must ensure that you are using the correct grammatical structures, eg. correct tenses and the consistent use of the same tense throughout your writing. Ensure that the spelling are correct.

Use the appropriate punctuation marks, do not forget to end your sentences with full-stops. Start your sentences with capital letters. Do not use short forms and when referring to oneself, it should be in the capital form 'I' and not 'i'. Always remember to dot your 'i's and 'j's. Your ideas must be arranged in a logical manner following a proper order.

At the end of your writing, read through to ensure that there are no grammatical or spelling mistakes. Ensure that your ideas are well organised and arranged. Do not spend more than 25mins on this component.

2. Continuous Writing

Candidates will be required to write a composition of at least 120 words in continuous prose based on a series of pictures. Candidates must interpret the series of pictures in a logical and coherent manner.

Content (10 marks): Read the question carefully and make sure that you understand what is required of you. You must provide adequate and relevant ideas to support your writing, and develop your ideas to make it interesting and exciting.

Language and Organisation (20 marks): You must ensure that you are using the correct grammatical structures, eg. correct tenses and the consistent use of the same tense throughout your writing.

Use short and complete sentences that provide clear information, like; 'The red car sped past us'. Long sentences may be vague and cause you to make grammatical and spelling mistakes. For descriptive essays, use adjectives to make your description more vivid, e.g. The *white* and *blue* house looks *majestic* and *beautiful*.

Use idiomatic expressions to make your essay more exciting and interesting, e.g. Instead of writing 'The doctors worked very hard *all day and night* to treat the injured child', write 'The doctors worked very hard *around the clock* to treat the injured child'.

At the end of your writing, read through to ensure that there are no grammatical or spelling mistakes. Ensure that your ideas are well organised and arranged. Do not spend more than 45mins on this component.

P6 (Foundation) Paper 2 (Language Use and Comprehension), Duration: 1 hour 20minutes

Paper 2 (Booklet A) (20 marks)

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to use language correctly and to comprehend visual and textual information.

Booklet A constitutes MCQ questions for Grammar, Punctuation, Vocabulary and Comprehension (Visual Text).

1. Read through the questions carefully first to get an understanding of the content of the questions. Use contextual clues or key words to get a clearer understanding of the text/passage, e.g. If the text mentions 'career fair for the *elderly*' the word 'elderly' tells you that the target people are those who are 50 years old and above, and not those who are younger.
2. Look through the choices and pick the most appropriate answer and fill in the blank.
3. Once completed, read the questions again and check the answers.

Paper 2 (Booklet B) (40 marks)

Candidates will be assessed on their ability to use language correctly on a variety of language use contexts.

Form Filling

1. Read through the form carefully to understand the content and what is needed of you.
2. Read the specific instructions carefully to fill in appropriately, e.g. use capital letters.
3. If there are any asterisks (*) or (#), find out what that means, usually at the bottom of the page.
4. For dates, follow the format given e.g. DD/MM/YYYY; 01/09/2019. **Do not** use your own format.
5. If the instruction says 'cross out where appropriate' then cross out, do not circle.

Editing for Grammar

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 here, only grammatical errors, so do not waste your time looking for spelling errors.

Editing for Spelling

1. Read through the whole passage to get an understanding of the content.
2. Pay attention to the spelling used in the passage.
3. Now, read line by line taking note of any spelling errors.
4. Once corrected, read through the passage once again to ensure that all the spelling errors are identified and corrected.
5. Note that there are no grammatical errors here, only spelling errors, so do not waste your time looking for grammatical errors.

Comprehension: Passages A and B

For answering comprehension texts, the following skills will be useful:

1. Skim through the text to get the main idea and understanding of the content.
2. Scan the text for details that will further enhance your understanding of the content. E.g. 'The *visually handicap* man was waiting at the traffic light crossing for about twenty minutes', '*visually handicap*' tells you that the man is blind and the fact that he has been waiting for twenty minutes indicates the likelihood of him waiting for someone to assist him in crossing the road.
3. Use contextual clues and background knowledge.
4. Where needed make appropriate inferences and connections.
5. Draw appropriate conclusions.

All the best for your exam

Grammar Cloze (10 blanks with choice of helping words)

1. Read through the passage first to get an understanding of the content of the passage (the general meaning and background).
2. Look out for the tense used as well as contextual clues.
3. Now read line by line and choose the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.
4. Once completed, read the passage again to check the answers.

Comprehension Cloze (15 blanks without helping words)

1. Read through the passage first to get an understanding of the content of the passage (the general meaning and background).
2. Look out for the tense used as well as contextual clues.
3. Now read line by line and think and write the most appropriate word to fill in the blank.
4. Once completed, read the passage again to check the answers.

Editing for Spelling and Grammar

In this part, you are required to identify the nature of errors (spelling and grammatical) and correct the items.

1. Read through the passage first to get an understanding of the content of the passage (the general meaning and background).
2. Look out for the tense used as well as contextual clues.
3. Now read line by line and lookout for any errors in spelling or grammar.
4. Correct the spelling or grammatical errors.
5. Once completed, read the passage again to check the answers.

Synthesis and Transformation

In this part, you are required to combine two sentences without changing the original meaning.

1. Read through the two sentences and then think of a suitable word to combine the two sentences into one.
2. Using the correct word, combine the two sentences together.
3. Ensure that there is no change in the meaning when the two sentences are combined.
4. Make sure that the tense, spelling and punctuation are right.
5. You must be able to form nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs from the words given in the sentence.

E.g. The word 'beautiful'

Noun	Verb	Adverb	Adjective
beauty	beautify	beautifully	beautiful

Comprehension Skills

For answering comprehension texts, the following skills will be useful:

1. Skim through the text to get the main idea and understanding of the content.
2. Scan the text for details that will further enhance your understanding of the content.
3. Use contextual clues and background knowledge.
4. Where needed make appropriate inferences and connections.
5. Draw appropriate conclusions.