

Note: Highlighted portions are the criteria focused on for the argumentative writing piece

Assessment Criteria for Writing	Outstanding 27-30 Band 1	Excellent 23-26 Band 2	Good 19-22 Band 3	Average 15-18 Band 4	Satisfactory 11-14 Band 5	Limited 7-10 Band 6	Poor 3-6 Band 7	No credit 0-2 Band 8
Language Accuracy	Highly accurate; occasional slips	Accurate with minor errors	Mostly accurate; isolated errors	Patches of clear language	Frequent language errors	Serious errors of various kinds	Multiple language errors	Heavy frequency of errors
Sentence Structure	Highly varied sentence structures for effect	Effective variation; ability to use complex structures	Some variation to create natural fluency	Some variety of sentence length; no particular purpose	Simple structures; unlikely to sustain accuracy	Repetitive and monotonous structures	Undecipherable structures	Fractured syntax/sentences
Verb Forms	Largely correct use of tenses	Consistent use of tenses; some slips	Sufficient control of use of tenses; errors in irregular verbs	Noticeable errors in tenses affecting sequence of events	Serious errors in tenses leading to confusion in sequence of events	Frequent errors in tenses causing confusion in meaning	Multiple errors in tenses requiring rereading	Complete breakdown in tenses impeding reading
Vocabulary	Wide and precise	Precise enough to convey shades of meaning	Mainly correct with idioms; errors with difficult words	Adequate to convey meaning; idiom may be uncertain	Simple; some idiomatic errors	Simple and imprecise; significant idiomatic errors	Significant idiomatic errors	Makes no sense
Punctuation	Highly accurate and helpful	Accurate and generally helpful	Generally accurate; sentence separation correctly marked/shown	Punctuation used; occasional sentence separation errors	Simple punctuation; frequent sentence separation errors	Haphazard punctuation; frequent sentence separation errors	Non-existent punctuation; numerous sentence separation errors	Heavy frequency of sentence separation errors
Spelling	Highly accurate; occasional slips	Nearly always accurate; mostly secure	Accurate spelling of simple vocabulary and idioms; errors in ambitious words	Accurate spelling of simple vocabulary; errors in more difficult words	Accurate spelling of simple vocabulary; frequent errors in difficult words	Inconsistent spelling	Frequent spelling errors of all word classes	Wrong spelling
Paragraphs	Highly unified; linked; shows planning	Unified; appropriately linked; shows some planning	Some unity; not linked; or inappropriately linked	Paragraphs used; lack coherence	Paragraphs used haphazardly	Paragraphs are haphazard or non-existent	Paragraphs are non-existent	Paragraphs are non-existent
Content Relevance	Highly relevant; interesting; sustained	Relevant; interesting; sustained	Relevant; quite interesting; lack originality	Addresses topic; digressions; lack liveliness or interest	Some relevance; some interest	Little relevance; little interest	Irrelevant or distorted	Chaotic
Tone/ Register	Entirely appropriate	Appropriate	Mostly appropriate; some slips	Uneven tone	Inconsistent tone	Inconsistent tone	Inappropriate tone	Inappropriate tone

Adapted from the Assessment Criteria and Band Descriptors for the Assessment of Continuous Writing in Section C