

Scholarship essay writing assessment criteria for High School 2025-2026

Students applying for a scholarship place in High School will be expected to produce a **700-word essay** which will be assessed against the following assessment criteria:

Minimum level for successful applications: level 5 (Grade 8 / Year 9); level 6 (Grade 10 / Year 11)

Level	Description
6	Highly effective style capable of conveying subtle meaning Carefully structured for the benefit of the reader Wide range of sophisticated vocabulary, precisely used Creative use of ideas , demonstrating critical thinking and deep reflection Spelling, punctuation and grammar almost always accurate
5	Effective style Secure overall structure, organised to help the reader Wide range of vocabulary, used with some precision Presents different ideas , demonstrating some evidence of critical thinking Spelling, punctuation and grammar mostly accurate, with occasional minor errors
4	Sometimes effective style Ideas generally well sequenced Range of vocabulary is adequate and deployed accurately Some evidence of different ideas Spelling, punctuation and grammar generally accurate though with some errors

3	<p>Inconsistent style, expression sometimes awkward but meaning clear</p> <p>Vocabulary is simple, limited in range</p> <p>Some awareness of an appropriate register for audience and purpose</p> <p>Frequent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar, sometimes serious</p>
2	<p>Limited style</p> <p>Response is not well sequenced</p> <p>Limited vocabulary</p> <p>Limited awareness of appropriate register for audience and purpose</p> <p>Persistent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar</p>
1	<p>Expression unclear</p> <p>Poor sequencing of ideas</p> <p>Very limited vocabulary or copying from the original text</p> <p>Very limited awareness of appropriate register for audience and purpose</p> <p>Persistent errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar impede communication</p>
0	No creditable content