



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

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

Criteria	Exceptional	Skillful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
<b>CONTENT, PLANNING &amp; FORMAT</b>  Response and ideas; Organisation of ideas for planning; Purpose, audience, features/conventions and context  <b>18 MARKS</b>	<b>15–18</b>  -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	<b>11–14</b>  -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	<b>8–10</b>  -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	<b>5–7</b>  -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	<b>0–4</b>  -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
<b>LANGUAGE, STYLE &amp; EDITING</b>  Tone, register, style, purpose/effect, audience and context; Language use and conventions; Word choice; Punctuation and spelling  <b>12 MARKS</b>	<b>10–12</b>  -Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Virtually error-free	<b>8–9</b>  -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	<b>6–7</b>  -Tone, register, style and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Some grammatical errors -Adequate vocabulary -Errors do not impede meaning	<b>4–5</b>  -Tone, register, style and vocabulary less appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Inaccurate grammar with numerous errors -Limited vocabulary -Meaning obscured	<b>0–3</b>  -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]**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Exceptional</b>	<b>Skilful</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>Elementary</b>	<b>Inadequate</b>
<p><b>CONTENT, PLANNING &amp; FORMAT</b></p> <p>Response and ideas; Organisation of ideas; Features/conventions and context</p> <p><b>12 MARKS</b></p>	<p><b>10–12</b></p> <p>-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</p>	<p><b>8–9</b></p> <p>-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</p>	<p><b>6–7</b></p> <p>-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</p>	<p><b>4–5</b></p> <p>-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</p>	<p><b>0–3</b></p> <p>-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</p>
<p><b>LANGUAGE, STYLE &amp; EDITING</b></p> <p>Tone, register, style, vocabulary appropriate to purpose and context; Language use and conventions; Word choice; Punctuation and spelling</p> <p><b>8 MARKS</b></p>	<p><b>7–8</b></p> <p>-Tone, register, style and vocabulary highly appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Grammatically accurate and well-constructed -Virtually error-free</p>	<p><b>5–6</b></p> <p>-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</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>-Tone, register, style and vocabulary appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Some grammatical errors -Adequate vocabulary -Errors do not impede meaning</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>-Tone, register, style and vocabulary less appropriate to purpose, audience and context -Inaccurate grammar with numerous errors -Limited vocabulary -Meaning obscured</p>	<p><b>0–2</b></p> <p>-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</p>