

Grade 9 Life Orientation Worksheet

Writing an essay on national day

Write an essay about how you could celebrate a national day. First choose the national day about which you wish to write and draw your own concept map. This is the planning for your essay. Then write your essay. Make sure that it is between 1½ and 2 pages in length.

Your teacher will assess your essay out of 65, using the rubric below.

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Rubric for assessing essay

Name:		Date:	
Criteria	Description		
Content: 35 marks	5 marks per criterion	3 marks per criterion	1 mark per criterion
	There is evidence of planning and editing.	There is some evidence of planning and editing.	There is no evidence of planning or editing.
	The topic has been well researched.	There is some evidence of research.	There is no evidence of research.
	The student has dealt with all aspects of the topic.	The student has dealt with some of the aspects of the topic.	The essay is off the topic.
	There is an engaging introduction.	The introduction is adequate.	The introduction is missing or uninteresting.
	The paragraphs link well together.	The paragraphs could have been arranged more logically.	The paragraphs are not logically structured.
	There is a logical, appropriate conclusion.	There is an adequate conclusion.	The conclusion is missing or irrelevant.
	The writer is able to sustain the reader's interest in the topic.	The writer could have done more to sustain the reader's interest.	The writer is unable to sustain the reader's interest.
Language and vocabulary: 15 marks	5 marks per criterion	3 marks per criterion	1 mark per criterion
	Sentences vary in length and structure.	Sentences could be more varied.	Sentences are monotonous.
	There are fewer than three grammar and spelling errors.	There are fewer than ten grammar and spelling errors.	There are more than 15 grammar and spelling errors.
	The vocabulary is varied and appropriate.	The vocabulary is adequate to the purpose.	The vocabulary is inappropriate or too basic.

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Style: 15 marks	5 marks per criterion	3 marks per criterion	1 mark per criterion
	The essay is the correct length.	The essay is less than 1½ pages.	The essay is less than one page.
	The style and format of the essay are appropriate for the topic.	There are one or two style errors.	The style and format are not appropriate for the topic.
	The tone and register are appropriate.	There are some errors in tone and register.	The tone and register are inappropriate.

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Suggested Solutions

Question number	Possible marks	Solutions
1	65	See rubric below.

Rubric for assessing essay

Name:		Date:		
Criteria	Description			
Content: 35 marks	5 marks per criterion	3 marks per criterion	1 mark per criterion	
	There is evidence of planning and editing.	There is some evidence of planning and editing.	There is no evidence of planning or editing.	
	The topic has been well researched.	There is some evidence of research.	There is no evidence of research.	
	The student has dealt with all aspects of the topic.	The student has dealt with some of the aspects of the topic.	The essay is off the topic.	
	There is an engaging introduction.	The introduction is adequate.	The introduction is missing or uninteresting.	
	The paragraphs link well together.	The paragraphs could have been arranged more logically.	The paragraphs are not logically structured.	
	There is a logical, appropriate conclusion.	There is an adequate conclusion.	The conclusion is missing or irrelevant.	
	The writer is able to sustain the reader's interest in the topic.	The writer could have done more to sustain the reader's interest.	The writer is unable to sustain the reader's interest.	
Language and vocabulary: 15 marks	5 marks per criterion	3 marks per criterion	1 mark per criterion	
	Sentences vary in length and	Sentences could be more varied.	Sentences are monotonous.	

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	structure.		
	There are fewer than three grammar and spelling errors.	There are fewer than ten grammar and spelling errors.	There are more than 15 grammar and spelling errors.
	The vocabulary is varied and appropriate.	The vocabulary is adequate to the purpose.	The vocabulary is inappropriate or too basic.
Style: 15 marks	5 marks per criterion	3 marks per criterion	1 mark per criterion
	The essay is the correct length.	The essay is less than 1½ pages.	The essay is less than one page.
	The style and format of the essay are appropriate for the topic.	There are one or two style errors.	The style and format are not appropriate for the topic.
	The tone and register are appropriate.	There are some errors in tone and register.	The tone and register are inappropriate.