

SCORING GUIDE FOR PROSE

This rubric is based upon the Ministry of Education recommended holistic scoring guide for high school prose. Elements of two marks may be combined to form a mid-way score (e.g. an essay/paragraph with elements of an “A” and a “B” may be scored at B+).

“A” Answer

- The “A” essay/paragraph is superior and may draw upon any number of factors, such as depth of discussion, effectiveness of argument (e.g. conforming to rules of logic and rhetoric), or level of insight. This essay/paragraph exhibits an effective, varied writing style and a sophisticated use of language. In terms of grammar, spelling or punctuation, the essay/paragraph is virtually error-free.

“B” Answer

- The “B” essay/paragraph is proficient and reflects a strong grasp of the topic and the text. The references to the text may be explicit or implicit and convincingly support a thesis. The writing is well organized and demonstrates a strong command of the conventions of language. Errors may be present, but are not distracting.

“C+” Answer

- The “C+” essay/paragraph is competent. The assertions in the C+ paper tend to be simplistic; there are no significant errors in understanding. References are present and appropriate, but may be limited to only part of the text. The writing is organized and straightforward. Conventions of language are usually followed, but some errors are evident.

“C-” Answer

- The “C-” essay/paragraph is barely adequate. Understanding of the topic and/or the text may be partially flawed. Support may consist of long references to the text which are not clearly connected to a central idea or may be meagre or repetitive. The essay/paragraph may show some sense of purpose, but errors may impede meaning.

“D” Answer

- The “D” essay/paragraph is inadequate. Understanding of the topic or the text is seriously flawed. There may be a misunderstanding of the task. Errors are recurring, distracting, and impede meaning.

“F” Answer

- The “F” essay/paragraph is unacceptable. The response does not meet the purpose of the task or may be too brief to address the topic. There is a serious lack of control in the writing which renders the paper, at times, unintelligible.

0 Answer

- The zero response reflects a complete misunderstanding of the prose and/or the task, is written in verse, is off-topic, or is a restatement of the question.