

SECTION B: COMPOSITION

The paper declined slightly in the percentage mean by 0.07 points from 41.45 in the year 2014 to 41.38 in 2015. As always, the paper tested the candidates' ability to compose a personal and convincing account. Candidates were expected to write a story that was grammatically accurate, fluent, interesting and original. Mastery of plot development as well as proficiency in the use of a variety of linguistic structures and vocabulary was expected. To do justice to the topic, a candidate was required to narrate an account that would leave the reader convinced that they actually enjoyed the visit envisaged.

GROUP I: (01 – 10 MARKS)

Composition A

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable. I was so happy during the school holiday. I did not know the during is not good. My brother can tell me. I know could hold much thing. I am my brother would had that during work something. I did not making it as interesting as you can. During making a good story to my school and child much. For those if school when my uncle invited me to visit his family during the school those hard my mother said to school did not something more very good. These were hard more hard they were those much hard. It was so. I can some my school thing could make hard work a long time. It was men and the men was very good. I was in school for 10 years. Something much hard was hard. They were those had the August school holiday.

during I did not could thing so much hard
 so thing more mother much thing some had
 when my uncle invited me to visit his family during
 walking so had that much because assee
 mother something kind had to buying something
 it did not because they they more that could be
 something much that very so worry school
 my school is very good these much something
 walking these close hard said my school so
 their hard those hard they worry hard so
 many could because hard did not could take
 more many people could not become a
 entire much hard could those can worry hard
 hard walking hand could these hard could hard
 something more those had reading some so
 slow kind hand walking hand taking down hand
 during talking worrys choose bulking hard could
 could more something other can because hard
 all become worry hand word holiday something
 these hand during those worry talking something

This is evidently a poor script. There is no story developed. The candidate struggles to copy some words from the rubric and hardly communicates anything. Some words from the rubric are copied wrongly, e.g. 'no' (not), 'hoilday' (holiday) and 'buring' (during). Other misspelt words include 'mach' (much), 'mothe/mather' (mother), 'hand waking' (hardworking) and 'someting' (something). The concept of paragraphing is alien to this candidate. The candidate, however, is able to write some words correctly ('good', 'was', 'said', 'can', 'choose', 'not', 'other' etc). This was not the worst script since there were candidates who wrote in languages that could not be recognised as English.

Mark awarded

03

Composition B

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable

THE DAY TO RIMEMDA

When I was in the house I ~~he~~ my mother taking
with the phone I was very ~~wolate~~ in ~~hafi~~ ~~wat~~ ~~minke~~ / her
my mother calling me I was very waiting ~~wat~~ ~~shwat~~ ~~tote~~ ~~li~~
me she tell me that my uncle invited me to visit
his family I was very happy ~~to her~~ ~~that~~ since she
called the phone I was very happy.

On three days I met she ~~like~~ ~~think~~ very well
and asked my sister that house is very big so make
my mother told me the don't worry we all very old-
der ~~niga~~ the house we all very happy to see ~~some~~
good houses a good rooms my mother show me
a hills and mountains when we all on we all ~~aliving~~
we see my uncle ~~wat~~ has.

She was very happy to see ~~has~~ we
all ~~aliving~~ were my mother told me the
we all ~~niga~~ the house ~~see~~ show me the
house of my uncle ~~see~~ ~~hapse~~ the bags and
~~see~~ ~~thake~~ ~~has~~ on her house on the house there
was very many music instruments a was very
happy.

See tell me that ~~tomdo~~ ~~then~~ was very
good holiday to ~~has~~ I imagine it would be so

elyhad to has wen my mother go to the shopping
see tell me see wen bay me a good sweta and
atisate I was very happy to her that my mother
was very happy I waiting the day to moto morning
my uncle came we a good memory we all ve happy
to her the music.

my uncle was very happy that day we all
elorte we the a good food and dasing my mother
was very happy to see me dasing with my uncle
I was laring to him see was happy and e for
with my uncle and see tell me that see was very
talyde to dase with me I was very happy that
day I could never forget.

We all very happy togeth and that day we all
happy I could never forget my uncle we the me
and we all eloring good we the time we hitani
home I dot wot to hitani home that day because
my uncle telling me a good sololeser and I see
my uncle was very good to me and I unde to
me I respect her and she waste me a good tulale
Ling home I could never forget my uncle.

This candidate attempts to write a story about a visit the uncle, but the attempt is hampered by a severe linguistic limitation. There are gross errors of **spelling** – ‘rimemda’ (remember), ‘coling’ (calling), ‘niya’ (near), ‘shelipt’ (slept), ‘see’ (she), ‘has’ (us), ‘tomolo’ (tomorrow), ‘bay’ (buy), ‘dasing’ (dancing), ‘sweta’ (sweater); **tense** – ‘She tell me that...’, ‘My mother go...’; **sentence construction** – ‘I her my mother toking with phone...’, ‘On three days I not shelipt I thinking...’. However, the candidate has knowledge of paragraphing and is able to use capital letters and full stops. Some of the words spelt correctly include ‘phone’, ‘happy’, ‘music’, ‘house’ and ‘forget’.

Mark awarded

05

Composition C

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable

My uncle place

It was Thursday afternoon. When I was going back home. My mother told me that I was going to my uncle's place. I excited that I was going to my uncle's place. I told my mother when I will go on Saturday. I was very happy because Friday we gone to close school. I wanted my August holiday to be great. I went to school to close school. When I got back from school I was very tired. When to my room and I sleep.

When I wake up I was very happy. I went to the bathroom and bath. When to my bedroom and wear a pink dress and blue shoes. I packed summer clothes and to the dining hall. I took my breakfast and my mother escort me to the bus station. My mother gave me bus fare and money for lunch.

When good bye mum, when I was in the car I went to a big hotel and ate some lunch and rest. When I finished I went back to the bus station waiting for a bus. I went with it until I was in my uncle place. My uncle place is in Yeri.

When I arrived in my uncle's place I was very happy. I felt that I had butterflies in my stomach. I was full of joy when I noticed they were very happy to see me and all my friends and my cousin were there too. I stayed there for my August holiday.

It was fun we were playing and playing there. In my uncle's place they have many trees in his place. My cousin and I were helping each other. My uncle's place was beautiful. One day my cousin and I were great friends. She took me in a small hill. We climbed the hill when we noticed the cliff of the hill we saw a very beautiful view of a beautiful valley. I took some pictures and went back home soon. My holiday is just great. It only has one week to go. Instead, they and my uncle took a very beautiful picture of all the family. My journey to go back is today. I said goodbye to all my friends and my family.

My uncle gave some money to go back home. I went to the bus stop and waited for the bus. The bus came and took me home. When I reached in the

I went to the hotel and eat my lunch
and went back to the bus stop the car
took me home. I was very happy to go back
home. When I riched home I told my mother
everything that I saw in my auncle place.

Although this is a better script than the previous one, the candidate's ability to communicate is still limited. Sentence structures are terrible, and tenses are mostly incorrect. The candidate uses such expressions as 'We gone to close school' (...*had gone*...), '...werd a pink dress' (...*wore*...), 'My mother escort me' (...*escorted*...), 'When I finished I when back' (...*went*...), 'all my friend' (...*friends*), 'My holiday have only one week to go' (...*had*...*left*), '...took me in a small hill, (...*to*...), '...a very beutiful pichur' (...*beautiful photograph*), 'When I riched home...in my uncle home' (...*reached*...*uncle's*...) etc. Spelling errors and incorrect word presentations are rampant— 'thursday' (*Thursday*), 'shous' (*shoes*), 'pucked' (*packed*), 'beth' (*bathe*), 'bote' (*bought*), 'busfey' (*bus fare*), 'whent' (*went*), 'battfly' (*butterfly*), 'carzin, (cousin), 'clef' (*cliff*), 'pichur' (*picture*), 'buck' (*back*), 'juniy' (*journey*) etc. Full stops and commas are frequently used in wrong places. In spite of these mistakes, the candidate is able to arrange ideas in discernible paragraphs, spell a number of words correctly ('happen', 'stomach', 'friend', 'lunch' etc), and present some correct sentence structures (e.g. 'I was full of joy...', 'It was fun...').

Mark awarded

09

GROUP II: (11 – 20 MARKS)

Composition D

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable ...

That was the day we were closing the school. I was so happy that my uncle had invited me to visit his family. When we closed the school and we all went to our homes, I did all my work that I would do the following day.

The following day was the day which I was to go. I woke up very early, went into a frogs' kingdom and I had a cold shower which left me as cool as a cucumber. I then quickly went to my dressing room and took my Sunday best

Which was shining like the morning star. I wore and I looked spin and span. I then took my breakfast which was as sweet as honey. In a fraction of a second I took my big leather bag and I started my journey.

On the way I found one of my best friends who had a car. He asked me whether I would like to be given a lift but I said, "I am not going far away."

After walking for a short distance I found my uncle's car in the shopping center. I waited for him but who ever came was my aunt. She told me to enter the car and without waiting the grass to grow under my feet I entered.

We reached at my uncle's home and my uncle was very happy to see me. I was welcomed with a cup of tea. We sat under a tree and we started talking. I told him that I am going well in my school where I am waiting my exam next year.

The following day he took us in a game park to enjoy the holiday. We saw very many things such as lion and many other things. I was very happy because that was my last day to ever see a lion and other animals. It was so good that I would like to go there again the coming holiday.

That will be the day that I will never forget in my life. Even though it rains cats and dogs it will remain in my mind as a printed book.

Although we can see considerable improvement in this script, the candidate still communicates with difficulty. Spelling mistakes pervade this composition: 'vist' (*visit*), 'closied' (*closed*), 'wark' (*work*), 'be rkfast' (*breakfast*), 'lether' (*leather*), 'junary' (*journey*), 'wether' (*whether*), 'left' (*lift*), 'shourt' (*short*), 'distanse' (*distance*), 'riched' (*reached*), 'wellcame' (*welcome*), 'distauce' (*distance*) etc. Weak structures pervade the composition: '...the caming holiday' (...*next...*), '...who ever came was my unt' (...*the one who came was my aunt*), 'She told me to enter the car' (...*get into...*), '...riched at my uncle's home' (...*reached/arrived at...*), 'I am going well in my school' (...*doing...*), 'He took us in a game park' (...*to...*) etc. These mistakes make the composition clumsy and unattractive.

Mark awarded

12

Composition E

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable. Although I was happy as a king but I had some worries my worries was that I did not have my friends. Some of my friends were had gone to up country. When my father came during the cool afternoon I was not there I was had gone to the beach to fish when the dusk started falling I paddled my hooves until to the house. when I came I found my parents listening to the radio.

My Dad called me and told me that next week we are going to London where my uncle was living. He told me to prepare my clothes and shoes. After days the Journey which I waited finally I had reached. My relatives we went with them to the airport. I was not happy at all because I had left my fellow relatives alone. My father and mother gave me a visa card. The visa card was from one country to another. My father had booked a Jet. The Jet could carry five hundred people.

My relatives went home and I went to the jet. The jet was ready. When we entered the jet it finally took off to London. During the journey I could fear and they could take me to the cabin. There I could see the pilot and his assistant. Finally the jet was stable in the air. Suddenly I could be brought lunch and juice in the cabin.

The pilot told me that the jet could go ten hours to arrive at London. After ten hours we reached at London. We were eagerly waited by my uncle John. My uncle John was in the airport waiting for us. He took us to his home. I found his children there. My parents told me that I will be playing with this children and they are my siblings.

The wife of my uncle prepared a very delicious meal. All appetizers were there. After finishing eating I could shower with cold water which made my body as cool as a cucumber. In the morning I could find grass with dew and could look like a mirror.

One chilly morning my uncle took us to the beach to enjoy ourselves. My parents did not go. Only my cousins and I with my uncle went. We enjoyed in each way. We could have fun. Finally the afternoon could take us to the swimming pool. We could swim like fish. After swimming we could go home when happy.

After one month we went to our home. I was not
 willing to go back because it was very enjoying. But at
 last I decided to go home. We had to travel with plane.
 I had a lot of things to tell my friends that I was
 in London and I saw good things. I had a lot to tell
 them after the August holiday.
 What a wonderful holiday.

This is definitely a better script than the previous one. The story reads relatively well in spite of the errors present. Weak sentence structures are still a big challenge: 'I was happy as a king' (...*as happy as...*), 'My worries was that...' (...*worry...*), '...my friends were had gone' (...*had...*), 'I was not their' (...*there*), 'I was had gone to the beach' (...*had gone...*), 'When dusk started falling' (*When dusk came...*), '...until to the house' (...*up to...*), '...they could took me to the cabin...' (...*could take/ took*), 'I could see the pilot and his assister...' (...*the co-pilot*), '...the wife of my uncle...' (*my uncle's wife*), 'It was very enjoying' (...*enjoyable*), '...travel with plane' (...*by...*) etc. The candidate, however, is able to develop distinct paragraphs and exhibit a number of credible structures: 'One chilly morning...', 'We eagerly waited...', 'I was not happy at all because I had left my relatives alone', 'I had a lot to tell them after the August holiday'.

Mark awarded

17

Composition F

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable

It was during the holiday and all the schools had been closed, during that night my uncle called my mother's phone. He asked her whether she would permit me so as to visit his home place. My mother had no problem on that because she didn't complain.

When I was informed I became as happy as a lark, I shouted loudly and made a lot of noise that could even wake the dead. The following day I woke up very early in the morning so that I could prepare. When I reached at the door step, my mother shouted to me in a thoudrous voice, "Go back to sleep the time has not yet come!"

I ran as fast as my legs could take me towards my bed. After about thirty minutes, I opened my eyes and I was sleepless, I was turning and tossing endless times. Suddenly my mother called out, I woke up hurriedly towards the bathroom, I showered in water that was as cold as ice.

I got out of the bathroom running very fast to where I had placed my best suit. I couldn't find it, I was walking round my bedroom like a zombie because I was worried.

It didn't take long after I had find it, I wore it very kindly so that I couldn't tore it. I had finished preparing, I went on a mirror and found that I was looking gorgeous. My mother called me and told me that the hired car was about to arrive, I ran very fast to the kitchen where my mother was, she gave me some money that I could use on my journey. The journey didn't take long because the driver had arrived on time. We arrived at my uncle's place on time. The place was as cool as a cucumber.

I was welcomed with great joy that I could see on everyone's face. I went to the site that had been written my name. I looked around as other children whom were my age mates practised to dance. I admired to join them but I wasn't allowed. I took off my jacket that was very large because the sun was hot.

While I was laughing foolishly, I heard someone calling my name in a low tone, when I looked behind I saw it was my aunt whom was calling me. I walked tip-toed so that the visitors could not look at me. I hugged her with great happiness.

I asked my aunt why they had not informed me that there was a ceremony. She told me that my parents already knew it, she told me not to blame her for that.

I asked her where my uncle was, she said that my uncle had gone to receive important guest. After some time the ceremony beggined I was very happy to see my uncle and my aunt dancing on the stage. There were many events that took place everyone was more happier than a king.

Time went on and on until it came in the evening, there was much food. Many people ate greedily. I ate to my satisfaction. After we children had finished eating, we went on the dance stage and started dancing very happily.

In this script, we see a remarkable progression from the previous script. The candidate has a story that can be easily followed. We see meaningful paragraphs. Punctuation marks are also used well. The correct use of such vocabulary as 'gorgeous', 'satisfaction' and 'blame' is commendable. We, however, still see errors of **spelling**: 'auncle' (*uncle*), 'kinly' (*keenly*), 'ren' (*ran*), 'happyness' (*happiness*), 'arleady' (*already*), 'recieve' (*receive*), 'greedly' (*greedily*), 'happly' (*happily*) etc. We also see several erroneous structures: 'I shouted loudly and made alot of noise', 'When I reached at the doorstep', 'My mother shouted to me...', 'I showered on water...', '...after I had find it, I wore it very kinly so that I couldn't tore it', '...it was my aunt whom was calling me', '...more happier than a king' etc.

Mark awarded

20

GROUP III: (21 – 30 MARKS)

Composition G

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable

The night before I hardly slept. I was so excited because it was my first time visiting him. My mother gave me some money in case I wanted to buy anything. The morning had reached. The day I have been waiting for was finally here. I prepared myself and ate my breakfast.

Within no time I was done. My parents escorted me to the busstop. I bid them goodbye. On the bus, I met my classmate Florie. I was surprised. She sat next to me. In a split of a second, the bus was roared to life. We hit the highway and soon the village was nowhere to be seen. Florie and I were headed the same direction. We both exchanged stories.

The driver pulled over in case anyone needed to use the washroom. Gladly, we arrived at our destination on time. I saw my uncle, aunt and my two cousins. They were all happy to see me. Luckily, they lived nearby. I assured them that my parents were as fit as a fiddle. Their house was quite clean. They grew different flowers and a small garden at the back.

"Welcome, please feel at home" my aunt said. I was showed where I was to sleep. We ate dinner and everyone went to sleep. I was awoken by my cousins for I had to assist them in milking the cows. It was enjoyable. To utter surprise my uncle wanted us to go and see where he works. I was as happy as a lark to finally see how to mix chemicals.

In the nick of time, we walked to factory. Kepa Factory Ltd it read. We wore protective clothing and a gas mask. Myriads and myriads of questions crisscrossed my mind like arrows in a duel. I saw different colours and types of chemicals. We concluded that if you touch them your fingers will fall out. My uncle worked at the most dangerous part of the Factory.

Acidic Factory. Not only was I flummoxed but also stupefied. I tried to mix them but all was futile. Instead I burnt the equipment. Truly, once bitten twice shy. We also visited other parts. Suddenly, the alarm was on. What was happening? Was the building on fire? I was as sure as a day that we were all going to die. I lay flat on the ground.

Everyone burst into laughter. I was so ashamed.

Little did I know that they had a project and all was successful. My uncle was promoted because his project had finally paid off. After sometime I returned home. I told my family about the alarm. They also laughed at me.

I will never forget the day at the Kepa Factory I will truly cherish those memories for as long as I live.

This is a readable script. The candidate presents an account in clear, well developed paragraphs and we are able to follow without straining. Some notable expressions used include: 'within no time...', 'I bid them goodbye', 'myriads of questions crisscrossed my mind...', 'little did I know that...' and 'in the nick of time'. However, we still see errors of expression: '...in case I wanted to buy anything' (...something), 'The morning had reached' (come), '...the bus was roared to life' (roared), 'Theygrew different flowers and a small garden at the back' (...on...).

Mark awarded

25

Composition H

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable ...

My cousins were the best noisemakers and disturbers. They would never give me peace of mind. At first I had refused the offer but later accepted. I boarded the first Country bus that left the village very early in the morning. The big white bus overcame the hills and after a long period of time reached the tarmac road.

The journey was smooth although the bus broke down several times. When the bus arrived at the bus station, I alighted and made my way through a narrow ^{dark} road that led to my uncle's home. After covering about ten kilometres, I arrived at his home.

I was warmly welcomed and my cousins took my bag and baggage and took them to my room. My uncle, a tall dark skinned man, welcomed ^{me} into the house. I sat on a big black spongy sofa and relaxed. We talked with my uncle and after sometime, I found myself dozing off.

He allowed me to go and sleep so as to be ready for the next day. My cousins came to me asking for some snacks and I quickly

grabbed some sweets from my bag and gave them. The next day I woke up early so as to have a better view of the environment.

My uncle also woke and went to milk the cows. He quickly milked the cows, supplied milk to various shops and also gave my aunt milk to prepare tea. My lazy cousins had not woken up until they smelt the aroma of the baking ^{in the oven} cake. They quickly fled to the dining room and waited anxiously.

After we had gobbled down the scrumptious meal we went to various tourist attractions like waterfalls, lakes, game parks and also toured in towns. This daily routine continued. My uncle used to take us to new destinations everyday.

His posh Range rover gave us the comfort of travelling. We also tried different visits during our tours. This was the part that all of us liked. After the long holiday that left us longing for the next August holiday, I had to leave and go back to school because I was a candidate and needed to study. Truly I will forever recollect ^{that} a

enjoyable holiday in my developing mind
like a crucifix on an archi-bishop's neck.

In this script, we notice a considerable improvement in the use of the English idiom and vocabulary. The candidate is relatively at ease with language and is able to use a variety of expressions naturally and correctly. Use of such expressions as 'piece of mind', 'The bus broke down several times', '...warmly welcomed...', '...dozing off...', '...waited anxiously...', '...have a better view of...' and '...longing for the next August holiday' confirm the candidate's linguistic maturity. We notice some good use of items of vocabulary: 'boarded, alighted, baggage, aroma, gobbled, etc. However, we still see errors: 'sponjy' (*spongy*), 'archi-bishop' (*archbishop*), '...the best noisemakers and disturbers' (*worst*), my uncle woke' (*woke up*) 'the baking in the oven cake' (*the baking cake in the oven*) etc.

Mark awarded

29

GROUP IV: (31 – 40 MARKS)

Composition I

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

AN AWESOME HOLIDAY TO REMEMBER.

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable. On that particular day when I arrived at his bungalow, I was not only glad to see my cousins but also very jolly. They welcomed me whole-heartedly and I truly felt loved. My uncle was cooking dinner and it was a nice seeing him move on, after the death of my dear aunt, Sofia. Those were very dark and sad days for him.

We sat at the dining table ready to wine and dine. My cousin, Jason, was very talkative and quite hilarious. At one time, he cracked a joke that left us nursing our ribs. Then, my uncle told us to calm down, so that he could tell us what he had in store for us.

"Get ready, for we are visiting the very sunny, the very beautiful--- Bahamas!" he said excitedly. I was not certain whether I had heard the correct statement. I asked him to repeat what he had just said. Indeed, my ears were not playing tricks on me. He asked us to pack our bags for we were to fly to Bahamas the following day.

My cousins and I could barely sleep. We kept on giggling the whole night. Building castles in the air, was our slogan at the moment. At last it dawned. We got up and prepared ourselves fully by cladding in our bibs and tuckers. We were simply both spick and span. My uncle was already prepared and was just but waiting for us to munch our breakfast.

"Let's hit the road!" I said excitedly. We got into uncle's blue sedan car and blast off. On arrival at the airport, thousands of people, Europeans, Indians, Africans and many others had thronged the reception. Some were waiting for their luggage while others were patiently awaiting for their flights.

"We are now ready to take off to Bahamas. We urge you to buckle up and make sure you are comfortable," said the air hostess. I had sat near the window and it was breathtaking viewing the plane leave the ground. What a sight! Since it was a ten-hour flight, I decided to listen to my favourite music from my ipod.

Our ten hour flight was almost coming to an end. Before we could arrive, we experienced a terrible turbulence that shook me to the roots of my existence. Our pilot, however, was able to control the boeing 787 popularly known as 'The Dreamliner.' We arrived safe and sound.

At the reception, young ladies who were dancing as if they had no bones in them, welcomed us with some coconut milk. It was well-chilled and super yummy. Afterwards, we boarded a taxi which would take us to one of the hotels in the island. The chauffeur was smartly dressed in a black suit and a polka-dotted tie. His dress code could make someone think that he was a billionaire in a certain state. They say, "All that glitters is not gold." Indeed it is true.

We spent our night in a classy hotel and had a fantastic moment having dinner. My uncle had undergone alot and it was time to have a little break full of extreme fun. We went to various beaches, surfed, swam and rode on camels and horses. I also came across my favorite movie star, Angelina Jolie, with her family. What a coincidence! Surely, I had an awesome holiday all thanks to my efforts at school and my kind, loving uncle. What an amazing holiday!

This composition is nice to read. The candidate is in control and is able to communicate effortlessly. Expression is free and without constraint. The script gives evidence of linguistic maturity and good planning. The sentences are well constructed, punctuation well used, vocabulary apt, and language creatively used. We notice the candidate's confidence in the use of a wide spectrum of vocabulary items and expressions: 'whole-heartedly', 'hilarious', 'thronged', 'turbulence', 'chauffer', 'breathtaking', 'munch', 'billionaire', 'buckle up', 'dark and sad day', 'cracked a joke', '...had in store for us', 'playing tricks on me', 'building castles in the air', 'bibs and tuckers', 'safe and sound', 'I was not only... but also...', '...popularly known as 'The Dreamliner'', '...shook me to the roots of my existence' etc. Nevertheless, some minor errors are still noticeable: 'alot' (*a lot*) '...cooking dinner' (*preparing dinner*), '...it was a nice seeing him...' (*...it was nice seeing him...*), '...in the island' (*...on...*).

Mark awarded

35

Composition J

You have 40 minutes to write your composition.

The following is the beginning of a story. Complete the story, making it as interesting as you can.

LIFE WITH UNCLE HARRY

When my uncle invited me to visit his family during the August school holiday, I did not imagine it would be so enjoyable...

The first thing that came into my mind - at last - freedom from my hawk-eyed mother! Well... many people imagine that being the president's daughter is fun. With no doubt, it is, but sometimes life becomes unbearable.

"Lynne, your sitting posture! Lynne, smile at the audience." Mother's endless lectures on what she terms as 'remaining high in society' drives me crazy! Do not blame me...

Anyway, together with my twin sister, Larvene, we packed up our bag and baggage, ready to leave for uncle Harry's ranch.

Albert it was evident that life there would not be the same as that one in the white palace, both of us were beaming with delight. We left in our sleek limousine, mother 'wailing'. We discussed how we would play with the horses and go cattle raiding. Countryside, here we come!

A grand welcome awaited us. Mexican serenaders played the banjo as young girls danced to its tune. Oh! Impeccable! Uncle Harry showed us around and in

no time, we were familiar with all the corners of his hacienda, famously known as 'La Malquerida.' I would say, life in the ranch was far much better than I would imagine in my wildest dreams.

At times, we, together with the village children, would go for swimming in the nearby stream. Yes! No pool attendant, no absurd procedure to follow, freedom! One day, however, Larvene was caught up by water weeds in the river. She almost drowned but uncle Harry's guard, Louise, turned out to be the day's hero. That encounter did not dampen our spirits. We ventured on, eager to have more fun.

On other days, we would accompany uncle Harry on his raids. We would lie in hiding and wait for free drama. The days when he happened to return with lots of cattle, a great feast with meat in plenty would be held. It was like daily when we merrymade and sang Spanish songs. Mother would call to check on us and tell us how much she yearned to see us. I am not against the first lady

or anything but sometimes she treats us like we are seven-year old children. Come on! Larvene and I are twelve!

That aside, uncle Harry was a great storyteller. His creepy tales brought to life witches and monsters. At times, Larvene and I would huddle in one corner of our room out of terror. Still, he was and still is a good person, with a great sense of humour, very affectionate and understanding. I kept on wondering why he called his workers 'family' yet he had none.

With adventures here and there, our holiday came to an end. I must admit, I had no zeal of returning to the city; noise, nasty smells, litter name them! The countryside was serene, the smell of fresh leaves and the dawn chorus, watching the sun rise and set was one activity I enjoyed. Oh well, life is as it is. We returned home, eager to give everyone details on how splendid the holiday had been. As we approached the white palace, I had in mind, "I shall return uncle Harry... I shall." What a holiday it was!

This candidate is quite at home with language and is able to communicate freely, maturely and creatively. There is a definite spark in the composition. The writer's creativity takes us to the doorsteps of the ruling class where we experience high life and the youthful quest for freedom from control. The candidate, who seems to have read widely, goes out of his way to display skill and ability to sustain the reader's interest. Commendable mastery of the English language is evident in the level of vocabulary, variety of sentence structure, and English idiom used in this composition. The few weak structures seen (e.g. '...uncle Harry' instead of 'Uncle Harry', '...it was like daily we merrymade...' instead of ...*we made merry daily/every day...*) do not in any way interfere with the flow and strength of this script. This composition should serve to inform future candidates that there is no ceiling to how far their imagination should stretch as they compose.

Mark awarded

39