



2020 O Level English Language Paper 1 Suggested Answers

Section A

Question 1

	Answer	Teacher's Comment
1	when	<i>It refers to the time the narrator came closer to the great wall.</i>
2	seemed	<i>The text is in the past tense.</i>
3	strenuous	<i>It refers to the 'wall' which is a noun. Therefore it must be an adjective.</i>
4	√	
5	got	<i>The text is in the past tense.</i>
6	the	<i>'The early morning' is a fixed phrase.</i>
7	√	
8	on	<i>'Top' is a surface so the preposition must be 'on'</i>
9	a	<i>It is not a specific feeling, so the indefinite article must be used.</i>
10	experience	<i>The word 'an' shows that there is only one experience.</i>

Section B

Question 2

- Format: Informal email
- Suggested Outline:
 - Paragraph 1: Greet your uncle and aunt (ask them how they are and also briefly mention how you have been), say thank you, state which option you have chosen
 - Paragraph 2: One reason for your choice along with one activity / excursion they would enjoy
 - Paragraph 3: Another reason for your choice along with another activity / excursion they would enjoy (briefly mention why this is better than an activity on another trip)
 - Paragraph 4: Conclusion on why the trip would be the most suitable for your brother and sister-in-law, how it would make their anniversary special
 - Paragraph 5: Reiterate thanks and state well wishes
- Teacher's Comment:
 - Wrong formatting will result in the loss of 1-2 Task Fulfilment marks.
 - Students should avoid sounding like they are just fulfilling the required points and answering an examination question. Instead, there should be a natural flow from one paragraph to the next.
 - Since the uncle and aunt are asking for advice, students should not sound like they are making a proposal and say things like "I hope you will consider this choice."
 - Even though it is an informal email, it is an email to elders in the family so the tone should not be overly casual and should still be respectful.
 - It is good to include some aspects of the current travel situation (due to COVID-19) in the email as it makes the situational writing more realistic.

Section C

Question 3

- Question Type: Descriptive
- Teacher's Comment:
 - This is a purely descriptive essay, so students should employ a wide range of vocabulary to describe the physical aspects of the subject as well the feelings experienced.

Question 4

- Question Type: Narrative
- Possible Angles:
 - Following trends to impress friends
 - Picking up vices to impress friends
 - Selecting a school / course / job to impress family
- Teacher's Comment:
 - This is a purely narrative essay, so students need to focus on the development of the plot and characters.
 - Students should give equal weightage to the 'impress' and 'regret' parts of the question.

Question 5

- Question Type: Discursive / Expository
- Suggested Outline:
 - Introduction: Definition of the word "successful", conventional beliefs about the word "mistakes", outline of points to be covered in the essay
 - Paragraph 1: Mistakes teach us how to improve
 - Paragraph 2: Mistakes develop emotional resilience
 - Paragraph 3: Mistakes could be a setback for some (especially with mental health issues these days)
 - Conclusion
- Teacher's Comment:
 - The tone of the essay should be objective as students explore various perspectives.
 - It is fine to use an argumentative approach but student should be consistent in using only one approach.
 - Students should avoid using too many personal examples, but instead use actual examples (either current or historical) to score a higher mark for interest and relevance.



Question 6

- Question Type: Personal Expository
- Suggested Outline:
 - Introduction: the definitions of 'home', what home could possible mean to different people, why is home especially important in today's world (possible link to the COVID-19 pandemic)
 - Paragraph 1: Home is where the family is
 - Paragraph 2: Home is a place of rest and comfort
 - Paragraph 3: Home is a place of privacy and / or identity
 - Conclusion
- Teacher's Comment:
 - As this is a personal expository, students should use personal examples only.
 - The tone of the essay should be reflective, rather than argumentative.