

REFLECTIVE ESSAY

2017	If you have the opportunity to move to another part of Malaysia, where would you choose to live? Explain your choice.
2016	There are many things to do after your SPM examination. Write about your plans for the next three months and the challenges you might face.
2015	Why is having good neighbours important?
2014	Why are animals important to human beings?
2013	Write a story about being alone
2012	Saving money for the future
2011	The best things in life are free
2008	My perfect future husband or wife
2006	What changes would you like to see in your life in the next ten years?
2005	If you were given a chance to be anybody, who would you want to be and why?
2004	My ideal school
2003	You have been given a chance to visit a country of your choice. Which country would you choose and why?
2000	If you were able to choose a time in history that you could visit, which time would it be and why?

Sample Question And Answer

What would you do if you had a lot of money?

When I was small, I often dreamt about being rich as my parents were quite poor. We had difficulty making ends meet each month. So, if I had a lot of money, I would certainly fulfil my dreams.

First and foremost, I would buy a house for my parents, preferably a bungalow, in a quiet town. I would equip the house with the latest technology so that it would be a smart home. My mother would have a state-of-the-art kitchen as she loves cooking. I would also get a maid to help her with the household chores. I will ensure that my family is comfortably settled in this house.

The second thing I would do is to go on a world tour with my parents. I have never been overseas but I long to see the places I have only read or dreamt about. First, I would like to visit Europe, especially Italy, the city of romance. I would visit all the museums and buildings I have heard so much about. My next stop would be Hong Kong or China. There is something mystical about China and her people. This would be my dream come true.

Apart from that, I could finally go on a shopping spree, which is my favourite pastime. Thus far, I could only go window shopping and if I had a lot of money, I would go into these stores and buy whatever I fancy. Just imagine that for once in my life, I do

not need to look at the prices of the items that I like. I could just shop till I literally drop. The salesgirls would be hovering near me with their latest outfits and my wish would be their command. Ah, I would not be ignored anymore as I walk into their stores!

Besides shopping, I would also remember the poor and the less fortunate. First, I would certainly build a better home for the orphans in my town. In fact, I would also sponsor their education till they could stand on their own. They would receive an allowance monthly and I would definitely take them shopping.

Finally, I would take the opportunity to further my studies. When I was younger, my parents could not afford to send me overseas. So, I would love to pursue a course in interior decorating in London and once I graduate, I would like to set up my own business with the rest of the money.

They say that a fool and his money are soon parted. Thus, I would be very careful with how I spend my money. I would invest my money with my parents' advice and keep some for rainy days.

ESSAY BASED ON PROVERB

2015	Honesty is always the best policy Describe an experience when this was true for you.
2014	A friend in need is a friend indeed Describe how a friend helped you in difficult time

Some commonly used English Proverbs

Don't cut off your nose to spite your face – Don't do something in anger to harm someone that might end up harming yourself.

The squeaky wheel gets the grease – The person who speaks up to complain about something is the one who gets his or her way.

A chain is only as strong as its weakest link – If a part of something (or a person in a team) is weak, then the whole thing (or team) is weak.

A fool and his money are easily parted – It is easy to get money from stupid people (either by persuasion or deceit).

Beggars can't be choosers – When you don't have any options you have to take the one thing that's on offer, no matter how undesirable it may be.

Strike while the iron is hot – Make the most of an opportunity while you can before it's too late. **Make hay while the sun shines** means the same thing.

Hunger is the best sauce – The taste of your food doesn't matter when you're really hungry.

The devil finds work for idle hands – People are more likely to get up to mischief when they are bored or have nothing to do.

Birds of a feather flock together – People of similar personality, background, taste or opinion tend to congregate or form groups of friends. Birds also turn up in the proverb **a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush**, which is said to remind someone that what they have is worth more than what they don't have.

You can lead a horse to water (but you cannot make him drink) – You can give advice to somebody but you cannot make them take it.

Well begun is half done – Beginning an endeavour well makes it much easier to finish the rest successfully. At the same time **you can't make an omelette without breaking**

some eggs – To achieve success in something you have to make decisions that might harm or upset some people.

Every cloud has a silver lining – There is something good to be found in every situation.

A watched kettle/pot never boils – If you concentrate on something you are waiting to happen, it will seem to take forever to happen. Pots and kettles also make an appearance in the expression **the pot calling the kettle black**, which describes the hypocrisy of a person criticising another for a fault that he or she shares.

One swallow does not make a summer – Just because one good thing has happened doesn't mean that a situation is going to improve.

Rome wasn't built in a day – It takes a long time to achieve something great or create something impressive. At the same time, you there are many routes you can take to achieve the same goal, which is why **all roads lead to Rome**. And when you get to your destination, make sure that **when in Rome** (or wherever you end up) you **do as the Romans do** and follow local custom.

The grass is always greener (on the other side of the fence/hill) – Other people always seem to be in a better situation than you (whether they actually are or not). This is said to remind someone to focus on the good aspects of their situation and not be envious of the situation of others.

A little learning is a dangerous thing – Sometimes it is better to be completely ignorant about something than to have a misguided and dangerous opinion based on incomplete understanding.

Nothing is certain (in life) but death and taxes – Like death, taxes are impossible to avoid.

The pen is mightier than the sword – You can influence people more easily with words than you can with violence. Perhaps these days it would make more sense to talk of 'the keyboard' rather than 'the pen'.

Don't bite the hand that feeds you – Don't do something to harm someone who is helping you.

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder – People have different opinions about what is attractive.

You reap what you sow – This proverb, which comes from farming, reminds us that we eventually face the consequences of our actions, be they good or bad.

Questions on Essay Based on Proverb

- 1. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.**
Describe an experience of a person who pursues his study in overseas.
- 2. It's no use crying over spilled milk.**
Describe a story of a person who regretted his action.
- 3. Don't bite the hand that feeds you.**
Describe a story on how a friend being betrayed.
- 4. Many hands make light work.**
Write a story about how a group of people cooperated to overcome difficulties.

SECTION B : Continuous Writing

MARKING SCHEME FOR QUESTION 2

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

To test candidates' ability to:

- Write a piece of continuous prose in accurate Standard English.
- Respond with relevance and creatively to a task chosen.

MARKING METHOD

The whole composition should be read slowly, indicating all errors and placing ticks for good use of language or subject matter. Examiners must judge which level best fits the grade descriptions.

BAND DESCRIPTIONS FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF CONTINUOUS WRITING

Section B: Continuous Writing	
A 44 – 50 Excellent	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language is accurate except for first draft slips• No grammatical mistakes• Effective use of varied sentence structures• Vocabulary is sophisticated and precise• Spelling and punctuation are accurate and helpful• Paragraphs have unity and are well-linked
B 38 – 43 Good	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Language is almost always accurate• Sentence structure is varied and interesting• Wide vocabulary• Spelling and punctuation are accurate• Paragraphs have unity• Appropriate tone and style

<p>C 32 – 37 Satisfactory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language is largely accurate • Simple structures are used without error • Errors occur in more complex structures • Vocabulary is adequate • Spelling and punctuation are generally accurate • Written in paragraphs but ideas may not be linked • Appropriate tone and style
<p>D 26 – 31 Fair</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language is sufficiently accurate • Patches of clarity when simple structures are used • Some variety in sentence structures • Adequate vocabulary but lacks precision • Spelling of simple words and punctuation generally accurate • Paragraphs have some unity • Tone and style are sometimes appropriate
<p>E 20 – 25 Unsatisfactory</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning is never in doubt • Errors are sufficiently frequent and serious • Some simple structures may be accurate • Vocabulary is simple and limited but lacks precision • Paragraphs may not be used • Tone and style inappropriate
<p>U (i) 14 – 19 Poor</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning is fairly clear • Many serious errors – mainly SWE • A few simple structures are used correctly • Simple words are spelt correctly • Paragraphs lack planning • Tone and style hidden in density of errors
<p>U (ii) 8 – 13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning is usually blurred but reader is able to get some sense. • Multiple word errors (MWE)
<p>U (iii) 0 – 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost unrecognizable as pieces of English • Where occasional patches of clarity occur, marks should be awarded.