Term 3 Holiday - 2025: Day 1 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

Section 1

#1: "Shining into his eyes, the vibrant, eye-catching beauty of the fragrant flowers during late spring was just mesmerising."

Strengths:

- Your opening uses sensory details like "fragrant flowers" and "vibrant" to help readers imagine
 the scene
- You've chosen descriptive words like "mesmerising" that show the strong effect the flowers had
 on the character

Unclear sentence structure → The beginning phrase "Shining into his eyes" doesn't clearly connect to what comes after. When you start with "shining," readers expect the subject doing the shining to come right after the comma, but instead we get "the beauty." This makes the sentence confusing because the beauty isn't what's shining—the light or sun is. Also, using both "vibrant" and "eye-catching" to describe the same flowers repeats similar ideas, which weakens your description.

Exemplar: The sunlight shone into his eyes as he admired the fragrant flowers of late spring, their vibrant colours mesmerising him.

#2: "Once he saw the mansion, it was impossible for him to look away. Slowly, he opened the new-looking green door, hearing the cute chirping of birds."

Strengths:

- Your writing creates a sense of the character being drawn to something mysterious, which builds interest
- You include small details like the "green door" that help readers picture the setting

Missing connection between ideas → These two sentences jump from the character seeing the mansion to suddenly opening its door, but you haven't explained how he got from looking at it to being close enough to open the door. Did he walk towards it? Run? This gap makes your story feel rushed. Additionally, describing the door as "new-looking" and the birds as "cute" uses simple, telling words rather than showing what makes them seem new or appealing.

Exemplar: Once he saw the mansion, it was impossible for him to look away. His feet carried him forward until he stood before the entrance. Slowly, he opened the pristine green door, painted so smoothly it gleamed, whilst birdsong echoed from the garden.

#3: "Inside he stumbled upon a luxurious fountain better than anything he's ever seen. He irresistibly jumped in and fell into a secret room full of beautiful paintings looking so realistic he thought for a second the paintings were real."

Strengths:

- Your narrative includes an exciting discovery that adds mystery to the story
- You attempt to describe the paintings' quality by comparing them to reality

Lack of logical flow → The action moves too quickly without explaining why events happen. Why would someone "irresistibly" jump into a fountain just because it's luxurious? This motivation doesn't make sense. Additionally, how does jumping into a fountain lead to falling into a room? You need to describe the physical details that make this possible—perhaps there's a hidden passage or the fountain's bottom opens. The phrase "looking so realistic he thought for a second the paintings were real" is also repetitive because "realistic" and "real" express the same idea.

Exemplar: Inside, he discovered a magnificent marble fountain with crystal-clear water. Curious, he leant over the edge and noticed an opening at the bottom. Without hesitation, he climbed in and slid through a hidden passage, landing in a secret chamber. The walls displayed paintings so lifelike that he instinctively reached out to touch them, half-expecting to feel warm skin instead of canvas.

■ Your piece shows imagination in creating a mysterious setting with hidden rooms and surprising discoveries. However, the writing would benefit from stronger connections between your ideas. Right now, events happen one after another without explaining how or why they're linked. When your character moves from seeing the mansion to opening the door, or jumps into the fountain, you need to include the steps in between so readers can follow along naturally.

Additionally, focus on showing rather than telling. Instead of saying something is "luxurious" or "beautiful," describe specific details that prove it—what makes the fountain luxurious? What colours

or brushstrokes make the paintings remarkable? Your descriptions currently rely on general adjectives when concrete details would create stronger images.

Also, think carefully about cause and effect in your story. Actions need clear motivations that make sense. Why would someone jump into a fountain? What draws them to do that? When you answer these questions in your writing, your story becomes more believable and engaging. Finally, vary your sentence lengths and structures. You often use similar patterns, which can make your writing feel repetitive. Try combining some shorter sentences or breaking longer ones apart to create better rhythm.

Overall Score: 37/50

Section 2:

Shining into his eyes, the [The sunlight shone into his eyes, illuminating the] vibrant, eye-catching beauty of the fragrant flowers during late springwas just[, which was absolutely] mesmerising. As he walked down the leaf-littered path, he saw [spotted] a white quartz mansion. Once he saw the mansion, it was impossible for him to look away. Slowly, he [His curiosity pulled him closer until he reached the entrance. Carefully, he] opened the new-looking [pristine] green door, hearing the cute [delightful] chirping of birds. Insidehe [, he] stumbled upon a luxurious fountain better than [more magnificent than] anything he's [he had] ever seen. He irresistibly jumped in [Unable to resist, he leant over the fountain's edge and noticed a hidden opening at its base. Without hesitation, he climbed in] and fell into [through to] a secret room full of beautiful paintings looking [that appeared] so realistic he thought for a second the paintings were [moment they might actually be] real.