Term 3 Holiday - 2025: Day 2 | 10-Day Intensive Selective Writing

Section 1:

#1 "A stall dusty, old, untouched, a man sits inside, a pack of cards in his hand, a bundle of money in the other."

Strengths:

- Your opening creates a clear picture of the stall and the man, using descriptive words like "dusty" and "old" that help readers imagine the scene.
- You've included specific details about what the man is holding, which makes the character feel
 more real.

Sentence fragments: → Your opening uses incomplete sentences that don't have proper verbs connecting the ideas together. When you write "A stall dusty, old, untouched," this doesn't tell us what the stall *is doing* or how it relates to the man. The reader has to work too hard to understand how "a man sits inside" connects to the description of the stall before it.

Exemplar: The stall stood dusty and old, untouched by the crowds around it, whilst a man sat inside with a pack of cards in one hand and a bundle of money in the other.

#2 "People stream out, heads down, shoulders slumping, legs moving lazily. In great contrast to their surroundings, laughing, playing, eating. Heads held high, money spent wisely, prizes won."

Strengths:

- Your use of body language like "heads down" and "shoulders slumping" effectively shows how the people are feeling without directly stating their emotions.
- You've attempted to create a contrast between two different groups of people at the fair.

Unclear comparison: \rightarrow Your writing jumps between describing two different groups of people, but it's confusing which group you're talking about in the phrase "In great contrast to their surroundings, laughing, playing, eating." The word "surroundings" usually means the physical place around someone, not other people. Additionally, the sentence "Heads held high, money spent wisely, prizes won" contains fragments that make it unclear *who* is doing these actions or how this connects to the first group of people streaming out.

Exemplar: People streamed out with heads down and shoulders slumping, legs moving lazily. In great contrast, other fairgoers held their heads high as they laughed, played, and ate, having spent their money wisely and won prizes.

#3 "Children are streaming in and out of the slide, vomiting after their 5th go, parents sighing and walking their children outside."

Strengths:

- Your detail about children vomiting after their fifth go on the slide adds realistic, sensory information that makes the fair scene feel authentic.
- The image of tired parents sighing captures a relatable moment at a fair.

Tense switching: → Your piece begins in the present tense ("sits," "stream"), but here you switch to present continuous tense ("are streaming") which creates an inconsistency in how you're telling the story. Whilst both are present tenses, mixing the simple present with the continuous present can make your writing feel uneven, as if some actions are ongoing whilst others are just happening once.

Exemplar: Children streamed in and out of the slide, some vomiting after their fifth go whilst parents sighed and walked them outside.

■ Your piece shows promise in creating a busy fair scene with specific sensory details. However, your writing would benefit greatly from using complete sentences throughout. Right now, many of your ideas appear as fragments—phrases that describe something but don't form full thoughts with subjects and verbs working together. When you write fragments like "In great contrast to their surroundings, laughing, playing, eating," readers struggle to understand who is doing what. Additionally, your piece would become clearer if you organised your observations into distinct paragraphs. Consider grouping related ideas together: one paragraph about the man at the stall, another about the tired people leaving, and a third about the happy fairgoers and the sick children. This structure would help readers follow your observations more easily. Also, think about adding more connection between your sentences using linking words like "meanwhile," "whilst," or "however" to show how different parts of the fair relate to each other. Your descriptions are vivid, but they need to be joined together more smoothly so your reader can follow your tour of the fair without getting lost.

Overall Score: 37/50

Section 2:

A stall dusty, old, untouched, a man sits inside, a pack of cards in his hand, a bundle of money in the other. [#1 The stall stood dusty and old, untouched by the crowds streaming past, whilst a man sat inside with a pack of cards in one hand and a bundle of money in the other.] People stream out, heads down, shoulders slumping, legs moving lazily. In great contrast to their surroundings, laughing, playing, eating. Heads held high, money spent wisely, prizes won. [#2 Some people streamed out with heads down, shoulders slumping, and legs moving lazily. In great contrast, other fairgoers held their heads high as they laughed, played, and ate, having spent their money wisely and won prizes.] Children are streaming in and out of the slide, vomiting after their 5th go, parents sighing and walking their children outside. [#3 Children streamed in and out of the slide, some vomiting after their fifth go whilst parents sighed and walked them outside.]