

# Assessment Scale for Written Work

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Adapted from: Jacobs, Holly L. et al., *Testing ESL Composition: A Practical Approach*, Newbury House, Rowley 1981

Please use according to the instructions on the reverse side

|                     |       |  |
|---------------------|-------|--|
| <b>Content</b>      | 20-18 | <b>Excellent to very good:</b> Excellent to very good knowledge of subject; considerable variety of ideas or arguments; independent and thorough treatment of topic; relevant to assigned topic; accurate detail.  |
|                     | 17-14 | <b>Good to Average:</b> Adequate knowledge of subject; variety of ideas/arguments above average; adequate treatment of topic; some detail, mostly relevant to topic.   |
|                     | 13-10 | <b>Fair to Poor:</b> Knowledge of subject is hardly adequate; limited variety of ideas/arguments; sufficient treatment of topic; lacking detail or extraneous material included.   |
|                     | 9-6   | <b>Very Poor:</b> Knowledge of subject too little; hardly any or no variety of ideas/arguments; insufficient treatment of topic, or not enough to evaluate.  |
| <b>Organization</b> | 20-18 | <b>Excellent to Very Good:</b> Fluent expression; ideas clearly stated and supported; well organized; logically sequenced (coherent); connectives appropriately used (cohesive).   |
|                     | 17-14 | <b>Good to Average:</b> Somewhat choppy but main ideas stand out; logically sequenced; connectives sometimes used inappropriately.   |
|                     | 13-10 | <b>Fair to Poor:</b> Choppy; loosely organized; main ideas are not always clear; connectives often used inappropriately.   |
|                     | 9-6   | <b>Very Poor:</b> Non-fluent; ideas often confused or disconnected; lacks logical sequencing or development.   |
| <b>Vocabulary</b>   | 25-23 | <b>Excellent to Very Good:</b> Wide range of vocabulary; accurate word/idiom choice and usage; appropriate register.   |
|                     | 22-18 | <b>Good to Average:</b> Adequate range of vocabulary; occasional errors of word/idiom form; choice and usage but meaning not obscured; register not always appropriate.  |
|                     | 17-13 | <b>Fair to Poor:</b> Limited range of vocabulary; frequent errors of word/idiom form, choice and usage; meaning confused or obscured; inappropriate register.  |
|                     | 12-8  | <b>Very Poor:</b> Range of vocabulary too limited; essentially translation; meaning confused or obscured; or not enough to evaluate.   |
| <b>Language</b>     | 30-27 | <b>Excellent to Very Good:</b> Confident handling of appropriate constructions; hardly any errors of agreement, tense, number, word order, articles, pronouns, prepositions; meaning never obscured;   |
|                     | 26-21 | <b>Good to Average:</b> Well-formed sentences, but constructions not always appropriate to task (register); some errors of agreement, tense, number, word order, articles, pronouns, prepositions; meaning sometimes slightly obscured                     |
|                     | 20-15 | <b>Fair to Poor:</b> Not sufficient variety of constructions available; problems mainly in complex constructions; several errors of negation, agreement, tense, number, word order/function, articles, pronouns, prepositions; meaning sometimes obscured. |
|                     | 14-9  | <b>Very Poor:</b> Major problems in sentence construction; frequent errors of negation, agreement, tense, number, word order/function, articles, pronouns, prepositions; meaning often obscured.   |
| <b>Mechanics</b>    | 5     | <b>Excellent to Very Good:</b> Demonstrates mastery of conventions; hardly any errors of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing.  |
|                     | 4     | <b>Good to Average:</b> Occasional errors of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing   |
|                     | 3-2   | <b>Fair to Poor:</b> Frequent errors of spelling, punctuation, capitalization, paragraphing, poor handwriting  |

Table 1: Sehr gut  $\geq$  90%, Gut  $\geq$  80%, Befriedigend  $\geq$  70%, Genügend  $\geq$  60%