

STATE EXAMINATIONS COMMISSION

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED 2005
PERSONAL REFLECTION STUDENT TASK

MARKING SCHEME

Appendix 2 Marking Scheme- Personal Reflection Task

- 1.1 The Total Mark Allocation for the Personal Reflection Task is **200**
The year 1 Personal Reflective Statement is marked out of **80**
The year 2 Personal Reflective Statement is marked out of **120**

1.2 Marks/Credits Weightings

Credits	Marks
0	0 - 39
1	40 - 55
2	56 - 71
3	72 - 87
4	88 - 103
5	104 - 119
6	120 - 135
7	136 - 151
8	152 - 167
9	168 - 183
10	184 - 200

- 1.3 The Marking Criteria for this Task are as follows:

Focus of Reflection
Ability to Reflect
Media of Reflection

- 1.4 The breakdown of marks is as follows:

	Year 1	Year 2
Focus of Reflection	20m	20m
Ability to Reflect	40m	80m
Media of Reflection	20m	20m

- 1.5 The Weighting of Marks is as follows:

Key	out of 10	out of 20
Excellent	10	19 - 20
Very Good	8 - 9	16 - 18
Good	6 - 7	12 - 15
Fair	4 - 5	8 - 11
Poor	2 - 3	4 - 7
Unacceptable	0 - 1	0 - 3

2. Explanation of Marking Scheme

2.1 FOCUS OF REFLECTION (20 marks)

(a) Learning Experiences –

The candidate must identify and define **TWO significant concrete learning experiences** in relation to the L.C.A. programme for each statement.

In year 1 s/he can focus on any aspects of L.C.A (student tasks, attendance, modules, outings, assignments etc) but in year 2 s/he must focus on the vocational aspects (anything relevant to her/his future career) - work experience, career guidance, open days at Colleges, vocational specialisms, enterprise etc.

10 marks

(b) Personalisation –

The candidate must personalise her/his learning experiences and relate these experiences to herself/himself.

The following questions are considered:

- ✓ How personal is the reflective statement?
- ✓ How well does the writer come through in the statement?
- ✓ How much is learned about the candidate from the statement?
- ✓ Is the candidate telling her/his own story or just writing an objective historical account?

A good statement will contain mainly 'I' statements as opposed to 'we' or 'the class'.

10 marks

2.2. ABILITY TO REFLECT (N.B. 40 MARKS YEAR 1 / 80 MARKS YEAR 2)

(a) Candidate describes the initial position or starting point:

Each statement must have an initial position. The initial position launches the reflective process. The candidate must be able to describe, recall, define and review his or her past experiences.

The candidate cannot reflect on how the key learning experiences have affected her/him if s/he has no previous beliefs with which to compare.

10 marks/20 marks

(b) Candidate describes the experiences and the effect(s) on the initial position:

The candidate must describe, by means of examples, **two** specific concrete learning experiences/foci in each statement, which are personally meaningful to her/him. The experiences described must have some particular importance for the candidate and must be in some way connected to LCA.

The candidate must break down the experiences by examining, questioning, comparing and criticising. S/he should be able to link the various learning experiences mentioned and make judgements about the effects of these experiences on her/him. The candidate must write in some depth about the experiences and not just make a series of vague general unconnected statements.

S/he must analyse these experiences by explaining:

- how** the experiences affected her/him
- in** what way did her/his initial thinking change or not as a result of these experiences

Candidate should explain how the chosen experiences have affected her/him and should evaluate these experiences in simple terms in order to interpret and make sense of the experiences.

The following questions are considered:

- ✓ How meaningful were the chosen foci for him/her?
- ✓ How well has the candidate described and analysed the experience?
- ✓ How well has s/he painted the picture?
- ✓ Can the reasoning of the candidate be clearly followed?
- ✓ What has s/he learnt from the experiences?
- ✓ What interpretations has s/he taken from the experiences?
- ✓ Is the reader left with more questions than answers?

10 marks/20 marks

(c) Candidate summarises the present position:

The candidate must be able to apply critical thinking and self-awareness to draw conclusions based on the analysis of the key learning experiences.

The conclusions must be justified by means of well-supported statements i.e. what has s/he now decided as a result of her/his analysis of the learning experiences and why has s/he made these decisions? Candidates are required to make connections between experiences and self in order to draw conclusions about their strengths and weaknesses, choice of career etc.

If a candidate draws a conclusion s/he must justify the statement by saying why s/he has reached that conclusion.

The following questions are considered:

- ✓ How are the foci linked?
- ✓ What level of self-awareness has been demonstrated?
- ✓ Are the conclusions explained? How well? Is there evidence supporting conclusions?
- ✓ In reaching the conclusions how well linked are the descriptions of the experiences to the degree of self-awareness shown?

10 marks/20 marks

(d) Candidate outlines how the experiences have influenced her/his outlook for the future:

The candidate is required to think creatively in order to integrate what has been learned into forward planning and future goals. The candidate must be able to make connections i.e. to combine what has been learned from the different experiences into a plan for the future.

The plan for the future should be based on what the candidates have learned about themselves as a result of reflection on the experiences. Candidates should have a specific plan in mind, at least in the short-term.

The following questions are considered:

- ✓ How specific is the plan?
- ✓ Are alternatives considered?
- ✓ How well is the plan linked to the experiences described and the conclusions about self?
- ✓ How viable is the plan?

10 marks/20 marks

2.3. MEDIA OF REFLECTION (20 MARKS)

(a) Communicative effectiveness:

How well does the candidate express her/his ideas?

(Clarity/Fluency/Neatness/Legibility)

How precise, appropriate is the word choice?

What kind of rhythm and flow is there in the writing?

Consideration given to; grammar, spelling, capitals, paragraphing.

10 marks

(b) Organisation of thoughts:

How organised are the candidate's reflections?

How logical is the task?

Is it easy to follow the pattern of thinking?

Does it have a beginning, middle and end?

Is it mixed up or repetitive in places?

How well is the statement presented?

10 marks