

O Level English Language 1123

Unit 3: Descriptive Writing and Personal Writing

Recommended Prior Knowledge

Students should understand the terms *descriptive* and *personal writing* and they should have had some experience in both the reading and the writing of descriptive and personal texts, however short.

Context

This Unit should be done after Units 1 and 2, but it can come before, after or between Units 4 and 5, and after Units 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, at the discretion of the teacher and dependent on the preference and skill of the students. It is recommended, however, that Units 8, 9 and 10 be done consecutively.

Outline

The Unit explores examples of good descriptive and personal writing and encourages students to analyse these. It takes students through the process whereby they will be able to produce their own pieces of descriptive and personal writing. It provides opportunities for spoken English by encouraging pair, group and whole class discussion. It also provides opportunities for formative and peer assessment. Sample composition titles for descriptive writing and personal writing are also available.

AO	Learning outcomes	Suggested Teaching activities	Learning resources
(iii) and (vi)	Appreciate writers' craft in descriptive writing	<p>Read aloud exemplars of good descriptive writing.</p> <p>Put the class members into groups and ask them to examine one of the texts used in previous exercise and pick out words/ phrases/ images which are particularly effective.</p>	<p>Selected sections of <i>Cider With Rosie</i> (Laurie Lee) or descriptions of London in <i>Oliver Twist</i> (Charles Dickens)</p> <p>Online: http://ibelong.britishcouncil.org/ (selected passages of descriptive writing)</p>
(iii)	Reporting back on group discussion	Ask the group spokesperson to report back on group findings, and teacher to recap	

AO	Learning outcomes	Suggested Teaching activities	Learning resources
(vi)	Evaluating descriptive writing	Ask students to write short commentary on given piece of descriptive writing, picking out effective language.	<i>English Language and Literature</i> (Toner and Whittome) Chapter 16)
(ix)	Producing word banks and synonyms for descriptive writing	Put students into groups and ask them to produce word banks for six given descriptions e.g. person (old man), busy place (railway station) quiet place (riverbank) etc. Synonyms to be found for some word bank vocabulary.	<i>English For O Level</i> (Reynolds and Toner) Chapter 4
(vii)	Producing short pieces of descriptive writing	Put students into groups and give them a topic for a single descriptive paragraph e.g. 'An untidy kitchen' / 'A busy market' / Brainstorm senses (sight, smell etc) Produce a word bank.	Online: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/
(vi)	Evaluating descriptive writing	Ask groups to swap pieces of descriptive writing and write short commentary on merits and demerits of the other group's piece of descriptive writing.	
(vii)	Producing descriptive writing	Ask groups to swap back and re-draft in the light of peer assessment	
(iv)	Reading a variety of texts	Ask students to read scripts as a starter for descriptive writing.	
(i), (iii) and (vi)	Appreciate writers' craft in personal writing	Read aloud exemplars of good personal writing	Online: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/ Selected pieces from newspapers or journals Online: http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com http://www.dawn.com http://www.independent-bangladesh.com

AO	Learning outcomes	Suggested Teaching activities	Learning resources
		Put the class members into groups, and ask them to examine one of the texts used in the previous exercise and pick out words/ phrases/ images which give this its particularly personal feel.	<p><i>As I Walked out One Midsummer Morning</i> (Laurie Lee)</p> <p>Selected pieces from newspapers or journals</p> <p>Online: http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com http://www.dawn.com http://www.independent-bangladesh.com</p>
(iii)	Reporting back on group discussion	Ask the group spokesperson to report back on the group's findings. Teacher to recap on these findings.	
(iii)	Evaluating personal writing	Ask students to write short commentary on given piece of personal writing, picking out effective personal language.	<p><i>As I Walked out One Midsummer Morning</i> (Laurie Lee)</p> <p>Selected pieces from newspapers or journals</p> <p>Online: http://www.timesofindia.indiatimes.com http://www.dawn.com http://www.independent-bangladesh.com</p>
(i) and (vi)	Producing word banks and synonyms for personal writing	Put students into groups and ask them to produce word banks for six given personal feelings e.g. pride, achievement, fear, embarrassment.	<i>English For O Level</i> (Reynolds And Toner) Chapter 7
(i) and (ix)	Producing short pieces of personal writing	Put students into groups and give them a topic for a single personal writing paragraph e.g. 'An embarrassing experience' / 'An achievement'. They should use their word bank.	Topics to be prepared by teacher.
(i) and (vii)	Evaluating personal writing	Ask groups to swap pieces of personal writing and write short commentary on merits and demerits of the other group's piece. This leads to peer assessment.	
(i)	Producing personal	Groups to swap back and re-draft in the light of peer	

AO	Learning outcomes	Suggested Teaching activities	Learning resources
and vi)	writing	assessment.	
(i)	Appreciating different genres of writing	Put students into groups and ask them to make up a list of six suitable descriptive writing topics and six suitable personal writing topics.	
(iii)	Producing word banks for different genres	Put students into groups and ask them to make up a word bank for each of their six discursive writing topics (based on persons or places) and a word bank for each of their six personal writing topics (based on a variety of personal experiences/ occasions).	
(ix)	Producing descriptive writing	<p>Give class lesson on a prepared descriptive composition title / paragraph plan / word bank for each paragraph.</p> <p>Ask students to produce full length descriptive composition based on class lesson and preparation.</p>	
(vii)	Producing personal writing	<p>Give class lesson on a prepared personal composition title / paragraph plan / word bank for each paragraph.</p> <p>Students to produce full length personal composition based on class lesson and preparation.</p> <p>Issue class with more topics for descriptive and personal topics.</p>	<p>Online: http://teachers.cie.org.uk, Past question papers, 1123/1</p> <p>Online: http://teachers.cie.org.uk, past question papers, 1123/1</p>
			<i>English Language and Literature (Toner and Whittome) Chapter 21</i>