

English A
May – June 2011

Section A: Question 1

Read the following extract carefully and then write a summary of it in NOT MORE THAN 120 words. Your summary must be in continuous prose and in paragraph form. If this limit is exceeded, only the first hundred words will be read and assessed.

0056

Question 1
write on both sides of the paper and start each answer on a new page.

Page 1

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1) The brain, being one of the most important organs in the body, is too often being taken for granted. It is important, to focus on the health of the brain since it is mainly involved in every thing that we do. There are many different and affordable ways in which one can establish and maintain a healthy brain. They include simple physical and mental routines. However one of the best method for stimulating the growth of brain cells is physical activity namely exercise and dance. With this said, one should be aware of the risk of increasing physical activity and consultation with one's doctor should be done before this.

(111 words)

Comments

This question required candidates to read an extract about the brain and then write a summary of it in not more than 120 words.

This script relied heavily on copying from the extract.

By recognising the points and so indicating understanding, this student gained a good 'content' mark. Summary also calls for clarity and conciseness in conveying the original ideas. This student failed to be concise and to use his or her own language.

Most of the information was captured, but the content presented overlooked the fact that our focus is usually on physical health rather than mental health, and that care of the brain is paramount after age 40.

The organisation followed the pattern of the original, listing the ideas in the same order. It failed to make connections or establish relationships between the ideas, and included details that should have been left out, thereby reducing conciseness and clarity.

Since most of the language was from the original, the student did not merit a high language mark. Summary writing demands that one uses one's own words, as far as possible.