

Semester 3 Exam in Written Expression

L2 Group 2

A special holiday or vacation is often a time that we look forward to, as it offers a break from daily routine and creates moments of excitement, discovery, and connection. Whether it is a trip you have already enjoyed or a destination you dream of visiting, such an experience usually has a particular atmosphere, filled with activities, emotions, and sensations that engage the senses.

Write a five-paragraph essay describing a perfect vacation you already went on or one you want to go on.

The model answer to the exam question of Written Expression (L2)

Marking Scheme and grading criteria (total: 20 pts):

- **Relevance:** any piece of writing that is relevant to the topic of the essay (3 pts)
- **Essay structure:** observing the structural elements of an essay as shown below (4 pts)
- **Punctuation:** (2 pts)
- **Spelling:** (2 pts)
- **Richness of vocabulary** as well as development and elaboration of ideas (4 pts)
- **Correct grammar/sentence structure** and accurate use of language (3 pts)
- **Exceptional writing:** creative use of language, uniquely expressive vocabulary.. (2 pts)

The recommended structure of a 5-paragraph descriptive essay:

1. Introduction: -**Hook:** Start with an engaging sentence to capture the reader's attention.

-**Context:** Provide necessary background information about the subject.

-**Thesis Statement:** Clearly state the essay's main point or the overall impression the subject makes on you.

2. Body: 3 distinct paragraphs

Focus on senses: Dedicate paragraphs to describing different aspects of the subject using details that appeal to the five senses (sight, sound, smell, taste, and touch).

Show, don't tell: Instead of stating a fact, describe it in a way that allows the reader to experience it.

Use vivid language: Employ adjectives, adverbs, and figurative language like similes and metaphors to make the description more impactful.

Logical order: Organize the descriptions logically, either by moving through a space (spatial), by time (chronological), or by a certain order of importance.

3- Conclusion: -**Summarize main points:** Briefly recap the key descriptive details from your body paragraphs.

-**Restate thesis:** Reiterate the main point in a new way.

-**Concluding thought:** End with a final thought that leaves the reader with a strong and memorable impression (a lasting impression).

Example Essay:

Walking Through Pages: Discovering Dublin

Some journeys do more than change our surroundings; they quietly reshape the way we see the world and ourselves. Long before a place becomes a memory, it exists as a feeling—an imagined rhythm, a distant voice calling us toward meaning and beauty. My first trip to Dublin, Ireland was one of those rare experiences where imagination and reality blended seamlessly,

creating moments that felt almost literary in nature. Steeped in history, shaped by words, and softened by nature, Dublin revealed itself through spaces that spoke to the senses and the mind alike. Through my visits to Trinity College, St. Stephen's Green, and the River Liffey, I experienced a city where learning, reflection, and storytelling come together to form a truly perfect vacation.

To begin with, Trinity College Dublin felt less like a university and more like a living monument to knowledge and time. As I stepped through its grand stone gates, the city's bustle seemed to dissolve, replaced by an atmosphere of quiet dignity. The pale grey buildings stood solemn and graceful against the sky, their weathered surfaces telling stories of centuries past. Beneath my feet, the smooth cobblestones felt cool and firm, grounding me in the present moment. The air carried a faint scent of old paper and damp stone, especially near the historic library, where silence felt almost sacred. Inside, towering shelves of ancient books rose toward the ceiling, bathed in golden light that seemed to glow with wisdom itself. The hushed echoes of movement and the gentle creak of wooden floors created a sensory experience that was both calming and awe-inspiring. By the time I left, Trinity College had filled me with reverence—not only for learning, but for the enduring power of ideas.

In contrast, St. Stephen's Green offered a softer, more intimate beauty rooted in nature and stillness. Situated in the heart of Dublin, the park felt like a deep, steady breath amid urban life. As I entered, the sounds of traffic faded gradually, replaced by the melodic chirping of birds and the whisper of wind through leaves. The vibrant green grass stretched invitingly in every direction, while carefully arranged flowerbeds burst with colour—deep purples, bright yellows, and gentle pinks catching the light. The air smelled clean and slightly earthy, refreshed by recent rain, and the breeze brushed lightly against my skin as I walked along winding paths. Wooden benches, worn smooth by time, invited quiet moments of observation and rest. In this tranquil space, time seemed to slow, allowing thoughts to drift freely. St. Stephen's Green did not demand attention; instead, it gently offered peace, leaving me refreshed and deeply content.

Equally powerful, yet profoundly symbolic, was my time by the River Liffey, which flows calmly through the heart of Dublin like a living narrative. Walking along its banks, I was struck by how naturally the river connects the city's past and present. The water moved steadily, reflecting soft grey skies and colourful buildings, its surface rippling with quiet persistence. Nearby, the statue of James Joyce stood with subtle confidence, a silent reminder of Dublin's immense literary legacy. Being so close to this tribute made the surroundings feel charged with meaning, as though words themselves lingered in the air. The sound of water flowing gently against the embankment mixed with distant footsteps and muted conversation, creating a soothing urban melody. The cool, damp air carried a hint of stone and river water, grounding the experience in physical reality. Standing there, I felt deeply aware of Dublin as a city shaped by storytellers, where language, place, and identity are inseparable. The Liffey was not merely a river—it was a symbol of continuity, memory, and imagination.

In conclusion, my first time in Dublin was a perfect vacation because it engaged every sense while nourishing both intellect and emotion. From the scholarly grandeur of Trinity College to the gentle serenity of St. Stephen's Green and the literary soul embodied by the

River Liffey, each place offered a unique and lasting impression. Together, they revealed Dublin as a city that lives and breathes stories, inviting visitors to slow down, observe, and feel deeply. In remembering these moments, I realize that some cities are not simply visited—they are read, like beloved books, and their words remain with us long after we turn the final page.