

## Assessment sheet 1.2: Chapter 1 – Sample written assignment

**This resource supports the sample proposal, rationale, written assignment, and Activities 4.9–4.13 in Unit 1.4, on pages 39–41 of the *IB English B* coursebook.**

The sample written assignment has been reproduced as part of this resource for you to annotate and highlight when doing Activities 4.9–4.13.

**1** In Activity 4.5 on page 36 of the coursebook, you will see a list of questions to answer when writing a proposal for your written assignment:

- The type of text you have chosen to write.
- The characteristics for the text type you have chosen.
- Why this text type is suitable for the three texts you have read.
- The target audience.
- What you are going to write about (and how you are going to demonstrate your understanding of all three texts).
- Your aims, and how you are going to achieve them.

Read the sample rationale on page 39 of the coursebook, and use the copy provided on the last two sheets of this resource to highlight evidence that the above questions have been answered.

**2** Read the following definition of a blog, given in Activity 3.10, on page 33 of the coursebook:

‘A blog is a personal reflection or comment on recent events. Even though it takes the form of a personal journal and may contain anecdotes, popular blogs tend to be relevant to a larger audience. Better blogs usually include both newsworthy information and an insightful opinion. They are focused around a specific topic that a community cares about. Blogs are usually archived by date and tagged according to common topics.’

In what ways is this sample written assignment a good example of blog writing? What key characteristics of a blog can you identify? Highlight or add annotations on the copy provided on pages 3–4 of this sheet, to show these characteristics.

**3** Look back at the assessment criteria for the written assignment, on page xi of the coursebook Introduction, and as given on the next sheet.

In Activity 4.13, on page 41 of the coursebook, you are asked to assess the sample written assignment, and give it marks according to the criteria. You could annotate the copy of the sample assignment on pages 3–4 of this sheet with your notes and comments.

Compare your marks to those on page 41 of the coursebook. Were you stricter or more lenient in your marking? Can you see why that is?

### Assessment criteria for the written assignment

	Summary of descriptors	Marks available
<b>Criterion A</b>	<b>Language</b> For maximum marks you must use English effectively and accurately. Your ability to use a range of vocabulary and complex sentence structures is tested.	<b>10</b>
<b>Criterion B</b>	<b>Content</b> For maximum marks you have to meet the aims that you set yourself in your rationale. Assignments must be clearly organised. Standard level students have to make effective use of the stimulus texts. Higher level students must show an effective connection to the literary work.	<b>10</b>
<b>Criterion C</b>	<b>Format</b> For maximum marks you must use stylistic and structural conventions that are characteristic of the text type required by the assignment.	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>25</b>

- 3** In your written assignment you should show as much evidence as you can to demonstrate your understanding of the three texts on which the assignment is based. You can do this by including references to, and quotes from, the three texts.

In Activity 4.11, on page 39 of the coursebook, you are asked to highlight references to the three source texts (Text 1.3, 1.8 and 1.9) in the sample written assignment, using three different coloured highlighters, one colour for references to each text. Use the copy of the sample written assignment on the next two sheets for highlighting.

## Sample written assignment (standard level)

### Rationale

The aim of my assignment was to show that the Internet is good for spreading democracy in Africa. Because my assignment was about the Internet, I decided to write a blog. Blogs are effective because they are newsworthy and focused on a particular community. In my blog I pretend to be the author of Text 1.8, Nnenna Nwakanmna. Her target audience cares about African politics and democracy. This is why she would probably write about *Zambian Watchdog*, an online newspaper that is worried about government censorship (Text 1.3). Furthermore I learned that the Freedom of Information Advocates Network (FOIAN) organises activities on Right to Know Day around the world every year (Text 1.9). I thought that Nnenna Nwakanmna would present *Zambian Watchdog* with an award for good Internet journalism on this Right to Know Day. By announcing this award on her blog, she is spreading awareness about the importance of the Internet for spreading democracy and holding governments accountable for their actions.

### Written assignment

Today I woke up and knew it was a special day, but I couldn't remember why. I looked in my diary, but I didn't see any important conferences, award ceremonies or engagements. Then it struck me. 23 September is international 'Right to Know Day'. Why are we in Nigeria not doing anything to celebrate this very important day?

Then I had an idea. If nothing is happening, I would have to make something happen. Therefore, I have decided to make up an award called the Nnenna Award for Web Democracy in Africa, or the NAWDA for short, which I will give out every year on 23 September.

Before I announce the winner of this year's NAWDA, I would like to recognise the hard work of all journalists in Africa. Recently we have seen how freedom of information can bring down dictators and show everyone how they are wrong. The Arab Spring, which started with the fall of President Ben Ali in Tunisia, has spread to sub-Saharan Africa, as we saw with Laurent Gbagbo in Ivory Coast. Twitter®, YouTube® and Facebook® are changing the rules of the game.

But let's not cheer too soon. *Zambian Watchdog* has reported that the PF government is monitoring citizens who write bad things about their government on forums and social media sites. *Zambian police* are interrogating people for blogging, posting or commenting on government activities. Even though the government wants to destroy and hack these website, *Zambian Watchdog* continues to report on it. Bravo!

For being so brave, I have decided to give the first NAWDA to *Zambian Watchdog*! Congratulations! *Zambian Watchdog* understands the power of the Internet in spreading democracy. They are very correct when they say that the "onslaught by the PF government on Internet media and social networks may cost the government on the international scene." Their reports on the PF government will not go unnoticed. *Reporters Without Borders* will put Zambia on the list of Internet enemies if they continue this way. Shaming the *Zambian government* this way will pressure them to go easy on Internet users in their country.

In a sense 23 September is like any other day in Africa. Web democracy is working to bring power to the people! If you want to nominate anyone for next year's NAWDA please let me know.