

Script E

Descriptive writing

Question 3 The view from the top

Script E

Deciding to begin the description as the summit was reached, take in the view from above and then begin the descent might well have provided shape to this description had the constituent parts been more carefully balanced and managed. As it is, there is the danger of event taking over. The response is imbalanced. The part concerned with the climb itself becomes the main focus at the expense of the view from the top - the top only being reached a paragraph before the end. The view is then described in general terms only and the opportunity to enjoy the sense of achievement and exhilaration through that view is missed. The overall structure is easily followed and though there are some potentially relevant ideas here, images and details are not selected, described or developed to address the task specifically and events do begin to dominate.

Whilst there is some repetition of vocabulary, there is also some targeted use of description to create a sense of the challenge involved, and sometimes effective attempts to create atmosphere with the chosen vocabulary adequate to convey that idea. Insufficient attention to the focus suggested in the title limits this response both in terms of its success in addressing the task and its effectiveness for its reader. The 'view worth dying for' is never described. More careful planning of the content and structure of the piece was required.

Sentence structure is mostly correct, though fairly repetitive. The use of short /minor sentences is less effective in terms of this piece as a whole since they are not adding to any sense of the picture expected by the reader. Some sense of audience is suggested though and there is a deliberate shape to the piece. An attempt to engage the reader is evident, though the emphasis is on event – losing grip and so on – rather than sharing the experience of the view.

Band 3 content and structure

Band 4 style and accuracy