

# **Sabanci University**

## **English Language Assessment Examination**

### **Sample Paper**

**Examiner's Grade: 7 (borderline pass)**

**See Examiner's Report below the essay**

#### **Paper One: Writing (30%)**

**Planning: 15 minutes**

**Writing: 50 minutes**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ID Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total:** \_\_\_\_ / 10

Section 1 Writing (30%)

Planning: 15 minutes

Writing: 50 minutes

- Write an essay of about 350 words in response to the following question.

- *What are two major reasons why some young people do not learn to read or write?*

- A number of possible ideas related to the question are written in the box below. They are provided to help you generate and develop ideas for your essay. The use of the ideas in your essay is **optional**.
- You will be graded according to:
  - how clearly you explain and develop your ideas
  - your use of language
- Before you start writing, you will have **15 minutes** to plan your essay. Use this time to decide on the points you would like to make, and then organize your notes around those points. Your plan will **not** be graded.
- You can refer to Turkey or any other country in your answer.

- cost of schooling - for parents and government
- availability of schools
- quality of schools – class size, course materials
- the need to work – inside and outside the home
- some girls marry very young
- attitude of some teachers towards girls
- educational level of parents
- attitude of parents to education

Writing (50 minutes)

- *What are two major reasons why some young people do not learn to read or write?*

*Having an ability to read or write is among the basic necessities of today's information era but some countries are still dealing with high proportion of illiteracy problems. They are trying to stop the reasons behind this issue. Economic problems of family and attitude of parents to education are major reasons why some young people do not learn to read or write.*

*Economic problems of family are major reason of illiteracy because of the cost of schooling and financial support expectation of father from the young members of the family. Firstly, poorer families usually experience considerable difficulties in raising enough money to cover costs which are related to schooling, such as transport and material expenses. Secondly, financial support of young people to the family by working inside and outside the home is common for poor families. This necessity to support the family financially stops young people from learning to read and write because they do not have the chance to go to school for study.*

*Attitude of parents to the education is the second major reason which induce illiteracy problem by ignoring the importance of learning to read or write and decreasing the desire for schools because of unemployment problem. For instance, a father who experiences that even university graduates sometimes cannot find a job, can easily think that ten years of education has lost its meaning. Then, he decides that learning a job by apprenticeship is the best way to support his children instead of making them go primary school. Furthermore, there are a lot of people who didn't realize the importance of education which can have the*

*bad effect on society because it causes social problems. They as usual affecting the new generations by creating an illiterate group of people.*

*Taking everything into account, attitudes of parents to the education and financial problems which families experienced are two major reasons of illiteracy among young people. In order to solve this problem, government should educate parents or change the point of view of families to the education at least. Moreover, educational financial support can be given to the poor families for sending their children to school or compensating their school costs.*

**Word Count: 351**

**NB. Writers with average handwriting should aim to write around 1.5 pages.**

## **Examiner's Report**

**Grade awarded: 7 (borderline pass)**

### **The Length of the Essay**

- The essay is of an appropriate length. It does not have to be exactly 350 words, but it should be "around 350 words". With average handwriting, this means approximately 1.5 pages. However, *the writer should not waste time during the exam counting the words.* Points will be deducted only if the essay is too short to be a satisfactory answer to the question or too long because it contains irrelevant information.

### **Examiner's comments with reference to the ELAE Writing Criteria**

#### **1. Task Completion**

- The writer has understood the question and completed the task with a satisfactory response. There is some development of the "two major reasons" stated in the question. However, neither reason is developed fully and this is reflected in the length of the two

middle paragraphs, which are slightly short for this kind of essay. Further exemplification or extension of the ideas would lead to a higher grade.

- There is only occasional irrelevant information e.g. *Furthermore, there are a lot of people who didn't realize the importance of education, which can have the bad effect on society because it causes social problems. They as usual affecting the new generations by creating an illiterate group of people.* In this sentence, the writer is talking about the effects of illiteracy, not the "major reasons" or causes, as the question requires. However, such examples are rare and when they occur, they do not interfere with the reader's understanding of the overall thesis of the essay.

## 2. Planning and Coherence

- There are clear paragraphs, which divide the essay according to the different ideas in the essay.
- In most places, the essay is reasonably clear and easy for the reader to follow because the different ideas are usually linked together in a logical way. This suggests that the writer has used his/her 15 minutes' planning time quite effectively.
- However, there are still occasions when the point is not clear and the reader has to reread a part of the essay again in order to get the meaning. For example: *Attitude of parents to the education is the second major factor which induce illiteracy problem by ignoring the importance of learning to read or write and decreasing the desire for schools because of unemployment problem.* Here the writer may be trying to make a connection between the attitude of parents to education and high unemployment. However the relationship between the ideas is not expressed particularly clearly.

## 3. Vocabulary

- The writer has generally used vocabulary appropriately and accurately. However, the range of vocabulary is still reasonably limited. For example, the writer tends to use straightforward words such as "to stop" when "to eliminate" might be better. The writer could also use "opportunity" instead of "chance", or "widespread" instead of "common".
- The writer has relied too much on a word from the question, in this case a "major reason", which becomes repetitive throughout the essay. Other words and phrases could be used to show a wider knowledge of vocabulary e.g. a "significant factor" or a "primary cause". If the writer knows a synonym of a key word that has already been used, then they are strongly encouraged to use them in their essay.
- There are number of examples where the writer has demonstrated a more varied range of vocabulary e.g. *basic necessities, illiteracy apprenticeship* and *raising money*. However, such examples do not occur frequently throughout the essay and do not therefore create an overall impression of an extensive knowledge of vocabulary.

## 4. Grammar

- There are consistent minor grammatical errors, but they rarely interfere seriously with the writer's meaning.
- The writer has demonstrated the ability to write both short as well as some more complex sentences. For example, *Firstly, poorer families usually experience*

*considerable difficulties in raising enough money to cover costs which are related to schooling, such as transport and material expenses.*

**Please do NOT write anything in these boxes.**  
**Lütfen aşağıdaki kutucuklara bir şey yazmayınız.**

<b>ELAE Writing section</b>	<b>Grade</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> marker's initials:	
2 <sup>nd</sup> marker's initials:	
<b>Final grade:</b>	

