

General advice for completing HSC minimum standard writing test

How much do I need to write?

- 500 words is a guide
- Try to use the full 45 minutes, using some of this time to check over and refine the response. For example, you might write 400 words in 40 minutes and then spend five minutes editing the response.
- Any text that longer than 600 words will be in red. It will still be marked, but is unlikely to add value to your response.
- Focus on the quality of your response rather than focusing on the length.
- There is a timer displayed onscreen for you to monitor your time.
- The copy and paste function allows you to reorder your writing

Responding to the writing prompts

- The writing prompts help you start your response.
- The response does not need to include factually correct information. Be creative and imaginative! Make things up.
- If you're unsure of how to spell a word, try to sound it out and make the best attempt at spelling it that you can.

Features of writing texts for Minimum Standards

- Use appropriate vocabulary
- Focus on control of sentences- some simple sentences, mainly compound and complex should be attempted
- Logically structure paragraphs using linking statements, focus on cohesion
- Attempt to use punctuation
- Maintain tense throughout the response (stick to first or third person, past tense is usually easiest to write in)
- Make language choices to suit the audience and purpose (think about who you are writing your text for and why you are writing it)
- Remember, it's okay to make mistakes in grammar, spelling and punctuation as long as it doesn't affect the meaning of what you are writing

Disclaimer:

Information provided above, sample questions and scaffolds below have been guided by the NESA minimum standard website: <https://educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/11-12/hsc/hsc-minimum-standard/online-tests> as well as past NAPLAN tests.

This resource is intended to be used in conjunction with teacher guided workshops as a skill building tool for students strengthening writing.