

SPM

ENGLISH CONTINUOUS WRITING

Descriptive Essays

MENGIKUT SUKATAN
LEMBAGA PEPERIKSAAN MALAYSIA

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Descriptive Essays

1. Describe a friend of yours who has been an encouragement to you.

John is my best friend, even at present. We met at the age of twelve, at my friend's birthday party and have been best friends ever since. He has been a great encouragement to me in many ways.

He is a hard-working individual who believes that hard work always pays off, it is just a matter of time. In school, he was diligent in his studies and even when he did not always excel in his schoolwork, he never let up in keeping up with his studies. He took his homework and assignments seriously and had never procrastinated in his work. He is really a well-organized individual as he always allocates time for play and study accordingly because he strongly believes that "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy". With all these qualities he possessed, he had inspired me to acquire these traits as well.

We both played in the school football team and here too, he had his little ways and gestures of keeping me encouraged. At times, when I missed a goal or two, he was always ready with an understanding smile or a gentle tap on my shoulder to remind me that all is not lost.

I remember the time when his father lost his job due to an accident. He did not give up nor feel helpless, but instead, he was always upbeat and hopeful for the future. He even took on a few part-time jobs to help make ends meet. I remember being so impressed by his sense of responsibility and duty. Later, when my mother passed away, he continued to show his support and encouraged me to do well in my studies to make my mother proud of me.

We had drifted apart after Form Five when we went to different universities. I couldn't find any time to keep in touch with him as university life was not as free as we thought it would be. Even so, he would either call me or write to me whenever he would.

Later, we had to go out into the real world, facing the hardships our parents had to go through but he was still there encouraging me to move forward in life. I remember he once quoted that the only thing that stands between a man and what he wants from life is often merely the will to try it and the faith to believe that it is possible. Today, I am a very successful accountant and John continues to be a source of encouragement to me and even to my two little kids.

2. Describe the happiest day of your life.

The most happiest day of my life happened in 1981 when I rekindled my friendship with my best friend from my teenage years. After Form Five, we had to go separate ways as we were interested in different courses. I couldn't find any time to keep in touch with her, much less anyone else. Perhaps she too, had been very busy, in Australia where she had gone for tertiary education because she neither called me nor wrote to me either.

After college, I went into accounting school and soon I became an accountant. I had never given a single thought about her all those years as I had to go out to face the real world.

It was only when I was cleaning my room one day when I found an old photograph of Melissa and myself. Then memories of all the good times we had shared started flooding back. She had been the one who consoled me when I failed to do well in my test. We had discovered study together, and giggled and cried through many movies together, too. I knew then I had to call her.

Feeling a bit nervous, I dialed her house phone number. After a few rings, I heard a voice saying hello. At once, I knew it was Melissa. She sounded more mature of course but I could never forget that voice. We agreed to meet at the shopping mall at 7.00pm. that night.

Soon I found myself sitting opposite her, drinking coffee in the Starbuck restaurant. The first five minutes were strained but before we knew it, we were busy chatting. It was just talk about our jobs, our friend and our families, but we were connecting as if the past twelve years of non contact had never happened.

It was as if a magic love-bow had strike our dusty relationship and made it fresh and shiny again. Renewing a friendship can be a hard process since both of us have been separated quite a spell of time but somehow we regained it in those four intimate hours. We shared our ups and downs, joked about the good old times, and wondered how we could have let ourselves drift apart.

We opened up with me talking about my career. Talking with her was very comforting and it suddenly dawned on me why I had been so close with her. Now, more than ever, I realized that she was a great listener, letting me be myself without judging me.

Being with Melissa was very different from going out with the casual friend I have now. The evening ended on a light note. We both agreed to keep in contact more often. That evening was the most meaningful one I had ever had and I went to bed feeling on top of the world.

I had learnt that one should not compromise our friendship but what made the day extra-special was we had fall in love. After all, this wonderful lady has turned out to be my wife, today.

3. Describe the perfect home.

My perfect home for me would be ideally situated near enough to town and yet away from the hustle and bustle of the city. It would be nice if it were within walking distance of facilities such as a local a library, the post office and some shops. Of course, it would be better if it is near my school as well.

My home itself would be beautifully structured of wood and bricks. It would have four bedrooms: one for my parents and the last bedroom would be for guests. All the bedrooms would have air-conditioner and their own attached bathrooms equipped with hot and cold showers.

I would also like to have a nice big kitchen since my mother enjoy cooking and trying out new recipes. There would have ample space to prepare the food, place a refrigerator, freezer and an oven.

To me, the heart of any home would be the living room. Mine would be large and airy, as the huge windows would open out so that the breeze would gently blow into the house. There would be a great grandfather clock in one corner, and inexpensive but beautiful paintings would hang on the walls.

Of course a living room is for 'living' so there should be some leisure facilities in mine. Some of us could cuddle in front of our 60- inch television while others would listen comprise a comfortable settee and huge armchairs into which you could sink into and relax.

Outside there would be a swimming pool with a Jacuzzi. The pool area would be surrounded by shady trees. Here I could just relax on the lazy chair whenever after swimming.

The garden would be big and wide. It would be beautifully maintained, with a lot of beautiful flowering plants of various colours, a few bushes and a big angšana tree. I would also like to have a small pond with Japanese carps lazily swimming in it.

All these features would unless it was shared with my family. I would also love to have my grandparents living next door, so that they could drop by easily.

What **bliss** to be living in such a perfect home with my family! It would indeed be 'Home Sweet Home'.

4. Describe the favourite place that you like to visit.

Penang, known as the 'Pearl of the Orient', is my favourite place to visit. It is a small island of the north-west coast of Peninsular Malaysia. I love going Penang because it offers visitors many attractions.

First, there is Penang Hill. No trip to Penang is complete without up to the highest point of the island by tram. It's an exciting ride, as I can see monkeys on both sides as the tram struggles to go up.

When I reach the peak, I can get a panoramic view of the whole island and even the Straits of Malacca. By night, the view of twinkling lights of the city below is simply breathtaking. It is also away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

I can still remember the first time my uncle and aunt brought me up there. I just didn't want to leave because it was so wonderful.

The palm-fringed sandy beaches of Batu Feringgi are a paradise for sea-lovers. On every visit I can choose to stay in the luxurious but expensive beach hotels or rough it out in the cheaper Chalets. Here I can swim in the crystal-clear water, basking in the sun or sipping delicious ice-cold coconut water under the shady trees.

Another place in Penang which I find **irresistible** is the Botanical Gardens. Though I enjoy admiring the colours and smells of the various flowers and plants, I much prefer seeing the chattering monkeys of which the Gardens are full. I cannot resist feeding them with peanuts just like other visitors do. They are so tame and wander all over the place freely.

Finally, one of the chief attractions that lure me to Penang is the variety of mouth-watering hawker foods. This is the place to savour the unbeatable Penang Laksa, popiah and lots more. It is simply delicious, cheap and plentiful, that no other place where you can find.

In short, I love Penang because it is the home of my uncle and aunty. They always look forward to my visits, just as much as I long to go there. They are marvellous hosts and know when to entertain me and when to leave me alone. They let me wander round the streets of Penang without worrying about me too much, something that my over-protective mother never lets me do.

5. Describe a Sport Day in School

As busy as a bee hive! That was how my school was last Friday. Many students show determination on their faces. They were dressed to conquer and their faces were decked out in their respective sports house's colours. Ultimately to out-do their rivals. The students of last year's overall winners were seen pacing up and down the running tracks. Some stood around in little huddles, probably discussing strategy. The rest were seen in lines while various groups were crowded around the stadium.

Colourful banners and bunting were seen fluttering in the breeze. They were seen swaying even for the slightest breeze. The teachers looked very relaxed in their sports attire. The students are ready. The invited guests are ready. Everyone looked ready. It was time for our annual school sports day to begin!

The day started with the match pass of the five sports houses, Red, Blue, Yellow, Green and Violet. They looked very smart and nice indeed. This was followed by the singing of the national anthem "Negaraku" and the school song. Everyone sang with vigour and gusto. Then, the raising of the school flag and the sports day flag was carried out by the representative of the Scouts and Girl Guides. Finally, our principal gave her speech and officially launched the school sports day. A great cheer went up from the crowd when a hundred colourful balloons were released up to the sky. Everyone was astonished to experience such a memorable day.

The first event for the day was the 400m race. This was followed by various events like the long jump, the shot- putt and other races. Students were seen cheering their favourite participants. By 10.00 a.m., most of the students had tired lines on their faces. The heat of the day was beginning to take its toll on some of the participants. The team of St John Ambulance and the Red Crescent members were kept busy running back and forth with injured participants and so forth. Great effort was shown by both these uniformed bodies.

Finally, the most anticipated time of the day arrived – the moment of announcing the winners. It was a tense moment as our guest of honour, Dato' Yong, gave his speech and praised the students for their perseverance, positive attitude and sportsmanship. Some of the students just wanted him to get over with his speech so that the winner could be announced. I believe they were too anxious to know the winner.

"The winner is ... the Red sports house!" Our principal voice rung out loud and clear. A burst of hoorays and cheers resounded through the red camp. After four years of taking the second place, it was official, the sports house, Red, had wrested the coveted champion's trophy from the other houses. It was certainly a day to remember. After all, I was the captain of the Red sports house! The feeling was terrific and everyone present had a whale of time.

6. Describe pasar malam at your place.

The Malaysian night market or pasar malam is based on a concept of open-air shopping where street vendors take over a designated street to set up stalls. The designated street is closed to traffic from the early evening to late at night, only to be transformed into a network of brightly-lit stalls.

The night market is the place where you can weave your way around the stalls, enjoy the smell of local foods and maybe pick up some trinkets. Many night markets are also famous for their imported fabrics, imitation leather goods and branded items.

At night, the whole area is illuminated by bright and colourful lights giving the whole place, a fiesta-like atmosphere. People, who move from stall to stall, seem oblivious of others and just push their way through the crowd. Some people, usually young couples and teenagers, take a leisurely stroll looking at the various items on display.

By around 6 p.m., the market is in full swing as the first batches of people sweep in. For those who cook, there is stall upon stall selling fresh seafood, meat products and a limitless variety of vegetables. Dried and preserved items such as dried shrimp, mushrooms, salted eggs and century eggs are easily available here too.

It is no secret that all night bazaars share a common treasure - scrumptious street cuisine. It would be a sin to breeze through these places and not nibble on mouth-watering local dishes. Thirst-quenchers such as the ever-popular soy bean drink and sugarcane juice are a permanent feature here.

Noisy jostling crowds are the hallmark of the night market. Therefore, it is not a place for the faint-hearted or the gentle. To many, they are fun and thrilling places to explore. You can even indulge in discoveries of the antique kind which can be found in some night markets.

Bargaining is a practice in this part of the world where you try to persuade the vendor to part with his ware at a price lower than the price he is offering to sell you. A good starting point would be to offer to pay 40-50% of the price quoted.

Some places are 24-hour markets, which are livelier at night when traders set up numerous stalls selling unusual local food, exotic tropical fruits, cheap clothes, second-hand goods as well as fresh produce. The night market is truly an exciting experience and a feast for the eyes on a tropical night out. There is so much to see, buy and eat. It is indeed a shopper's paradise.

After ten o'clock, the crowd dwindles and traffic eases. The makeshift stalls are dismantled and the whole site is strewn with rubbish. The odour of rotting food pervades the air. Then the air begins to chill and the site of the pasar malam, which only hours ago was bustling with life, is once again quiet.

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