

# **CELC Benchmark Essays Set 1**

## **Prompts:**

(for essay F1)

What would you do if some of your friends spoke in a negative way about another friend who is not present this particular moment? Support your opinion with explanations and examples.

(for all other essays)

Compare the lifestyle of your parents when they were children with your own childhood. Then discuss who had the greatest freedom, and who had the most fun. Support your opinion with explanations and examples.

CELC essay sample F1

This essay exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the “Fail” range

**Text of Essay**

[Comments refer to both regular text and blue highlighted phrases.]

Last year I has dose a party for my friends in my house and next went the night club.

Has is very friends in party male and female. The party has come a my friend from my village. **The boz is tree years smaller from him. And he not drinks.**

Ather friend huppy for her because not drink and has very sad. **I saw the person hu;y and tell me the stoped.**

After we went the a club and my friend from village not come their **because not driks and I tell he drink orange juse the smile and tell me ok I went their.**

The boys who huppy for me friend went the he and tell sorry for last who we huppy you.

**Comments on Evaluation**

Nothing in the introduction relates to the prompt or orients the reader to the purpose of the essay. Grammar very weak.

Little to no ability to analyze or complete B2 task. Disconnected ideas – impossible to discern the idea that **one person may have criticized another** – the only relationship vaguely connected to the prompt.

Only with great effort can one see **that one friend told another it was okay to attend the party and not drink alcohol.** Essentially incoherent.

The entire essay is a good example of the evaluation description “Severely limited, may be rudimentary or unintelligible.”

CELC sample essay NF1: This essay exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the Narrow Fail range.

**Text of Essay**

[Comments refer to both regular text and blue highlighted phrases.]

I asked my parents for their childish age. In the beggining both they laughed and they remembered very good times with their parents and their brothers.

First started my dad and he said to me that in her season the things were more difficult and he came towards with very difficulties. My dad he can be finished the elementary school but he was workin from when he was thirteen years old!!! He was helping her father in his job.

Then it has came the turn of my mother to tell me about his childish age. My mom is younger that my father and she didn't face so many difficulties as my father. She was living in a better house that my father she was eating little better than my father and that's all.

**Comments on Evaluation**

While the introduction presents a clear idea of the writer interacting with his or her parents, weak vocabulary & grammar (“for their childish age” instead of “about their childhood” & “both they” for “both of them”) reveal linguistic weaknesses.

It is clear that the father responded first, and that his life was difficult, but lexical and grammatical problems are both confusing and distracting.

Gender confusion continues here, yet this paragraph is clearer than the one above. However, the writer fails to understand the prompt and only compares the parents to each other, not the writer's childhood. The limited linguistic range and development are indicative of a writer at the fail level for B2.

CELC sample essay MP1: This essay exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the Marginal Pass range.

**Text of Essay**

**Comments on Evaluation**

[Comments refer to both regular text and blue highlighted phrases.]

In my opinion, there are many differences between the lifestyle of my parents when they were children and my own childhood.

The introduction clearly delineates the purpose of the essay.

First of all, my parents were not able to ask from their parents **whatever can I ask** from my parents nowadays. They also couldn't do an activity because their parents hadn't enough money. In addition, I go to school and I believe that some of my important dreams will become true in future.

Awkward word order is distracting, but does not interfere with reader comprehension. Both grammar & vocabulary are adequate to convey meaning – a hallmark of the B2 floor (marginal pass).

Moreover, I think that I have the opportunity to do things for myself. My parents hadn't the same opportunities. I go out with my friends and I go on holidays. I spent a lot of time by doing my favorite hobbies. So in this way I have freedom and I feel very happy. I also have more fun than my parents had then.

Second body paragraph clarifies the final idea from paragraph 1 - an opportunity the writer has that the parents did not have - though the reader must read as far as the 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence of this paragraph to see that point.

On the other side, when my parents were children, they were usually going out to play with their friends without be punished about dangers.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> body paragraph is a concession to the advantages of the writer's parents' lifestyle. Minimally developed, but adds balance to the essay.

To conclude, I think that my parents try to offer to me whatever they hadn't when they were younger especially the freedom and the fun.

The conclusion is also brief, and refers loosely to the ideas discussed above. A good example of a weak but true B2 Marginal Pass – adequate across all evaluation categories.

CELC sample essay CP1: This essay exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the Clear Pass range.

**Text of Essay**

[Comments refer to both regular text and blue highlighted phrases.]

Most people think that nowadays a child's lifestyle has more fun than the lifestyle of our parents. Other have a completely different opinion with that statement.

Children nowadays don't have much free time. We have plenty of things to do. First of all, **We** have more homework to do for our studies than our parents had when they were young. **We spent** most of our time studying and not having fun with our friends. We have to do more activities and we have more responsibilities than our **parent's childhood**. Sometime we waste our spare time watching TV or playing computer games which is completely worthless.

I think that our parents childhood had the greatest freedom. That's because of the discipline that our grandparents gave them. They could count on them. But nowadays children are cheeky and misbehaved so our parents punish us and they don't let us have so much freedom. Another reason is that when our parents were young, there were lots of green areas to go and play with their friends. Today, I'm afraid that there's not much green for children to play, so they have to stay in home.

Finally, I believe that our parents had a better lifestyle when they were young than ours because they had more free time than we have and of course more freedom to play with their friends than us.

**Comments on Evaluation**

Awkward use of the possessive in the introduction is distracting, but the rest of the intro is clear.

Good variety of syntactic forms and vocabulary. Some repetitive forms. Mixed tenses are somewhat confusing, but the development is solid and point of view clear.

The possessive error persists in each of the first three paragraphs, but the variety of vocabulary and supporting ideas and overall syntax allow the writer "to efficiently and effectively convey meaning" – hallmark of the Clear Pass range for B2.

The conclusion clearly restates the main idea. The essay is not remarkable, but it is strong and well above the B2 floor. A good example of a Clear Pass.

CELC sample essay HP1: This essay exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the Honors Pass range.

### Text of Essay

[Comments refer to both regular text and blue highlighted phrases.]

I often ask my parents to tell me about their childhood and they love narrating funny stories or describing unusual situations. When they talk to me about those years, I feel like I see the past through their eyes. I think they were really happy as children.

I usually compare my parents' childhood with my own childhood. My parents or I had the greatest freedom? My parents or I had the most fun? I try to find out statements to support the right opinion.

Well, my parents had a great freedom. They often tell me so. They were playing out the whole day. They **were running, laughing and not worrying**. They were living in a village. The children from the whole village were a big company. They **were playing all together without fighting and arguing** all the time. Their parents were not worrying. They used to let their children play a lot of hours with freedom without being nervous or stressed about it. They knew their children were safe. Of course, those were difficult days with a lot of poor people and a lot of misery, but children lived in the world of happiness and freedom.

My own childhood is not the same. I don't go out and play with the other children, because nowadays there is not a single child in the streets playing, as it used to happen once, when the roads were full of children that were playing happily. Now, children have cell phones, televisions, computers and a lot of video games. The one does not need the company of the other, to play with. Children now grow up faster, as their parents transfer them their problems.

I am not as free as my parents were, and I often ask them why they don't do to me the same thing as their parents did to them. They tell me they are afraid of this world's dangers. I wonder if I'll do the same thing to my own children. I've come up to the conclusion that my parents had the greatest freedom and the most fun.

### Comments on Evaluation

The introduction elegantly & creatively establishes point of view and genre appropriateness.

This paragraph furthers the introduction by narrowing the task to the one prescribed.

Development here is strong. The inappropriate use of the past progressive does not hinder meaning, and the present participle is used correctly with the preposition.

The next paragraph clearly establishes a contrast between the two lifestyles. Verb forms are correct, multi-clausal sentences are well formed and used well. Some awkward expressions, but more than exceeds the B2 minimal standards; the essay shows levels of syntactic and lexical variety of the Honors Pass level.

The conclusion clearly wraps matters up, reintroducing the parents, and posing a question about the next generation. An elegant, sophisticated conclusion at the B2 level. An Honors Pass.