

## **CELP Benchmark Set 3**

This benchmark set is based on three prompts, as follows:

### **Essays 1-3**

Many young people spend many hours a day using electronic devices such as cell phones, video game systems, and computers. Their use of these electronics often means that they do not read books, exercise, or spend time in nature. What effect do you think this high level of technology use has on young people today? Be sure to support your opinion with examples, reasons, and explanations.

### **Essay 4**

In many countries, high school students must study a modern foreign language. However, this practice varies from country to country, and in some places, foreign languages are not required subjects. Should all students be required to study at least one foreign language? Be sure to support your opinion with examples, reasons, and explanations.

### **Essay 5**

In some academic systems, a student's final class grade depends on only a few exams. In others, a student's final class grade includes points for attendance, participation, and homework, as well as exams. Which system is better? Be sure to support your opinion with examples, reasons, and explanations.

**CELP essay sample F3** – This sample 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.]

In nowadays many young people spend many hours a day using electronic devices such as cell phones, video game systems, and computers. The people do not read book, exercise, or spend time in nature.

In my opinion, the phenomeno of the high level of technology effect that the people use the technology for their school. The teachers sometimes want from the children to serf in internet and give some clues for this reason. Also the problem of level technology is that the people want only internet and nothing else. However, young people spend many hours a day using electronic devices because this game is so ethistic and the young person can not to stop it easily. The old people want to use the internet for games and things especially, facebook, twitter are one of the things that the young and old people spend hours a day using computers. The technology has “big.” The cell phones are so interesting because the young people can be play games, serf internet and the other things. The cell phones can be effect negative the young people because it is worst for them.

Finally my opinion is that must doing the best because the internet, cell phones do worst in the world. This phenomeno must stop it although the young people don't do it. Because this is your daily. And for the boys is electronic devices.

### Comments on Evaluation

The writer copied the prompt, not completely accurately, and made no other attempt at an introduction. This is indicative of weak linguistic skills at the C2 level.

While the main body paragraph appears to make two points about the use of technology, the writer fails to develop ideas, to connect ideas, and must rely on the prompt for most of the better grammar. Level technology? Ethistic? Vocabulary and grammar are confusing and weak.

Grammar is simplistic, but more importantly, many sentences are confusing: People want only internet and nothing else? How so? The technology has “big.” Big what? Why are cell phones the “worst for them?”

The failure to invent a thesis and develop it is the main reason this essay fails. Linguistic skills appear to be emerging, but are not sufficient to approach the task at C2. This is an example of a Fail at the C2 level.

**CELP essay sample NF3** – This sample 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.]

Nowadays, all over the world much more **people are ethic** to use technological devices every day, **decause of the comfortness** that they give. So, a big number of young people use this devices all the time during the day. That has a result to Forget other somehow “older” ways to inform ourselves or communicate with others, For example, books, newspapers or mailling. Of course nobody sais that using cell-phones or playing videogames its a crime. There ar two sides equally.

On the one hand, from a very quickly First sight, in the past, things were harder without electronic devices, because people worked harder to have the same or less results with the use of electric device. Now people are able to communicat easier oll over the world, the distance became smaller, and people have many more choises For entertainment.

On the other hand, having been addicted to an electric device you are automaticly a victim of technology. There are cases that people usually live in a cyrial-world without caring about their normal life, So living in an environment like that you have no passion For life, to run, to touch, to see the reality and want to have only icons and social life via internet.

So, in order to sum up, Both sides have something to tell us and make us to concern about, as good as may be the technological science, **people has to take some measures, and be somewhere in the middle of the both sides equally.**

### Comments on Evaluation

While the writer’s introduction identifies the topic and a debate between two positions, but **spelling**, syntax and logical development are limited, and reader effort is required, if minimally.

More reader effort required later!

The writer’s first point is not clear until the second sentence –a waste of words. Further, the purpose of this paragraph unclear.

While there are some attempts at complex grammar, the final body paragraph consists of two sentences, the second seriously run-on and seriously confusing. Ideas are not clarified through either explanation or logical examples. Is the reader a victim?

The conclusion does nothing to clarify a position – it reflects the writer’s inability to formulate a clear argument, as well as the writer’s lack of the linguistic skills needed for this C2 task. This is an example of a failing essay – a Narrow Fail.

**CELP sample essay MP3** – This sample exhibits qualities of an essay written by a candidate whose overall ability is in the Marginal Pass range.

### Text of Essay

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

The issue of whether technology is beneficial for young people is one that **has been under a lot of discussion lately**.

On the one hand there are those who contend that using mobile phones, computer or watching TV has only negative effects on teenagers for several reasons. First of all they spend all the time using electronic devices instead of doing their homework. As a result their grades at school are too low and also they have not **knowledge that are usefull** for the future in order to find a job. Moreover spending many hours in front of the computer screen **has as a result besides straining their eyes**, young people are also obese or have other health problems. In addition, teenagers do not have any friends and they are not socialized **since they only care about if they have the latest electronic devices rather than have good friends who may help them in a difficult situation**.

On the other hand there are many people who claim that the fact that teenagers **use many hours per day electronic devices** has many benefits. First of all using these devices **teenagers can both inform and have fun** as surfing the Net provide them with a variety of usefull information. They can even read a book or listen their favourite songs or watch a film without spending a lot of money. Furthermore using their mobile phones or chatting is a good way for young people to communicate easily.

In my opinion even though gadgets are a way of fun and communication, it is preferable for young people to take up a sport, exercise or even hang out with their friends. In this way they will keep fit and healthy and they will have more friends.

To conclude electronic devices must be used in moderation.

### Comments on Evaluation

The introduction clearly, but minimally, identifies the topic.

The writer identifies both sides of an argument – presenting three results of using e-devices too much. **Spelling errors** do not hinder communication, but are very noticeable as are number agreement problems. A lack of details limits the development. The writer resorts to overstatement more than supporting discussion, but the writer has created a coherent side 1 of an argument. Structure is good, with **several multi-clausal sentences**.

Next the writer presents three positive aspects of e-devices for teens, and concludes. The language is marred by **word order problems** “use many hours per day electronic devices” and other problems with syntax and vocabulary – “**teenagers can both inform and have fun,**” but the level of detail rounds out the paragraph satisfactorily.

The conclusion is clearly stated and logically cohesive with the rest of the essay. In spite of its problems, this essay should be seen as a Marginal Pass.

**CELP sample essay CP3** – This sample 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 or red highlighted phrases.]

High school education has evolved a lot through the years, with different classes being added or others being discarded, in order for the education program to be up to date and meet the needs of the modern demands.

Such an addition – for some years now – is foreign languages. Although at first glance the obligatory learning of a foreign language may have been considered redundant some ten or twenty years ago, the demands of modern day society and the amenities it provides through the rapid advance of technology, render the learning of at least one foreign language absolutely necessary.

Our world has become much “smaller” through advances in telecommunications, and so it is much easier to get in touch with people from all around the world. The need of a common language of communication is self-evident. Without the use of a foreign language, someone is nowadays much more isolated than before some decades, in terms of denying him- or herself the opportunity to communicate with other people from around the world, exchanging information, ideas and thoughts of any topic imaginable, thus expanding his or her view of the world.

Also, travelling – for recreational, educational or occupational reasons – has become much easier and cheaper. People move from one country to another for all the aforementioned reasons and many more much more frequently than ever before. Travelling abroad as a tourist may be possible, although it will have its difficulties. Travelling abroad to study or work is nowadays much harder, because studies in a foreign country require a proficient use of the language, and because nowadays the amount of untrained workers who travel abroad for work is much lower than it used to be. As jobs become

### Comments on Evaluation

The introduction creates interest, but without establishing focus.

The first body paragraph belongs with the introduction. Sent. 1 should read “One such addition for some years now has been foreign languages.” The awkward phrasing is mildly confusing, as is the use of the word redundant, and while it contains a gratuitous “at first glance,” the rest of the paragraph is clear and creates a strong thesis expressed in sophisticated language!

The writer establishes the basis for his argument – the need to learn languages, with adequate precision –though some ideas are again expressed awkwardly. The language, however, is not unclear, and the ideas relatively well developed.

This paragraph continues the writer’s argument, again with strong precision and adequate development, albeit with a confusing idea or two. It concludes with a less common idea related to the need for language skills, a professional specialization. Not all ideas are clear, but the

more specialized so are the language skills required to get the jobs.

Also, many technologies are nowadays highly specialized and to the same extent the language used for these technologies – for example computers – is also specialized. Without the knowledge and use of the language **one cannot use** the technology.

For these reasons, the study of at least one foreign language in high school should be obligatory.

writer deserves high marks for his attempt.

Because of **a few linguistic weaknesses**, and because the writer failed to connect clearly his ideas about difficulties with travel to a need for knowing a foreign language, this essay is a good example of a Clear Pass. It has several problem areas, but is a commendable effort, and the work of a good writer.

**CELP sample essay HP3** – This sample 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.]

Student evaluation is an essential part in every educational system at any level, as it provides the information required to decide how successful the teaching process has been from both the students and the tutor's perspective. **Actually any process aiming at certain goals includes or often ends with some kind of evaluation.**

Student grades are often considered as the main goal of the evaluation in an academic environment, and rightly so. Yet, what a given grade **at some subject** represents is often vague or over-simplified. Knowledge and the ability to demonstrate it orally or in writing at final exam tests may be adequate as a teaching target in some disciplines or in certain subjects. It may be the case that one needs to study extensive material throughout a semester, before he or she is able to conquer it and be able to show that. In such cases final exam only grading seems to be justified as the right evaluation method.

Yet, there are scientific areas, whole disciplines of certain subjects, or even specially prepared syllabi, where knowledge is gradually acquired and where **on needs** to reach a certain level before moving on to the next. Other times, it may be that skills need to be built on one another, or cases where the student has to be taught practical issues. In each of these cases it is important that the evaluation is not based on a single final exam, but is formed based on multiple criteria, possibly at certain milestones over the teaching process.

Another reason which supports such a grading method also has to do with the tester. Evaluation regards him or her too, so the sooner he or she has enough feedback in order to fine tune his

### Comments on Evaluation

The writer not only defines the topic in sophisticated language, but **makes a statement about the overall value of evaluation.** This reveals both linguistic and critical thinking ability on the part of the writer.

This first body paragraph is grammatically sophisticated, but seems to address more than one topic. As the writer concludes, the reader understands that a contrast between an all-or-none final exam approach and other approaches is being developed.

The second body paragraph is much clearer, presenting a clear, sophisticated argument for multiple evaluations based on multiple criteria for some disciplines. The writer then maintains this argument through the conclusion.

There are some misspellings that can confuse (**on needs** for one needs), awkward grammar usages (**on an one off time** for on an off day), and a tendency to attempt to address too many ideas in this limited format, but the discussion and language (both vocabulary &

methods, the better for everyone involved. Finally fairness can be another argument in favor **or** multiple criteria grading. Being evaluated **on an one off time** always includes the possibility of being unlucky, ill, in bad shape or whatever.

So, to me, student evaluation being based on multiple criteria which span over the whole teaching period seems better.

grammar) are highly sophisticated, with the development hinting at what could become a much longer treatise. A good example of an Honors Pass.