Exemplar for Unit Standard

English for Academic Purposes Level 4

This exemplar supports assessment against:

Unit Standard 22750 Version 4

Write a crafted text for a specified audience using researched material in English for an academic purpose

An annotated exemplar is an extract of learner evidence, with a commentary, to explain key aspects of the standard. It assists teachers to make assessment judgements at the grade boundaries.

New Zealand Qualifications Authority

To support internal assessment

	Grade: Achieved
1.	For Achieved, learners must write a crafted text for a specified audience using researched material in English for an academic purpose. This text will demonstrate the learner's readiness for the demands of undergraduate courses, and is comparable to mid-B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference.

This learner has written an academic essay as coursework in an English for Academic Purposes programme. The discussion of the impact of social media on young people has an appropriate academic purpose, drawing on source material that provides a broad knowledge base.

The topic is addressed in an essay that follows appropriate academic essay conventions. The audience (social sciences assessor) is evident, although not stated explicitly. The writing gives a description of social media and its reach, followed by a discussion of two negative impacts on young people (1) meeting the requirements of Performance Criterion (PC) 1.1.

This learner establishes the central thesis and main ideas in the introduction, developing and supporting these ideas with evidence in the body paragraphs, then drawing it together in a conclusion. The knowledge base is just sufficiently broad to meet PC1.2, with expansion and clarification of both main points. This includes judgements and interpretation.

There is generally a clear overall progression of ideas in the text structure. Each paragraph contains a topic sentence, although one idea is repeated across the text. There is some effective use of cohesive devices (2). This meets PC1.3.

Word and grammar choices are appropriate for a formal academic essay. These include the use of the passive voice, more specialised vocabulary, e.g. 'multitasker', 'simultaneous', 'depiction', 'productivity', and the third person point of view. Overall there is lexical and grammatical control, meeting PC1.4 and PC1.5.

Source material is acknowledged in the text, and there is a list of references. The reference list is alphabetical and in APA format. The citation and referencing of the paraphrased, summarised and quoted sources (3), some of which have been used to support interpretation and informed judgement, meets PC1.6 and PC1.7.

To meet the standard more securely, the learner could develop ideas more broadly by introducing a third point (4) and expanding on it. The use of one main idea for each of the body paragraphs would provide more overall cohesion.

In some places a better use of information is required (5), as some source material is about all media use, not social media specifically. A more succinct development of the topic would help to address the academic purpose securely. |

The impact of social media on young people's lives

Over the past few years, the evolution of the internet has become an inseparable part of people's lives. As technology continues to develop, social media has taken over many aspects of human lives. It had become so incredibly essential to the point where it is nearly impossible to maintain a daily life without keeping in touch via social media. "3/4 of all 7 – 12th graders say they have a profile on a social networking site" (Kaiser Family Foundation, 2010). Despite having major impacts on people's lives, it can also become the downfall of society. Numerous studies have shown that the virtual world created by social media has manifested a concerning number of negative impacts on people's lives, especially adolescents. The purpose of this essay is to discuss more about the negative side of social media and analyze the reasons why young people are bound to use it. ①

Social media brings a considerable amount of benefits for young people's lives, however, as ② any other invention, social media can be a double-edged sword. Contrary to popular belief, the number of disadvantages that come from social media outweigh the number of advantages. Many research studies have been conducted to establish how social media has ① become a major distraction. According to Lauren Angelastro from the Eastside Online (2015), student spend most of their time online, she said: "Another common distraction that ⑤ ③ has only recently evolved would be social media and the internet. As social media is becoming so much more popular, students all over the country and in various grades spend a large amount of their time communicating online." Whether students are going to school or staying at home, they constantly find the opportunity to update their social media.

One of many concerns regarding social media issues is that social media distract young people from real problems in their lives by feeding them with meaningless entertainment. For example, Instagram is a photo and video-sharing social networking service with millions of users. Since Instagram is a massive platform, users can experience variety of entertainment and leisure. As addicting as it is, Instagram promotes false depiction of other people while ① simultaneously provide irrelevant and inappropriate information. "High levels of anxiety, depression, FOMO, or 'the fear of missing out'" (MacMillan, Time 2017) is a main problem with Instagram use. This is because girls compare their real bodies to the filtered one on social media.

Social media provides students with another identity which allows them to have different personalities when they access any type of platforms. Online persona is one of the many reasons why students get addicted to the internet. It allows students to become a different person and enter the virtual world where the consequences of their actions will not affect ④ them as much as in real life. Students are easily drawn to social media due to the endless amounts of entertainment. It provide students with a temporary sense of comfort in order to distract themselves from the pressure of their daily lives. Research shows that whenever a ⑤ notification alert comes from the phone, most of the time the immediate response is to check ③ the phone. Even if people purposely ignore the notification, it can still distract their minds (Robinson Meyer, The Atlantic, 2015). Consequently, this action constantly interfering with ② students lives and it affects their productivity. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation (Kaitlyn E.May, Anatasia D.Elder, Springer Link, 2010), "media use is the dominant way adolescents and young adult spends their time".

Social media usage affects both efficiency and welfare. The daily number of hours students ①
spend on social media is approximately 7.5 hours a day, which is almost the equivalent in
length of a full working day. In addition, students will not use one single social media ②
application at a time but they continuously switch between many different social media
content. By using many social media applications simultaneously, students have increased ③
media absorption up to 10 hours a day, which is nearly a whole day. Texting, tweeting,
checking Instagram, when students are studying makes them less productive. The
temptation of social media restrain even the most efficient multitasker. At Middle Tennessee
State University, professor Brook had conducted a research where students "watch a video
on a computer but also leave tabs open for a few social media sites". The result shows that
students who use the social media sites more "did not perform as well as those who use
them less" (Emma De Vita, Financial Times, 2015). Professors Brook came to a conclusion
that: "Inefficiencies in task performance can result from the time spent on the interruption
and the challenge in mentally returning to the primary task,". In this society, it is unrealistic
for students to completely abandon social media. Nevertheless, young people are bound to
be distract by social media.

In conclusion, social media can pose serious damage to young people's productivity.
However, if young people are able to manage their social media usage responsibly, the
negative effect of social media can be reduce. In today's society, social media is one of
many necessities therefore it would be difficult to give it up entirely.

List of references:
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		Grade: Not Achieved
2.		For Outcome 1, learners must write a crafted text for a specified audience using researched material in English for an academic purpose. This text will demonstrate the learner's readiness for the demands of undergraduate courses, and is comparable to mid-B2 on the Common European Framework of Reference.
		This learner has written an academic essay as coursework in an English for Academic Purposes programme, although the audience is not specified. The discussion of Auckland's homelessness problem has an appropriate academic purpose and some source material is used.
		The topic is addressed in an essay that follows some academic essay conventions. The writing outlines the issue and identifies some causes, followed by three possible solutions.
		This learner introduces the thesis '*how should NZ Government decrease homelessness?*', presenting a definition of homelessness and giving statistics about homelessness in Auckland. Ideas about mental health (1), addiction (2) and financial issues (3) are presented as causes of homelessness. Although sources are cited, the explanation is the learner's own knowledge rather than drawing on research materials.
		There is an overall progression of ideas in the text structure. Each paragraph contains a topic sentence. There is some effective use of cohesive devices (4). This meets Performance Criterion (PC) 1.3.
		Some word and grammar choices are appropriate for a formal academic essay, e.g. the use of passive voice and generally using a formal lexical register. Weblinks are given in the text and there is a list of some of them in the bibliography (5).
		To meet the standard, further development of relevant ideas, underpinned by the source material, is needed to meet PC1.1 and PC1.2. Most discussion of 'complex reasons' (6) and two of the three solutions (career guidance at schools, local community responsibility) are not yet based on research material. Linking between the 'complex reasons' for homelessness and solutions is needed.
		Integration, including paraphrasing, summary and informed judgement, and appropriate acknowledge of source material are required to meet PC1.6 and PC1.7.
		To meet PC1.5, better grammatical and lexical control is required so that all meaning is clear, not just the expression of the main point in each paragraph. The text contains a number of word choice errors (7) that interfere with meaning, as does the frequency of grammatical (8) and syntax errors such as run-on sentences (9).

Homelessness in Auckland

Have you ever thought about the people who lived in the street when you walk down the road? It has been a serious and visible problem in New Zealand, if you go to Queen Street, you can see at least 10 homeless people. As we know, New Zealand is a welfare state and the main economy comes from taxes and exports, that is why New Zealanders believe in their country should not have homeless people. According to the website, the number of people sleeping in Auckland's city has increased from 68 in 2013 to 177 in 2016. http://conversations.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/events/homelessness-auckland. The gathering of homelessness is a kind of hidden trouble, which affects the appearance of the city. Most homeless people need government's help and support to become healthy or survive. My research is to describe how should NZ government help decrease the population of homeless people. ⑨

Homeless means that people who doesn't have options to live in a safe and secure house. ⑧
They are living in uninhabitable, such as footpaths, car parks, empty buildings or streets. ⑦
The people that sleeping or sitting on the street every day we call them homeless people. ④ ⑥
There are many complex reasons made people become homelessness. According to the ① website, many of them have different mental health issues (1). [https ://www.newsroom.co.nz/2017/07/18/3 9152/what-to-do-about-aucklands-23400-homeless] That means no company would employee them, because their mind is totally different from ④ others, so they will not have any income to pay the basic supplies or rent. Losing families by ⑦ accidents may make people become negative and without any hope of life, they think ⑨ everything doesn't make sense and cannot pay attention on working. Drugs and alcohol (2) ② make people addicted and become their slaves. [https ⑦ ://www.aucklandcitymission.org.nz/what-we-do/homeless-services/] Once they start, they will ⑧ be out of control and have no chance to go back anymore, and nobody can stop them. Some them have financial issues (3) and it is obvious that money is the key of people become ③ ⑦ homeless. Generally speaking, business failed means people who owned a plenty of money ⑦ and they have no ability to repay the debt. The consequence of that is they have to sell their ④ houses or cars to fill in the hole of money, then they will have nothing and may become ⑦ homelessness.

This research describes some suggestions for the government that they could decrease the population of homelessness. First of all, the government needs to ensure that they have sufficient accommodation or public housing stock so they need to buy land to build more houses and that close to city or school. The land which belongs to government is called ⑧ crown land and they should build more accommodation by using these areas. Homeless people are fundamentally defined by lack of housing. Enough accommodation is an essential foundation to ending homelessness. Apparently, housing problem is always the biggest problem for homeless people. Based on housing first, one of the main reason which is the ⑧ exploded on the landscape in the early 1980s and the people slashed their investment in affordable housing. [https ://www.housingfirst.co.nz/homelessness] In sum, this is one of my suggestion for government to decrease the population of homelessness which is build enough houses for them.

In addition, my second suggestion for government to decreasing the population of homeless ④ people is to develop a better education of school system, all the school should have career ⑧ ⑨
⑦
⑧

centre. Most people did not pay attention on this part and it may lead ==students in instability or recurrent==. According to the website, young teenagers ==have occupied a big amount== of homeless people and one of the reason is they have no plan or goals about their future. [http://www.newshub.co.nz/home/new-zealand/2016/01/young-and-homeless-the-auckland-teens-living-in-the-bush.html] Career centre is significant for students to help them plan their future, such as what subjects they should choose next year and which university they should go or furthermore what job they going to do in the future. Career centre should let students know the importance of completing high school and receiving higher education. That is to say career centre plays an important role in decreasing the population of homeless people, especially for controlling the young homelessness.

At the end, my last suggestion for government is to encourage local communities to look after their homeless people. Every municipality must take responsibility to take care of them in their communities intelligently and effectively. For example, ==there are some churches around every community, homeless people can be given a simple work== or accommodation in ⑧ ⑨ there and this may help to solve their first main issue. Providing a job or place to live for homeless people is also an effective way to help them get out of homelessness.

In my conclusion, there are a lot of suggestions for government to decrease the population of homeless people. However, I think the easiest way which is the education at school, because students are at formative stage and they learn what they be taught. ==Career centre has duty== for letting students know how essential the study is and helping them plan the ⑧ future. By decreasing the population of homelessness, the government should control from the root which is a completed school system for teenagers. At the same time, everybody should ==face to this social issue, at least we can buy them with a fast food when we passing==. ⑦ ⑧ ⑨ It is also our duty to help our country become better.

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