

English Language Arts  
Recommendations for  
Parents  
**SECONDARY**

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## ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS BASED ON RESULTS OF SECONDARY SCHOOLS NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS - SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER 2021

### INTRODUCTION

In September – October 2021 comprehension and writing assessments were conducted with students of Forms One, Two and Three in all secondary schools. This was done to determine the level of learning loss that students may have experienced during the Covid 19 pandemic. Based on the results of these assessments, students were placed in four performance levels in each form. The table below describes each performance criteria level.

<b>Performance Criteria Levels</b>	<b>Weighted Score (%)</b>
Level I (Makes an Attempt - very little or no understanding of the respective content and skills)	0-25
Level II (Emerging- minimum to average understanding of the respective content and skills.	26-50
Level III (Satisfactory - an average understanding of the respective content and skills)	51-75
Level IV (Competent - above average understanding of content in the respective strands)	76-100

Recognising the importance of parents' contribution to their children's education, the Ministry of Education has created this document to give parents ideas on how to help their children improve their comprehension and writing skills at home.

The parent recommendations provided in the document are presented according to forms (Forms One to Three) and performance criteria (Levels I to IV). Parents should speak to form teachers to find out the level(s) at which their children performed. Based on their performance levels, parents are encouraged to use the recommendations below to help their children improve their comprehension and writing skills. For example, if a student scored within Level 1, use the Level 1 recommendations to provide extra support. Recommendations for students scoring within Level 4 can be used to further develop their skills.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS

### FORM ONE

Students were assessed on

- answering questions based on a passage
- writing two paragraphs on a given topic

LEVELS	RECOMMENDATIONS
LEVEL I (Makes an Attempt) 0-25%	<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Watch age-appropriate movies/ television shows with your child</li><li>• Ask them what it was about, which character they liked/disliked and why. Have them explain what happened in the show</li><li>• Read with your child. Ask them questions using the 5Ws and 1H (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)</li><li>• Use online comprehension activities</li></ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read to and with your child. Expose them to a variety of material. This will help expand their vocabulary</li><li>• Write with your child and give them writing activities e.g., 'to do lists.</li><li>• Display their writing</li></ul>
LEVEL II (Emerging) 26-50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Watch age-appropriate movies/ television shows with your child. Discuss with them what it was about, which character they liked/disliked and why. Have them explain what happened in the show</li><li>• Read with your child. Ask them questions using the 5Ws and 1H (Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?)</li><li>• Encourage them to use their dictionary when they meet a word they do not know</li></ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read to and with your child. Expose them to a variety of material, this will help expand their vocabulary</li><li>• Write with your child and give them opportunities to write e.g., invitation to a party</li><li>• Display their writing</li></ul>
LEVEL III (Satisfactory) 51-75%	<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have your child talk about the characters they read about or see in a movie. Ask questions such as, ' Why did he do that?', ' Do you think that was a good idea?' etc. This will help them to think critically and develop evaluative skills</li><li>• Encourage your child to read a variety of texts</li></ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage your child to keep a journal and have them make entries regularly on anything they want to record</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start a vocabulary notebook. Have them record new words and encourage them to use in speaking and writing</li> <li>• Encourage them to share what they have written</li> </ul>
<p>LEVEL IV (Competent) 76-100%</p>	<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child to read all types of material this will help increase their vocabulary</li> <li>• Have conversations about what they are reading/shows they are watching. Compare books and movies</li> </ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child to keep a journal and make entries regularly</li> <li>• Start a vocabulary notebook. Have them record new words and phrases. Encourage them to use in their writing and speaking</li> <li>• Encourage them to edit their writing pieces and discuss ways to improve</li> </ul>

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS

### FORM TWO

Students were assessed on

- answering questions based on a passage
- writing two paragraphs on a given topic

LEVELS	RECOMMENDATIONS
LEVEL I (Makes an Attempt) 0-25%	<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Share various types of reading materials with your child- books, magazines, recipes etc. Talk about what the information is saying.</li><li>• Allow your child to help you find information in a book/recipe this will help them to focus on what they are reading</li></ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read with your child and have them read to you. Expose them to a variety of pieces</li><li>• Discuss stories read or shows seen. Have them share what they liked or disliked. Ask where the story took place? Who are the people in the story? etc</li><li>• Have them share what they have written, even if it is just a sentence</li></ul>
LEVEL II (Emerging) 26-50%	<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read with your child and have them read to you. Expose them to a variety of pieces</li><li>• Discuss stories read or shows seen. Have them share what they liked or disliked. Ask where the story took place? Who are the people in the story? etc</li></ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Read with them. Discuss what was read. Ask what is it about? Who is involved? etc</li><li>• Give them opportunities to write e.g., Thank you notes/ birthday card greetings etc</li><li>• Allow them to share what they have written. Post pieces on the refrigerator etc Have them share what they have written</li></ul>
LEVEL III (Satisfactory) 51-75%	<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage your child to read all sorts of materials including non - fiction.</li><li>• Discuss what they learnt and if they enjoyed the passage</li></ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Encourage your child to keep a journal. Let them make entries regularly on any topic of their choice</li><li>• Start a vocabulary notebook. Encourage them to record new words. Encourage them to use these words in their writing</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage them to share their writings</li> </ul>
<p>LEVEL IV (Competent) 76-100%</p>	<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child to read all sorts of materials including non-fiction. Discuss what they learnt and if they enjoyed the passage.</li> <li>• Let your child summarise what was read</li> </ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child to keep a journal and make entries regularly. Have them record new words and phrases as well.</li> <li>• Encourage them to edit their writing. discuss ways to improve pieces</li> <li>• Challenge your child to start practicing proper grammar and punctuation when they text their friends or post on Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and Instagram</li> </ul>

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS

### FORM THREE

Students were assessed on

- answering questions based on a passage
- writing three paragraphs on a given topic

LEVELS	RECOMMENDATIONS
<p>LEVEL I (Makes an Attempt) 0-25%</p>	<p>Comprehension</p> <p>Have your child read aloud to you daily – a variety of materials.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have them explain what the text/movie/game is about</li> <li>• Ask them questions about the text</li> <li>• Ask them to summarise what was read</li> </ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about a movie they may have seen. Ask what they liked and didn't like about it or what may have made a particular scene better. Discuss the role of characters, setting</li> <li>• Encourage them to engage in any type of writing in which they may be interested and keep a journal of new words. Listen to their stories give positive feedback.</li> <li>• Challenge your child to start practising proper grammar and punctuation when they text their friends or post on social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and Instagram.</li> </ul>
<p>LEVEL II (Emerging) 26-50%</p>	<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have your child read aloud to you daily – a variety of material.</li> <li>• Have them explain what the text/movie/game is about</li> <li>• Ask them questions about the text</li> <li>• Ask them to summarise what was read</li> <li>• Ask them to give opinions about the text and why</li> </ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child to keep a journal to write about personal thoughts, interests, record new words. Make daily entries</li> <li>• Encourage them to engage in any type of writing in which they may be interested</li> <li>• Challenge them to start practising proper grammar and punctuation when they text their friends or post on social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and Instagram.</li> </ul>
<p>LEVEL III (Satisfactory) 51-75%</p>	<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have your child read aloud to you daily – a variety of material.</li> <li>• Have them explain what the text/movie/game is about</li> <li>• Ask them questions about the text</li> <li>• Ask them to summarise what was read</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask them to give opinion about the text and why</li> </ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child to engage in any type of writing in which they may be interested. Listen to their stories and give positive feedback. Encourage them to keep a daily writing journal, include new words and phrases</li> <li>• Challenge your child to start practising proper grammar and punctuation when they text their friends or post on social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and Instagram.</li> <li>• Write your own story on one of their assignments, then you both share your stories.</li> </ul>
<p>LEVEL IV (Competent) 76-100%</p>	<p>Comprehension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have your child read aloud to you daily – a variety of material.</li> <li>• Have them explain what the text/movie/game is about</li> <li>• Ask them questions about the text/ movie/game</li> <li>• Ask them to summarise what was read</li> <li>• Ask them to give opinion about the text and why</li> </ul> <p>Writing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage your child to engage in any type of writing in which they may be interested and keep a daily writing journal, include new words and phrases</li> <li>• Have them write a story about a picture either digital one captured on their phone, tablet or one from a calendar etc</li> <li>• Challenge your child to start practising proper grammar and punctuation when they text their friends or post on social media e.g. Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp and Instagram.</li> </ul>