

English 11+ 2015

1. A common mistake made on this question was to write a group of words rather than just an adjective. What I was looking for was:
 - a. Sunny
 - b. Warm
 - c. Coolingor any other adjective used to make the weather sound appealing. You should not have written, for example, “unwaveringly sunny skies” as it is *sunny* that is the adjective. I did tend to give the benefit of the doubt over those who had done this, but other markers might not be so kind, so make sure you read carefully what is being asked of you. Many people wrote “unwaveringly” but this is an adverb.

2. In this question you needed to make it clear what the word meant and the context in which it was used. Many people just gave a one word answer which was not really enough. The fact that it is worth 6 points and not 3 points should make this obvious.
 - a. Unwaveringly means steadfastly, persistently etc.
In the context in which it is used it is saying that the skies are **always** sunny in Aruba.
 - b. Craggy means rough, uneven, rocky etc.
In the context in which it is used it is saying that the limestone cliffs are not smooth, but uneven and rocky.
 - c. Animosity means hostility, bad feeling etc.
In the context in which it is used it is saying that the island has no reason to feel any hostility towards anybody.

3. I was looking for work that was well structured and gave me a sense of the day passing. I did not want it to be: “I would.....and thenand then”. I wanted it to be: “ In the morning.....After lunch.....Later on.....”. Many people ignored the fact that it was supposed to be about how you might spend a **day**. I did not want a long list of activities, but a good description of a few activities. I wanted the vocabulary used to be wide and interesting.

In the morning, I would sunbathe on the beach. The feeling of the warmth of the sun’s rays and the softness of the sand would be amazing. The gentle lapping of the sea would relax me.

Once I had had enough of that, I would go windsurfing as it would be both exciting and exhilarating. The wind would whip through my hair and the sea that had seemed gentle would suddenly feel wild and scary.

After lunch, a quiet game of golf would be ideal. It would be a perfect contrast to the windsurfing! As I make my way round the course I could enjoy the leisurely pace and admire the views of the impressive cliffs.

Before dinner, to build up an appetite, a short hike would be a great idea. It would be a chance to see iguanas which I have never seen before in the wild. My camera would be exhausted by the end of the hike!

This would be a perfect day and I am sure I would end up sleeping like a log all night.

4. a. Serene, gentle
- b. Choose
- c. Seldom, don't often
- d. Remains
- e. Vacation
- f. Wild

The task asked you to find synonyms **from the passage**. Some people ignored this. Make sure you always read the task properly.

5. There are a few things you need to notice about this task: you have to use what you have **learnt from the text** to come up with reasons, you have to explain the reasons **fully** and it is reasons why somebody might not want to visit Aruba. A common mistake was not to explain fully. Here are a few examples that would have got you all the marks:-

- Some people might not want to visit Aruba because of the “unwaveringly sunny skies”. Not everybody likes sunshine and some people are even allergic to it and so they would not want to visit Aruba.
- Some people might not want to visit Aruba because of the risk of hurricanes. We are told that “hurricanes don't often visit”, but this is not the same as them never visiting! Some people might rather not take the risk of their holiday being ruined by a hurricane.
- Some people might not want to visit Aruba because it says that “the overwhelming majority of Arubans are genuinely friendly” but what about the minority? Some people might wonder what the minority are like and be put off from visiting Aruba.

6. Many people made the mistake of not reading the task properly. I had many descriptions of England, when you were supposed to choose a holiday destination **in** England. I was looking for:

- Enthusiastic and persuasive writing.

- Good structure-paragraphs and a nice flow to the writing rather than jumping around between ideas.
- A wide and interesting vocabulary.
- Detailed and descriptive language.
- Accurate punctuation and a range of punctuation.
- Good grammar with consistency of tense.
- Language techniques, such as alliteration, personification etc.

Use the passage about Aruba to help you. If you were not sure how to start then just start with: "Why choose Devon for your vacation?" This is not cheating but is using what you have been given to help you.

Why choose Eastbourne for your vacation? Well, there's the amazing beaches. You deserve to be able to relax on a golden blanket of soft sand after working so hard all year. There are no cruel rocks to hurt your feet, but just countless grains of beautiful, kind sand. The sea is calm and soothing and perfect for washing away any worries you might have. The sun will give you a glorious, golden glow. Wouldn't it be wonderful to be there right now?

If you get tired of relaxing then you can go on an exciting and exhilarating boat trip. Choose a speedboat if you dare! You will feel like a character from James Bond as you travel at a thrilling speed with the wind whipping through your hair. On the boat trip you can take in the incredible sight of Beachy Head Lighthouse. The red and white lighthouse is truly spectacular. Stories of smuggling that took place in this area will send shivers down your spine.

As if all this is not enough, there is the award winning Drusillas Park nearby! This place is absolutely brilliant. Going to Drusillas Park is like opening a treasure chest. They have every animal you could possibly wish to see from the most mischievous monkeys to marvellous meerkats. They also have an interactive maze and Thomas the Tank Engine train rides! What more could you want?

So, come to Eastbourne now! You can be sure of a warm welcome and a truly unforgettable holiday.