# Writing standards file Farida – secure level 5

Planning a piece of biographical writing

Too much TV causing weighty children – discursive article/report

How the ear works – explanatory/informative writing

Magazine article – discursive response to Macbeth

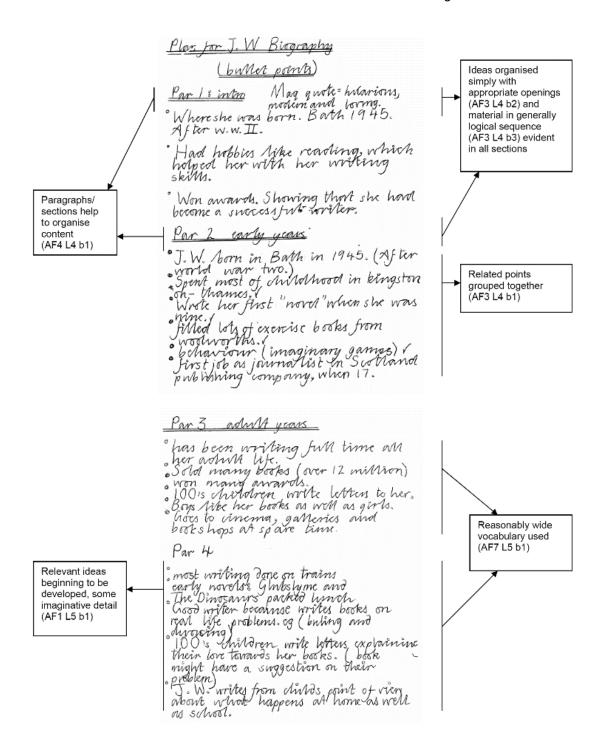
Ghost story – narrative writing

'The Dancing Flame' - poem

## Planning a piece of biographical writing

The class had been studying author biographies and analysing features they had in common, for example early years, adult life and so on. The children then drew on these features as the focus for exploring paragraphs to support later writing. Although the work is a draft, it shows a range of organisational skills.

I am learning to plan a piece of biographical writing (using reserch I have carried out.) i) We read and discussed awtobing-raphyies and biographies. · "Antartic Journal" (autob) "Writers Lives" (biog) . "Blits" (anto) "Coming to England" (anto) "Titanic Survivor" (auto) 2) discussed features of antobiography (oracy) 3) discussed features of biography. 4) Researched information on Jacquetine Wilson. (books and internet. 5) Highlighted facts and opinion



#### Assessment summary

This draft plan sets out the content and shape of material that will be developed into a biographical piece about the writer Jacqueline Wilson. The bullet point/note form means that assessment of sentence structure and punctuation (AF5 and AF6) is less appropriate. On the other hand, it is possible to assess features of the response that address whole text areas, that is, the range of ideas (AF1) and their appropriateness to purpose and audience (AF2) and the way these will be grouped (AF4) and structured

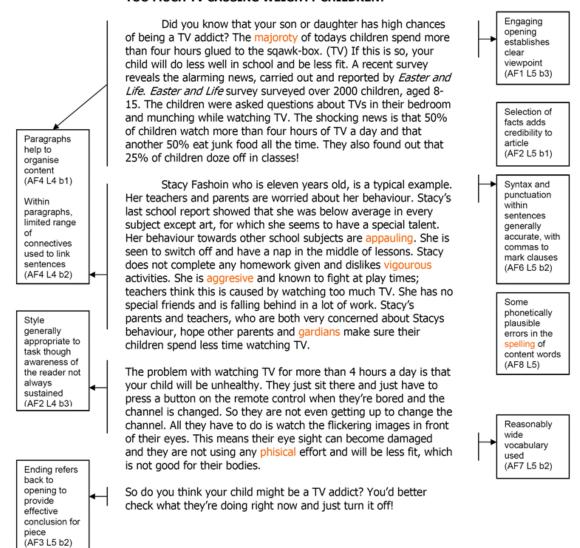
(AF3). Some of the criteria for all these AFs are fulfilled, mainly at level 4, with some evidence of level 5 also. It is clear from these notes that a range of appropriate vocabulary ('explaining', 'suggestion', 'behaviour', 'dinosaur') is likely to be used (AF7) and most words, including some complex and irregular words, are spelt correctly (AF8).

This response shows that Farida has been able to fulfil the criteria for level 4 in AFs 1 and 2, with some indication that she is beginning to fulfil the criteria for AF1 at level 5. The criteria for AF3 and AF4 are also met, but this is with some support. The response also includes a range of relevant vocabulary which is evidence for AF7, but since many words will have been taken from the source books she used, this is only partial evidence for level 5.

## Too much TV causing weighty children – discursive article/report

This piece of writing was linked to work in science on keeping healthy. The class had read a newspaper article which argued that children watch too much television. Some of the information from the article has been used in this argument text.

#### TOO MUCH TV CAUSING WEIGHTY CHILDREN?



#### Assessment summary

In this response, Farida uses direct address to the reader to engage attention and establish a clear viewpoint (AF1), although the piece does not sustain the same level of awareness of the reader (AF2). Relevant ideas are developed with some detail and appropriately shaped for the chosen form (AF1). Material is organised into paragraphs (AF3) which are logically ordered, although the direction of the writing is not always

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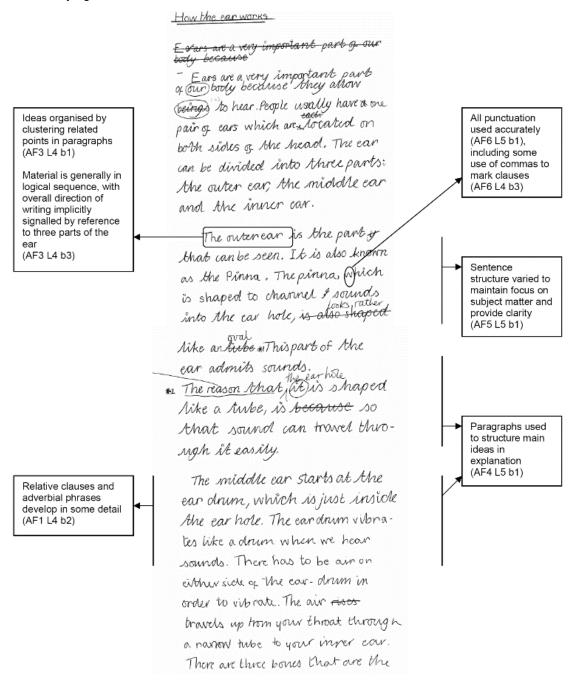
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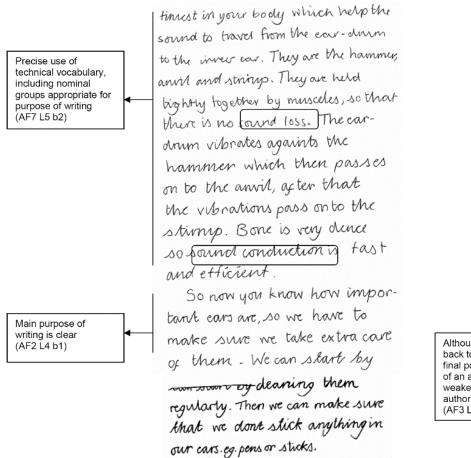
clearly signalled. Within paragraphs, cohesion is supported by straightforward links between sentences, mainly subject repetition and some use of pronouns (AF4). Farida uses a range of sentence structures (AF5), contributing to effect and emphasis, and her sentence demarcation is consistently accurate, with some use of commas to mark clauses (AF6). The range of vocabulary is varied and sometimes ambitious (AF7), although the spelling of some content words is phonetically plausible rather than accurate (AF8).

In this piece, there is evidence that Farida has fulfilled the criteria for most AFs at level 5, with AF2 and AF3 being slightly less secure. A strength of the piece is the sense of an individual voice (AF1) conveyed in phrases such as 'munching while watching TV'; 'watch the flickering images in front of their eyes'; 'You'd better check what they're doing right now' which suggests that Farida is developing independence in developing an appropriate style for a particular text type.

## How the ear works – explanatory/informative writing

This explanation text was related to work on sound and the human body which the class had been studying in science.





Although closing refers back to opening, the final point is something of an add-on, weakening the earlier authoritative stance (AF3 L4 b2)

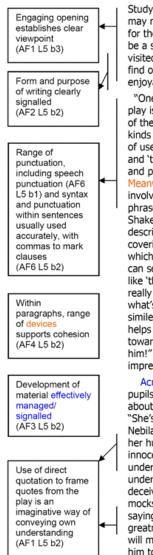
#### **Assessment summary**

Farida has competently organised this response, clustering ideas into paragraphs (AF3) and using these to manage content (AF4). There is an awareness that the main purpose of the writing is to inform (AF2) and relevant information is presented to the reader with some appropriate detail (AF1). The length and structure of sentences varies, with some expansion through the use of subordinating connectives to establish links in the explanations (AF5). The demarcation of sentences is secure and there is some accurate use of the comma to mark clauses (AF6). Some technical terminology ('muscles', 'vibration', 'sound loss', 'sound conduction') is used accurately (AF7) and the spelling is generally correct (AF8).

For all the AFs, Farida shows that she can fulfil the criteria at level 4 securely, and there is evidence of the level 5 criteria being addressed in places, especially AFs 5, 4 and 7.

#### Magazine article – discursive response to Macbeth

For this piece of writing the children were asked to write a report in journalistic style. The report is based on their study of *Macbeth*.



Studying Shakespeare's <u>Macbeth</u> may not be your idea of fun, but for the year six pupils it proved to be a scintillating experience. I visited the year six classroom to find out what made Macbeth so enjoyable.

"One of the best things about the play is the language," Jamie, one of the pupils told me. "We found all kinds of words that have fallen out of use. Words like 'thou art' 'thee' and 'thy' sound so old fashioned and poetic," he enthused. Meanwhile his working partner was involved in studying interesting phrases like 'gouts of blood'. Shakespeare uses this phrase to describe the drops of blood covering the imaginary dagger which troubled Macbeth thinks he can see. "I love adjective phrases like 'the curtained sleep' which really help give a vivid picture of what's going on in the play. A simile such as 'moves like a ghost', helps me imagine Macbeth gliding towards Duncan ready to murder him!" I have to admit this is impressive stuff.

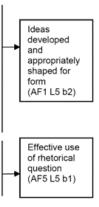
Across the room a group of pupils are engaged in a discussion about Lady Macbeth's character. "She's such a persuasive woman," Nebila explains excitedly. "She tells her husband to, 'Look like the innocent flower, but be the serpent under it', and you just knows she understands all about how to deceive people. Lady Macbeth mocks her husband deliberately saying 'Are you afraid to claim your greatness?' because she knows it will make him do what she wants him to do.

The last thing Macbeth wants is to look like a coward in front of her because he would feel humiliated". I nod agreement and excuse myself from the group in order to eavesdrop on another discussion that's taking place in the centre of the room.

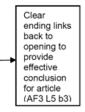
The class teacher is asking some pupils about the events in Macbeth. Are the events in Macbeth the kind of usual, ordinary and normal happenings that occur in everyday life? "Well, I don't think that meeting witches, fighting wars and seeing ghosts are the sorts of things that we experience everyday," Nazir offers. Other group members nod agreement as they listen intently to what he says. Everyone decides that these events are extremely exciting and make the reader desperate to read on.

Without a doubt they feel that the scenes with the witches are the most entertaining. Perhaps the most popular event is when the witches make their spell and chant the names of all the gruesome ingredients as they fling them in the cauldron.

As I leave the classroom, I feel rather sorry not to be eleven years old again! However I remind myself that when I was at school, Macbeth was not taught in such an interesting way.



Material is structured clearly with sentences organised into appropriate paragraphs (AF3 L5 b1)



## **Assessment summary**

This is a confidently organised response (AF3) in which Farida selects and develops relevant subject matter with some elaboration and effective integration of individual children's comments (AF1). Features and format of an article are immediately established (AF2) through contextualisation of the report and references to the classroom situation. Material is organised into paragraphs (AF3) that provide a structure for subject matter, with cohesion supported by a range of devices (AF4). Sentence structure is varied for effect and emphasis (AF5), and sentence demarcation is consistently accurate with some use of other punctuation, including speech

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punctuation and commas to mark clauses (AF6). A reasonably wide range of vocabulary is used, with some words chosen for deliberate effect (AF7) and there are virtually no spelling mistakes (AF8).

In this piece, Farida has managed to use quite complex material, the study of a Shakespeare play, and craft an entertaining article with a clear and individual viewpoint. Overall this article provides evidence that the level 5 criteria for all the AFs are being met securely.

#### Ghost story – narrative writing

*Uninvited Ghost* by Penelope Lively was read aloud to the class. The children liked the fact that the ghosts were more irritating than frightening and the story was used as a starting point for the children's own ghost stories. Support was given with planning but then each child developed his or her own story independently.

#### A ghost story

Lively opening engages at beginning of narrative (AF2 L5 b2) "Amber, grab that box! Oh no, too late!" — That was my mum, we'd just moved to a new house in Bristol. The day was exhausting! Already we had had visitors, and I was pretty sure they'd be nosy snobs. Turned out I was wrong

It was a boy called Rhys with his mum. I found it amusing that she brought with her a tray of chocolate cookies! She and my mum got talking in the kitchen and left me and Rhys to get aquainted. We found that we were into the same stuff and so, still pretty unsure, I asked if he'd like to stay over, he replied "sure!"

Variety of sentence structures, including some in conversational style, add interest to narrative (AF5 L5 b1)

Openings of

stages of the

narrative but

repetitive in

(AF3 L4 b3)

structure

are sometime

paragraphs

identify

As I waited for Rhys to go get some scary movies and pyjamas (blue most likely) I started to get some midnight snacks ready. It's sad, we never did get to eat them. A few minutes later, I opened my bedroom door to let Rhys in. We watched half a vampire movie (the vampires looked as though they'd been trick-or-treating for two years and only got one piece of candy!), and then, we sat around being bored. Breaking the silence, Rhys suggested we play a dare game, I went along with the idea.

"I dare you" he began, "to go up to the attic and... and, open any old cupboard and climb in!"

"That's lame" I replied, quite unamused.

"Well, then you should be able to do it right?"

"Right, whatever...", I agreed, unaware of what was ahead of me. Very unaware. So, we mounted the stairs and entered the attic.

I suddenly felt very cold. "Go on," urged Rhys, Carefully I laid my hand on the handle of an old, rotting closet, turned it, swung open the door and screamed! It was a measly mothball! I stepped in but almost immediately I felt a cold wind rush upon me out of the closet and I jumped out. Both Rhys and I backed away from the closet. As we watched a murky shape was collecting in the middle of the room; it was a ghost.

"That's weird man!" exclaimed Rhys.

"You're telling me!" I shouted back.

Wide vocabulary used for imaginative effect (AF7 L5 b1) The figure steered towards us, looked us in the face and... coughed "What in the blue hell are you doing here?" it rasped.

Over the next few days, the ghost tormented me in every way possible: it kept cursing and shrieking on the beams above my bed, at night. We told our parents, but they told us to stop being ridiculous.

Range of punctuation used accurately (AF6 L5 b1)

Story structured clearly, with ideas organised into appropriate paragraphs (AF3 L5 b1)

Well-judged adjectives support chosen style for ghost story (AF2 L5 b3)

Significance of time passing not wholly clear in build up to resolution (AF3 L4 b3) One day we were on our way to school when we saw a huge, derelict house. Perfect. We both smiled. We ran all the way home and met the ghost in the afternoon. "Evening Mr. Ghost" said Rhys and I, politely.

"Hows about you join us for a stroll in the park, we have a surprise," I asked.

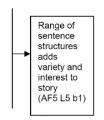
"I haven't seen daylight in ages, I'm not sure I want to, but I love a good surprise I do!" said the ghost creature.

"Great, we'll get sunglasses!"

Our plan was great. We walked around the park and ended up outside the haunted house.

"Wow, that's a great house Mr. Ghost why not move in?" we said slyly.
"Oh let me see..." He entered the house. He didn't like it at first, but after a
few seconds we heard him say "looky here, a lady ghost friend."

The next day, ghost man moved in.



sentence ending refers back to opening, when narrator moved house (AF3 L5 b2)

Single-

#### **Assessment summary**

In this ghost story, Farida has successfully managed a narrative form to create a complete piece (AF2). An individual voice is deployed to convey viewpoint (AF1) and both Gothic details and humorous asides (AF2) contribute to the success of the writing.

Farida uses paragraphs to support the structure of the narrative (AF4) and although the overall text structure falters slightly towards the end, this is mostly secure. Cohesion is created through the use of connectives and dialogue (AF3), and a range of sentence structures, including those in dialogue, add interest and variety to the writing (AF5). A wide range of punctuation is used, including speech marks, apostrophes, brackets and ellipses, to create clarity and sometimes for effect (AF6). There are some effective vocabulary choices ('murky', 'rasped') (AF7) which add to the impact of the narrative.

Although children were given a starting point for their narratives, and some support with planning, there is evidence that Farida has been able to develop her own story with an individual voice, demonstrating that the criteria for level 5 are securely fulfilled across the AFs, with the possible exception of AF4.

#### 'The Dancing Flame' - poem

This poem was produced at the end of a poetry unit of work. Exploration of poems using personification through reading and speaking and listening activities led to guided and supported writing about trees in the school grounds.

The following week children observed a candle burning, and discussed personification possibilities. Independently, Farida produced her own word bank of ideas. This is the final draft of Farida's poem.

#### Punctuation used accurately to demarcate sentences (AF6 L5 b1)

Commas used to

clauses (AF6 L5 b2)

mark phrases and

Single-word last line creates impact

(AF3 L5 b2)

#### The Dancing Flame

On a cream podium, she dances. She sways with emotion and elegance Around her partner. She wears a golden dress

Her partner wears a jet black suit, standing straight Waving and twirling, she dances round him.

Bending and twisting. In the passion of the dance He looks into her eyes and sees the emotion And starts to cry.

Leaving her partner crying, His tears streaming down the podium, Exhausted and bent In the darkness

Alone.

And has flaming hair.

Holding her tight, he makes his move

In a flash she's gone, trailing a ghostly smoke

Variation in word order gives opening line impact (AF1 L5 b3)

Effectively chosen adjective links dancer's hair colour to the idea of the candle flame (AF7 L5 b1)

Well-chosen phrase creates vivid image and emphasises ephemeral nature of (AF7 L5 b1)

Each verse deals with a different 'episode' giving the poem a clear structure (AF3 L5 b1)

Clear purpose conveyed through consistent style engages reader's interest (AF2 L5 b1 and AF2 L5 b2)

Parallels drawn between dancer and her partner and a candle and wick; ideas selected and shaped appropriately (AF1 L5 b1 and AF1 L5 b2)

#### Assessment summary

In this short narrative poem, Farida imaginatively reinterprets a candle flame flickering as a dance between a man and a woman (AF1). Relevant parallels drawn between a dancer and her partner, and a candle flame and wick, are thoughtfully shaped. The poem is well structured overall (AF3), with each verse dealing with a different 'episode' (AF4).

The personification of the candle flame and the wick is enhanced by carefully selected word choices: for example, 'Flaming hair' links her hair colour to the candle. There are also examples of powerful language such as 'exhausted and bent' which as well as describing how the man/wick appear, also describes their feelings (AF7).

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There is a clear purpose to the poem and the writing style (AF2) is appropriate and consistently maintained, keeping the reader's interest throughout.

Variation in sentence and word order (AF5) gives particular emphases while punctuation (AF6), including the use of commas to mark clauses and clarify ideas, is accurate throughout the text.

In this piece Farida is fulfilling the criteria securely at level 5 across the AFs.

#### Overall assessment summary for Farida

In this collection, Farida shows evidence of progression between the earlier and the later pieces. In 'Planning a piece of biographical writing' and 'Too much TV causing weighty children', the criteria for level 4 are securely fulfilled with some evidence of level 5, particularly in AF1 and AF2. 'How the ear works' is largely dependent on given content but is clearly and effectively written for the purpose of explanation.

In the article, story and poem, there is a sense in which Farida is beginning to emerge as an independent writer, capable of moving beyond the given structures and developing an individual voice. Although there are some limitations to the range of evidence, Farida demonstrates that she can manipulate a number of different forms effectively, in a way that is appropriate to reader and purpose (AF2). Ideas are developed and a distinctive viewpoint is apparent (AF2). She uses paragraphs to structure her writing and is able to manage whole texts, with endings being appropriately linked to the opening (AF3).

Within paragraphs a range of cohesive devices is used appropriate to the particular text type (AF4). Sentence structures are varied (AF5), with a range of punctuation used accurately and effectively across the evidence.

The ability to create and sustain an individual voice (AF1), supported by a wide vocabulary (AF7), is a particular strength, and further progression might involve evidence that Farida can demonstrate this strength across a wider range of text types in different curriculum areas.

Overall her writing was judged to be secure level 5.

Wri	ting assessment	guidelines: levels	4 and 5					mary 💮
Pupil name TARIDA			Class / Group	1/6	Date	– Nati	ional Strategy OCA	
	AF5 - vary sentences for clarity, purpose and effect	AF6 - write with technical accuracy of syntax and punctuation in phrases, clauses and sentences	AF3 - organise and present whole texts effectively, sequencing and structuring information, ideas and events	AF4 - construct paragraphs and use cohesion within and between paragraphs	AF1 - write imaginative, interesting and thoughtful texts	AF2 - produce texts which are appropriate to task, reader and purpose	AF7 - select appropriate and effective vocabulary	AF8 - use correct spelling
Level 5	Across a range of writing  a variety of sentence lengths, structures and subjects provides clarity and emphasis  wider range of connectives used to clarify relationship between ideas, eg although, on the other hand, meanwhile  some features of sentence structure used to build up detail or convey shades of meaning, eg variation in word order, expansions in verb	Across a range of writing  I full range of punctuation used accurately to demarcate sentences, including speech punctuation within the sentence generally accurate including commas to mark clauses, though some errors occur where ambitious structures are attempted	Across a range of writing  material is structured clearly, with sentences organised into appropriate paragraphs  development of material is effectively managed across text, eg closings refer back to openings  overall direction of the text supported by clear links between paragraphs	Across a range of writing  paragraphs clearly structure main ideas across text to support purpose, eg clear chronological or logical links between paragraphs  within paragraphs / sections, a range of devices support cohesion, eg secure use of pronouns, connectives, references back to text  links between paragraphs / sections generally maintained across whole text	Across a range of writing  = relevant ideas and material developed with some imaginative detail  = development of ideas and material appropriately shaped for selected form, eg nominalization for succinctness  = clear viewpoint established, generally consistent, with some elaboration, eg some, uneven, development of individual voice or characterisation in role	Across a range of writing  main purpose of writing is clear and consistently maintained  features of selected form clearly established with some adaptation to purpose  appropriate style clearly established to maintain reader's interest throughout	Across a range of writing  vocabulary chosen for effect reasonably wide vocabulary used, though not always appropriately	Across a range of writing  correct spelling of grammatical function words almost all inflected words most derivational suffixes and prefixes most content/lexical words  likely errors occasional phonetically plausible spelling of unstressed syllables in content words duble consonants in prefixes
	phrases							
Level 4	Across a range of writing  some variety in length, structure or subject of sentences  use of some subordinating connectives, eg if, when, because throughout the text  some variation, generally accurate, in tense and verb forms	Across a range of writing  sentences demarcated accurately throughout the text, including question marks  speech marks to denote speech generally accurate, with some other speech punctuation  commas used in lists and occasionally to mark clauses, although not always accurately	Across a range of writing  ideas organised by clustering related points or by time sequence  ideas are organised simply with a fitting opening and closing, sometimes linked  ideas or material generally in logical sequence but overall direction of writing not always clearly signalled	Across a range of writing  paragraphs / sections help to organise content, eg main idea usually supported or elaborated by following sentences  within paragraphs / sections, limited range of connections between sentences, eg over-use of also or pronouns  some attempts to establish simple links between paragraphs / sections not always maintained, eg firstly, next	Across a range of writing  relevant ideas and content chosen some ideas and material developed in detail, eg descriptions elaborated by adverbial and expanded noun phrases straightforward viewpoint generally established and maintained, eg writing in role or maintaining a consistent stance	Across a range of writing  main purpose of writing is clear but not always consistently maintained  main features of selected form are clear and appropriate to purpose  style generally appropriate to task, though awareness of reader not always sustained	Across a range of writing  some evidence of deliberate vocabulary choices  some expansion of general vocabulary to match topic	Across a range of writing  correct spelling of most common grammatical function words, including adverbs with -ly formation regularly formed content/lexical words, including those with multiple morphemes most past and present tense inflections, plurals  likely errors homophones of some common grammatical function words cocasional phonetically plausible spelling in content/lexical words
BL								
IE								
Over	rall assessment (tick one	box only)	Low 4 S	ecure 4	High 4	Low 5	Secure 5	High 5