



**Teamwork**  
**~ An Adaptation of the PSLE 2018 English Paper**

The following is the essay questions from the 2018 PSLE English Paper 1, according to feedback from several of our students and other sources.

Write a composition of at least 150 words about **teamwork**.

The pictures are provided to help you think about the topic.  
Your composition should be based on one or more of these pictures.

Consider the following points when you plan your composition.

- What was the teamwork?
- Why was teamwork required?
- What happened in the end?

You may use the points in any order and include other relevant points as well.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

The topic was expected and the pictures were equally relatable. After all, all students need to do is to choose at least one picture and tell a story about how it relates to teamwork. However, merely doing so will give students an average grade. Delving deeper and handling the essay with a better perspective is what differentiates average students from the *crème de la crème*.

The trick to rise above the competition is to do one or more of the following:

1. use more than one picture;
2. indicate the relationship between the picture(s) and the topic clearly and concisely;
3. use an interesting genre: as students are not penalised on text types, this means that they can attempt an essay with one of, or a combination of, the following:



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- by telling a story (narrative);
- by giving their own take on a collaborated teamwork episode they have experienced before (personal recount);
- by describing the event in detail with relevant responses (descriptive); or
- by discussing how the three pictures highlight the theme (expository).

On the one hand, schools tend to play the safe card for a major exam such as the PSLE. Hence, students are generally encouraged to write a narrative essay in the PSLE. The competition heats up with this approach, since the way to break the 35-mark barrier would be to:

1. have a different but interesting plot eg. including a plot twist
2. use excellent scene and character descriptors
3. showcase a personal voice with elegant expression
4. have a flawless GSP

On the other hand, students should be equipped to approach the PSLE essay. At Creative Campus, while we prepare the students on how to approach the topic differently, we also harness their personal voice to develop a plot that is unique to them. The focus on techniques, rather than staid model essays, will gear them to attempt *any* topic with ease, and in the process, stand out from their peers.

On the first week of 2019, students at Creative Campus were taught how to handle the PSLE 2018 question effectively. Have a look at a sample of what the students went through in class on the following pages.

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**Content Derivation**

For each picture, brainstorm the various ideas and points derived by using the Interrogatives [who, what, when, where, why, how]

Expository	Narrative
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the interrogatives to derive a key prompt;</li> <li>• then derive your Point, Evidence and Examples [PEE] for each point.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the interrogatives to work out the details of your plot.</li> <li>• Remember to relate your story back to the topic.</li> </ul>

Picture 1: A trophy

Expository	Narrative
<p><b>Key Prompt: what, why?</b></p> <p><b>Point</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> </ul> <p><b>Elaboration</b>            When people work together to achieve a goal, they can reap the benefits of their hard work in the end.</p> <p><b>Example</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____            _____            _____</li> <li>• _____            _____            _____</li> </ul>	<p><b>What was the trophy for? Who gave it?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WHO: The school principal</li> <li>• WHAT: Soccer competition /school tournament</li> </ul> <p><b>Why was it given?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____            _____</li> <li>• _____            _____</li> </ul> <p><b>What happened in the end?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The captain received the trophy on behalf of the team/players.</li> <li>• Was congratulated and the other teams and spectators clapped.</li> <li>• Feelings of joy and satisfaction of our achievement.</li> </ul> <p><b>Consider an alternative point of view!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have the narrator plan a surprise celebration for the team after the ceremony for their achievement.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Detail the narrator's train of thought - what surprise was at the party? was it decorated with soccer items? Who were the people attending?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



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Picture 2: People cooking around a pot

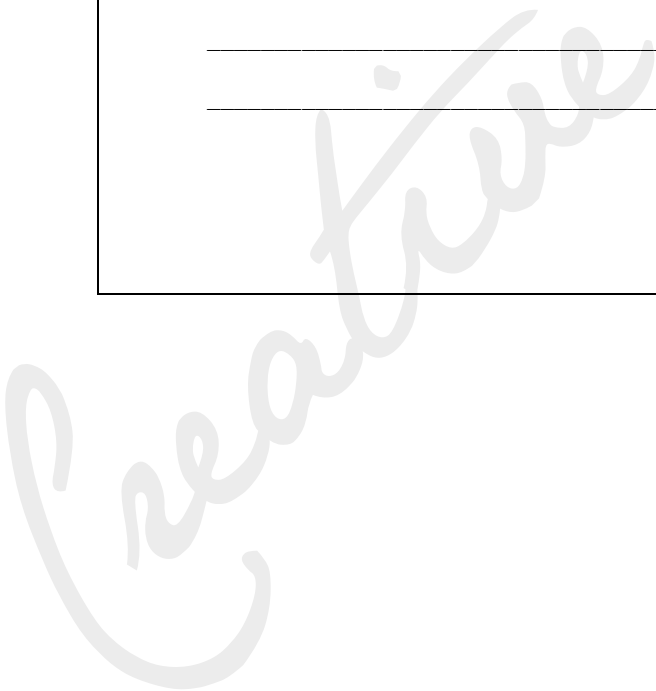
Expository	Narrative
<p><b>Key Prompt: what, why?</b></p> <p><b>Point</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____ _____</li> </ul> <p><b>Elaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Without trust, a group will never become a team.</li> <li>• Co-workers have help each so that everyone will pull their own weight</li> </ul> <p><b>Example</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____ _____ _____</li> </ul>	<p><b>What was the teamwork?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____ _____</li> <li>• _____ _____</li> <li>• _____ _____</li> </ul> <p><b>How was teamwork achieved?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overcame tasks by dividing the workload up into sections.</li> <li>• Each person is important to the success of the operation to his or her role.</li> </ul> <p><b>What happened in the end?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoyed the fruits of our labour</li> <li>• Appreciative staff and residents at home/ orphanage</li> <li>• Learnt that teamwork is needed to make things work.</li> </ul>

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Picture 3: Three children crowded around a computer

<b>Expository</b>	<b>Narrative</b>
<p><b>Key Prompt: what, why?</b></p> <p><b>Point</b>                      Teamwork often includes the use of technology.</p> <p><b>Elaboration</b>                      In the process, technology can help to elevate the projects to a higher level.</p> <p><b>Example</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____                      _____</li> <li>• _____                      _____                      _____</li> <li>• _____                      _____                      _____                      _____</li> </ul>	<p><b>Where was the computer located?</b>  <b>What was it used for?</b>  <b>Where:</b> School premises  <b>What:</b> Classroom learning/ school project</p> <p><b>What was the teamwork?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____                      _____</li> <li>• _____                      _____                      _____</li> <li>• _____                      _____                      _____</li> <li>• _____                      _____                      _____</li> </ul> <p><b>What happened in the end?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each student can benefit on a personal level from teamwork.</li> <li>• Can feel like a valued part of the group and contribute to projects by sharing ideas.</li> <li>• Build confidence and self-esteem.</li> </ul>





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**Writing Assignment 1: Handling the Expository Essay**

(1) Using the 'key ideas' above, PLAN YOUR POA (Points of Arguments) to your expository essay.

**Point 1**

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**Point 2**

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**Point 3**

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(2) Phrase your thesis statement. This should state the main theme of your essay OR the direction which your essay will be taking.

**Sample thesis:**

(3) Now write a body paragraph, developing ONE POA with Examples and Explanations. Thus, the structure of each body paragraph.

<b>Point</b>
<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Examples</b>



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Editing Exercise (10 marks)

Fill in the box with the correct word.

It was the (1) **night** of the event. Our teacher, Mr Giggles, had written our names on a (2) **pieces** of paper, then picked each one out of a bowl. It was for the event that was to begin at lunchtime today, one hour from now. We were all very (3) **exciting** and a little nervous at the same time.

Time passed quickly until finally, lunch was (4) **above** us. We walked out of the classroom toward the field where the event was to be (5) **hold**. We looked over and saw that there were balls, hoops, bean bags and ribbons (6) **laying** on the ground with colours of blue, red, green and yellow, the same colours as our teams.

Mr Giggles said, "Are you ready?" and we all (7) **reply** with a resounding "Yes!" "Then on your marks, get set, go!"

We ran over and picked up the ball, ribbon, hoop and bean bag, before running to the other end of the field, where the (8) **finished** line was. It was quite far and our team was second at the halfway point. I shouted, "Come on, faster." However, it was all in (9) **vein** as Stewart had fallen down. Instead of carrying on, our team stopped to help him (10) **down**, but he could only manage a walking pace as he had badly injured his knee. It did not matter if we had won or lost; he was our teammate.

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

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**A Gentle Reminder: Edit your Essay**

When writing your story, pay attention to:

- phrasing your ideas grammatically. Check:
  - tenses
  - subject-verb agreement
  - prepositions
  - punctuation
  - spelling
- phrasing your ideas clearly
  - using accurate vocabulary
  - using accurate expressions

Check and edit your composition before submission.

- Content and Plot--any gaps or lapses in logic?
- Conclusion--is it thoroughly constructed?
- GSP [grammar, spelling, punctuation] accuracies

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