Assessment Literacy Series:
Effective Use of the Learning Progression
Framework to Enhance English Language
Learning, Teaching and Assessment in
Writing at Primary Level

March 2018

English Language Education Section
Curriculum Development Institute
Education Bureau

## **Rundown of Today's Programme**

2:00 – 2:05 PM	Registration
2:05 – 2:35 PM	Part 1 - Introduction of the Learning Progression Framework (LPF)
2:35 – 3:20 PM	Part 2 - How to use the LPF as a reference tool to to give constructive feedback and improve the school-based writing plan at primary level
3:20 - 3:35 PM	Break
3:35 – 4:05 PM	Part 3 - Suggestions on designing appropriate writing tasks and connecting students' reading and writing experiences
4:05 – 4:50 PM	Part 4 – Hands-on activities on designing/revising writing tasks to improve students' writing skills
4:50 – 5:00 PM	Q & A

## Objectives:

- To introduce the Learning Progression Framework (LPF) for English Language as a reference tool to give constructive feedback and improve the school-based writing plan at primary level;
- To provide suggestions for teachers to improve students' writing skills by designing appropriate writing tasks and connecting students' reading and writing experiences; and
- To inspire teachers with hands-on activities on designing/revising writing tasks to improve students' writing skills, e.g. giving appropriate scaffolding

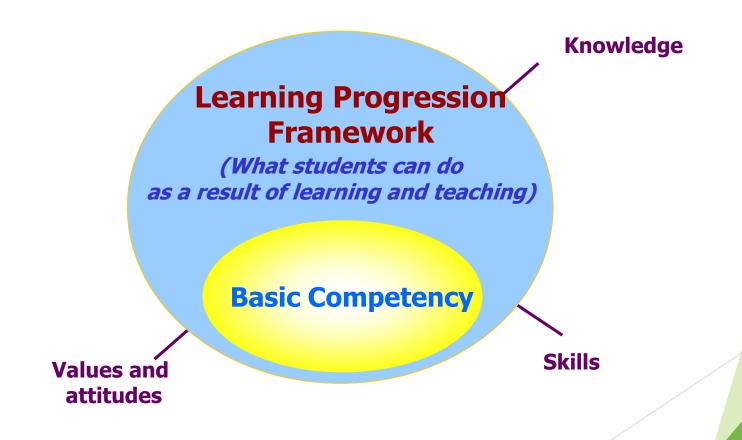
## Part 1

Introduction of the Learning Progression Framework (LPF)

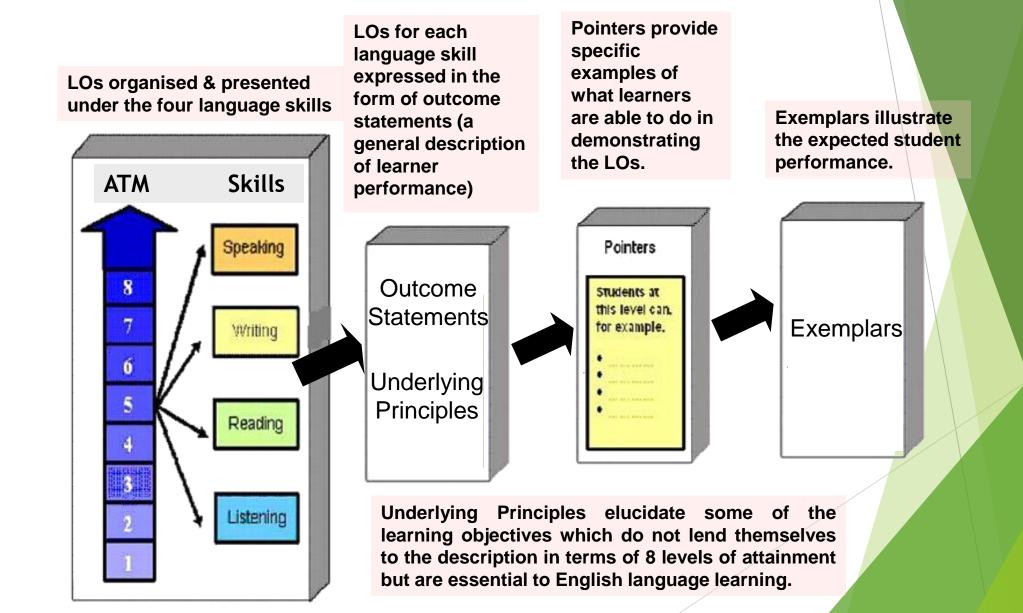
## The Learning Progression Framework for English Language (LPF)

- represents the growth of learners on a developmental continuum as they work towards the Learning Targets and Objectives of the English Language curriculum;
- is made up of Learning Outcomes organised under the four language skills and divided into eight levels of attainment;
- helps teachers better understand and articulate learners' performance; and
- helps teachers plan strategically how to enhance English Language learning, teaching and assessment.

## Relationship between the Curriculum Framework, LPF and BC



#### **Structure of the LPF for English Language**



## Activity 1

In groups, work on the partly completed tables of the LPF for Writing by inserting

- the Learning Outcomes (LOs) in Table 1; and
- the pointers in the appropriate columns in Table 2;

so that they form a developmental continuum of eight Attainment Milestones.

## Part 2

How to use the LPF as a reference tool to to give constructive feedback and improve the school-based writing plan at primary level

## Use of the LPF – Setting Learning Objectives for Writing

#### LPF for Writing





Identifying students'
strengths &
weaknesses
(analysing internal
assessment papers,
TSA data)

- Setting learning objectives
- Giving constructive feedback

## **Activity 2**

- 1. In groups, study the two compositions and collect evidence of student learning with reference to LPF pointers, i.e. strengths and weaknesses of their performance.
- 2. Give comments to the students in the following 3 areas:

Content, Organisation, Language & Style.

Text 1

of a year

Chinese New Year Chinese New Year is in  $\frac{1}{2}$ . they is in spring. this meanings is to celebrate the beginning

The Special food items: red melon seeds, rice dumplings... The people will get lucky money, watch fireworks and visit friends.

In Chinese New Year, I feel happy because I have a lot of lucky money. I want to don't go to visit friends because it is broke.

Text 2

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year was on 16<sup>th</sup> February in 2018. It is in spring. Chinese New Year is a festival to celebrate the beginning of the Lunar New Year.

Chinese New Year has a lot of special food. We can eat tangerines, lotus seeds, red melon seeds and so on. It has a lot of special activities too. We can play dragon and lion dances, watch fireworks display, visit our relatives, have lucky money and so on.

I like Chinese New Year. It is because I can get a lot of lucky money. We can have some new things to do. We can watch fireworks with my brother and sister, have New Year's Eve Dinner with family too.

## Observations - strengths

Content (ATM 2)

You made good attempt to explain the meaning of Chinese New Year! You can also express your feelings about the festival. You can also write more about what you do in the new year.

Language and Style (ATM 2) You can use some simple vocabulary related to Chinese New Year and use some simple adjectives to describe your feelings. The use of punctuation marks is good too!

> Organisation (ATM 2) It's good to put different ideas in three paragraphs.

Making use of the LPF to give comments to students

Text 1

Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is in  $\frac{1}{2}$ . they is in spring. this meanings is to celebrate the beginning of a year

The Special food items: red melon seeds, rice dumplings... The people will get lucky money, watch fireworks and visit friends.

In Chinese New Year, I feel happy because I have a lot of lucky money. I want to don't go to visit friends because it is broke.

Sometimes, verbal comments would be easier for students to understand!

### Observations - weaknesses

Making use of the LPF to give comments to students

To improve your writing, you can write a few more sentences about Chinese New Year in the first paragraph, e.g. When is it? Who like the festival?

Write more about the food we eat in Chinese New Year and try to explain why. Chinese New Year

Chinese New Year is in ½. they is in spring. this meanings is to celebrate the beginning of a year

The Special food items: red melon seeds, rice dumplings... The people will get lucky money, watch fireworks and visit friends.

In Chinese New Year, I feel happy because I have a lot of lucky money. I want to don't go to visit friends because it is broke.

Think about "they is". Do you mean "It is"?

Begin the sentence like this: "People eat special food in Chinese New Year, such as..."

We do not use the simple future tense to write about activities we usually do.

Check the spelling carefully for the last word. Do you mean "boring"?

## Observations - strengths

#### Content (ATM4)

I like reading your work! Your writing can give some information and good examples about Chinese New Year. You can also express your feelings about the festival.

Text 2

#### Language and Style (ATM4)

I can see that you use the simple present tense and past tense quite accurately. There is also a good choice of vocabulary that are related to Chinese New Year. You can also use modal verb 'can' correctly. Keep up the effort!!

#### Organisation (ATM4)

The organsiation is very clear to me! I can see that you write your ideas in three paragraphs, including an introduction, a detailed description about the festival in the second paragraph and explain why you like the festival in the last paragraph. You also use a topic sentence to start each paragraph and use connectives to link your ideas.

## Making use of the LPF to give comments to students

#### Chinese New Year

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Sometimes, verbal comments would be easier for students to understand!

### Observations - weaknesses

To improve your writing, you can describe the taste of your favourite food, e.g. I like eating tangerines. They are sweet and juicy.

Think about the use of "so on". Don't overuse the expression.

## Making use of the LPF to give comments to students

#### Chinese New Year

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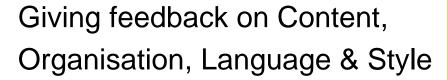
## Use of the LPF – Giving quality and constructive feedback

#### LPF for Writing





Identifying students' strengths & weaknesses (analysing students' writing)



- Select typical writing/group work
- > Start with positive comments
- Make suggestions that are level appropriate to students
- Share with the whole class or give feedback to individual students through conferencing

## **Activity 3**

In groups,

- 1. study the writing plans of two schools; and
- 2. comment on the strengths and weaknesses of the plans.

Identifying the Key Components of a Writing Programme with Reference to the LPF



### Designing a school-based writing programme

Lack of Motivation

Designing meaningful writing tasks

#### **Underlying Principles**

- 1. Language development strategies, generic skills, and positive values and attitudes are essential to English Language learning and should form an integral part of the learning-teaching-assessment cycle.
- 2. The meaningfulness and appropriateness of the written texts to the context, purpose and audience are implicit in and apply across all the learning outcomes.

## Making use of the LPF to enhance students' writing skills

Incoherent unit plan

Reflecting on current teaching practice

Providing support in the L&T process

#### **Underlying Principles**

- 3. The development of writing strategies does not readily lend itself to descriptions in all of the eight levels of learning outcomes, e.g.,
  - generating ideas by brainstorming or seeking and selecting information and ideas from different sources
  - revising drafts by adding, deleting, substituting or linking ideas
  - editing drafts by correcting errors in language
  - reflecting on own writing based on feedback from teachers or peers
- 4. Teacher support is essential to helping learners express and organise their ideas during the learning and teaching process. As learners progress, the amount of support provided could be gradually reduced to promote learner independence.

## Designing a school-based writing programme (Content)

Lack of ideas

Raising awareness of

Using graphic organisers to expand/elaborate ideas

text type features

Connecting students' reading and writing experiences

#### Pointers from ATM 3 – 5

- 1. Write and reply to short and simple letters to share personal experiences
- 2. Write short and simple descriptions of objects, people, places and events
- 3. Write short and simple stories
- Write and reply to simple letters to share personal experiences
- 5. Write simple descriptions of objects, people, places and events with some details
- 6. Write some formal letters to make simple requests and enquiries
- 7. Write a range of simple texts to describe, recount, record, explain and propose with some supporting details
- 8. Write stories with a setting, a simple plot and simple characterisation

## Designing a school-based writing programme (Language and Style)

Poor Language

Insufficient vocabulary

Inconsistent use of tenses

#### Pointers from ATM 3 – 5

- Use a small range of vocabulary on familiar topics, with most words correctly spelt and some word collocations correct
- Use a range of adjectives/adjective phrases to describe and compare with some consistency
- 3. Use a small range of adverbs/adverbial clauses for some communicative functions with some consistency
- 4. Use a range of tenses and the passive voice with some consistency
- 5. Use modals for some communicative functions with consistency
- stylistic features (e.g. using dialogues in stories to create interest, use headings and sub-headings to clarify presentation) to support the purpose of text

## Designing a school-based writing programme (Organisation)



#### Pointers from ATM 3 - 5

- 1. Establish links using some simple cohesive devices with some consistency
- 2. Arrange ideas in a short text using simple and limited means (e.g. sequencing events chronologically) to show a generally clear focus
- 3. Arrange ideas in a short text using simple means (e.g. providing illustrations or explanations) to show a generally clear focus
- Structure the text using paragraphs, including a brief introductory and/or concluding statement
- 5. Establish links within some paragraphs using a range of cohesive devices with some consistency
- 6. Arrange ideas in some paragraphs using different means (e.g. using topic sentences) to show a generally clear focus
- 7. Structure the text using paragraphs

## Part 3

Suggestions on designing appropriate writing tasks and connecting students' reading and writing experiences

Journal writing

Process writing

How to improve students' writing skills?

Connecting R&W experiences

Writing tools

## Connecting reading and writing experiences

Book: How to be a Sports star

### Content ATM 3.2

Write short and simple descriptions of food items

## Language & style ATM 3.1

Use a small range of simple vocabulary on familiar topics, with some consistency in spelling and word allocation

menu

letter

### Content ATM 3.1

Write and reply to short and simple letters to share personal experiences

### Language & style ATM 3.2

Use a small range of adjectives to describe events and feelings with some consistency

## Connect reading and writing skills:

- Relating to students' own experience
- Applying the language and ideas in a new context

Content
ATM 3.2
Write short and

simple descriptions of people and jobs

## Language & style ATM 3.5

Use modals for some communicative functions with some consistency

### Language & style ATM 3.6

Use appropriate salutation and closing in simple letters

### Organisation ATM 3.1

Establish links using some simple cohesive devices with some consistency

### Organisation ATM 3.2

Arrange ideas in a short text using simple and limited means (e.g. point-form) to show a generally clear focus

poster





Prior knowledge
 Main ideas of the

Main ideas of the book

• Qualities of an athlete

Text type features of a poster

Lessons 1-2

### Lessons 3-4

- Take part in competitions to achieve goals
- Key features of a profile

• Efforts made to become a sports star

 Be healthy both mentally and physically letter

menu

Lessons 5-6

 Qualities of different jobs

Design a poster to introduce an ideal job

poster

Lessons 7-8

## Miniprojects

- Complete the "Follow your dream" handbook
- Choose to work on the areas they are interested in

Journal writing

Process writing

How to improve students' writing skills?

Connecting R&W experiences

Writing tools

# Journal writing Aims

#### Content (ATM 4)

 Writing short texts to convey simple information, ideas, personal experiences and opinions on familiar topics with some elaboration

Language & style (ATM 4)

- Use a small range of language forms and functions
- Showing an awareness of tone, style, register and features of some text type

Organisation (ATM 4)

- Linking ideas quite coherently
- Showing an awareness of overall organisation of ideas



Journal writing

Process writing

How to improve students' writing skills?

Connecting R&W experiences

Writing tools

### Providing opportunities for students to write creatively and critically

#### Some principles:

- 1. Go beyond the given information
- 2. Allow time to think
- 3. Strengthen creative abilities, e.g.
  - look at a situation from several perspectives
  - break away from traditional patterns of thought
  - teach creative thinking techniques

Nurturing Pupils' Creative Thinking in the Upper Primary English Classroom

http://www.edb.gov.hk/creativethinking\_pri

		Learning and Teaching Activities					
Creative Thinking Tools	Pages	1 Turning over a New Leaf	2 Food Packaging	3 Favourite Festivals	4 We Love Cheung Chau	5 An Unfair Game	6 A New Fairy Tale
	2.1		2.4	2.5	2.6		
1.1 Brainstorming  Thinking more by building on prior knowledge and experience	2		*		*	*	
1.2 Mind Mapping  Concentrating the mind by providing sub-topics	4		*				
1.3 Morphological Matrix  Combining ideas to explore possibilities	5			*			*
1.4 S.C.A.M.P.E.R. Techniques  Thinking outside the box	7	*	*	*	*		
1.5 Value Grid  Evaluating the pros and cons of ideas	9				*		
1.6 R.A.F.T. Strategy Thinking from a new angle	11				*	*	*

## Applying creative thinking tool – RAFT to design a creative writing task

What writing task should I design to promote creative writing?

Role	Audience	Format	Topic
Spectators of the Bun-scrambling Competition	Friends not in HK	email	Fun day in Cheung Chau
Mr Bun	Visitors joining the Bun Festival/ Other Ping An Buns	Auto- biography	"I'm a Special Bun!"
An American tourist	Other Americans	letter	Interesting Chinese culture
Mr Bun	Other buns	Invitation cards	Join the Bun- scrambling Competition

Students have their own journal writing book for their writing. Students are asked to design a cover to let them have a stronger sense of ownership and encourage them to be creative and enjoy the process of writing.

Monthly writing prompts are given to keep students inspired. Topics may include daily recount, diary writing, story writing, giving advice, adventure, imaginative writing, opinion writing, etc.

#### **Assessment rubrics**

Teachers write comments to students instead of marking every single line of their work.

			Student's	Name:		
Assessment Rubrics for Writing						
	0000	000	00	<b>©</b>		
Ideas	<ul> <li>□ Stays on topic throughout the paper</li> <li>□ Elaboration contains interesting word choices for specific examples and descriptions</li> <li>□ Content is very creative/ good</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>☐ Mostly stays on topic</li> <li>☐ Some elaboration, although word choices are not specific</li> <li>☐ Content is logical/ reasonable/ quite interesting</li> </ul>	☐ Tends to digress and write  off topic ☐ Little attempt at elaboration ☐ Content is plain	☐ Does not stay on topic ☐ Does not elaborate ☐ Content is very plain with not enough ideas		
Organisation	<ul> <li>□ Writing is well-organised with a beginning, middle, ending</li> <li>□ Writing shows an obvious structure</li> <li>□ Provide an impressive ending/ concluding remark</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>□ Writing shows some organisation with a beginning, middle, ending</li> <li>□ Some attempt at structuring the writing</li> <li>□ Provide an appropriate ending/concluding remark</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>□ Writing is not well organised and is missing a beginning or ending</li> <li>□ Little attempt to structure writing</li> <li>□ Provide a simple ending</li> </ul>	□ No evidence of organisation □ No structure to writing □ Lack of a proper ending		
Language	□ Words have been carefully chosen and specific □ Sentences show variety and fluency □ All sentences are complete □ Uses proper punctuation and capitalisation □ All "key" words are spelled correctly	<ul> <li>□ Words were chosen for the topic</li> <li>□ Some evidence of sentence variety</li> <li>□ Most sentences are complete</li> <li>□ Most of the time uses correct punctuation and most words capitalised correctly</li> <li>□ Most "key" words are spelled correctly</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>□ Words are general and not well thought out</li> <li>□ Little evidence of sentence variety</li> <li>□ Some sentences are complete</li> <li>□ Sometimes uses punctuation and inconsistent use of capitalisation</li> <li>□ Some "key" words are spelled correctly</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>□ Words are not specific</li> <li>□ No variety of sentences.</li> <li>Some are vague or awkward.</li> <li>□ Sentences are incomplete</li> <li>□ No attempt at punctuation and capitalisation</li> <li>□ Lots of spelling errors</li> </ul>		

## Part 4

Hands-on activities on designing/revising writing tasks to improve students' writing skills

Please refer to the activity sheet

## **Activity 4**

In your group, please discuss the following:

1. Choose one of the textbook units

2. Study the design and predict the challenges students may encounter with reference to LPF

3. Suggest learning activities and/or revise the writing task to scaffold students' writing abilities and connect their learning experiences

Option 1: Wonderful seasons and weather (KS1)

Option 2: The power of nature (KS2)

Ways to improve students' writing skills at P2 Task: Writing a reply to a friend's letter

How can I help students to progress?

Content ATM 2
Writing short texts to convey simple but limited information, ideas and personal experiences on familiar topics

Organisation ATM 2
Putting ideas about a topic in sentences

Language and style ATM 2
Using some simple language
forms and functions, and
simple formats quite
appropriately

Ways to improve students' writing skills at P2

Task: Writing a reply to a friend's letter

Pre-writing - Highlighting keywords and text type features

What to include in the reply letter

My favourite season

My favourite festival

Teach text type features explicitly

The date

Who are you writing to?

Send your greetings.

The body of the letter

End the letter.

Sign your name.

Ways to improve students' writing skills at P2 Task: Writing a reply to a friend's letter

Pre-writing - Drawing a mind map / revisiting the language learnt



Ways to improve students' writing skills at P2

Task: Writing a reply to a friend's letter

Pre-writing - Drawing a mind map and revisiting the language learnt

Mind map My favourite festival (paragraph 3) Why do you like it? What do you like doing at that time?

Ways to improve students' writing skills at P2

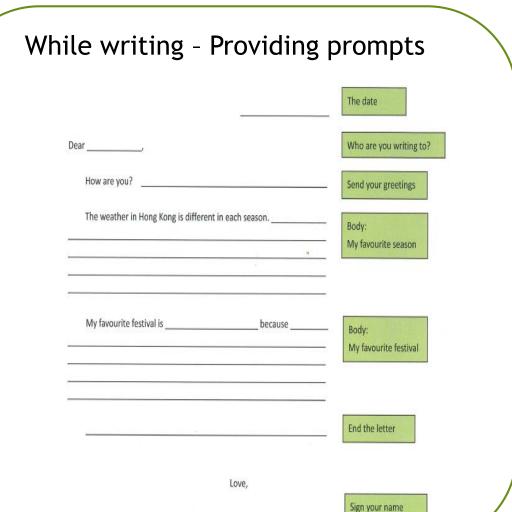
Task: Writing a reply to a friend's letter

Pre-writing - Sharing the task-specific success criteria with students

Key Points		No. of Stars
1.	Features of a letter	
2.	Using formulaic expressions to send greetings/end a letter	
3.	Using simple vocabulary to express describe favourite season/festival	
4.	Using the simple present tense to write about facts	

Ways to improve students' writing skills at P2

Task: Writing a reply to a friend's letter



Post-writing - Conducting peer/ self assessment

Key Points		No. of Stars
1.	Features of a letter	合合合
2.	Using formulaic expressions to send greetings/end a letter	$\triangle \triangle \triangle$
3.	Using simple vocabulary to express describe favourite season/festival	合合合
4.	Using the simple present tense to write about facts	合合合

Vocabulary items about natural disasters, e.g. earthquake, drought, flood

A recount about a tsunami that happened in Thailand in 2004

Writing task:
A blog entry about an accident



Revised as:

A blog entry about a typhoon that happened in HK

Content ATM 4

- Writing short and simple letters/articles to share personal experiences
- Writing simple descriptions of objects, people, places and events with some details

#### Gaps identified:

- Vocabulary items for students to describe natural disasters, e.g. typhoon in HK, are not provided.
- The events are not familiar to students and students may not be able to transfer the descriptions to the situation in HK.
- The writing task which requires students to write about an accident is different from the topic of natural disasters.

A blog entry about droughts in Africa

Pre-writing task 1: Vocabulary and idea development using pictures

Matching pictures with descriptions to enrich students with more
vocabulary and expressions to describe typhoons in Hong Kong

Severe Typhoon Hato whipped up tsunami-like waves in Hong Kong, with waves up to 3.5 meters high.

A powerful typhoon, Hato, battered Hong Kong in August 2017. The observatory issued Typhoon Signal no. 10. All transportations suspended for hours, including air, ground and sea.

What are the challenges?

### •••

#### Content ATM 4

- Writing short and simple letters/articles to share personal experiences
- Writing simple descriptions of objects, people, places and events with some details

The sea level of Tai O rose to 3.54 meters above lowest tide level and the water flooded the houses. So many people were homeless.

I live in Heng Fa Chuen. The heavy rain flooded the streets and a playground near my home. So I could not buy food from shops and had to stay at home.

Pre-writing task 2: Use the adjectives and sentence structures introduced to write short descriptions about Typhoon Hato, a typhoon signal no. 10 that happened in August 2017

Tsim Sha Tsui/power/blow down/ the scaffolding at a construction site

Hung Hom/monster/a gondola/smash windows of flats

the Victoria Harbour/terror/heavy rain and strong wind/

#### Language ATM 4

- Use a range of adjectives/ adjective phrases to describe and compare with consistency
- Use a small range of vocabulary on familiar topics, with most words correctly spelt and some word collocations correct

Heng Fa Chuen/disaster/destroy trees

#### Gaps identified:

- Although the structure of a blog is introduced, the sample writing is not a recount, and the events are not sequenced chronologically.

#### Organisation ATM 3

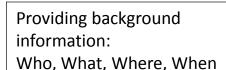
- Using some simple cohesive devices with some consistency
- Arrange ideas in a short text using simple or limited means (e.g. sequencing events chronologically) to show a generally clear focus

#### Organisation ATM 4

 Structure the text using paragraphs, including an introduction, body and/or conclusion

Pre-writing:

In groups, organise the ideas using graphic organisers and sequence the events (Based on Task – Model)



Writing about the accident

What was the most unforgettable

Conclusion/ending: my feeling, lesson learnt



I've been away on a trip. Something unforgettable happened on the third day when I went skiing in Japan.

#### Organisation ATM 3

 Arrange ideas in a short text using simple or limited means (e.g. sequencing events chronologically) to show a generally clear focus



I arrived at the skiing resort at 10 a.m. and I was excited to see that there was a lot of snow on the mountain! I skied for only two hours because the weather suddenly changed. The sky turned dark grey at around noon.

I had lunch in a restaurant at around 12:30 p.m. I looked out of the window while I was having a cup of coffee. I could only see two skiers. Suddenly, I heard a loud noise and saw layers of snow tumbling down. Then the two skiers disappeared under the snow.

4.

I quickly phoned the rescue service and told them about the accident. Five minutes later, the rescuers arrived and saved the two skiers. I think I did something very important that day.

#### Organisation ATM 4

 Structure the text using paragraphs, including an introduction, body and/or conclusion

#### While-writing:

A Blog entry about a typhoon



Providing background information

(Who, What, Where, When)



Writing about the accident

Shared writing:

➤ With reference to Pre-tasks 1 & 2, students can provide a general description about the typhoon (Paragraph 1) and its influence to our lives (Paragraph 2).



What was the most unforgettable

Conclusion:
my feeling,
lesson learnt

Individual writing:

- Writing about the special experience in Paragraph 3
- Giving a conclusion in Paragraph

Post-writing: Raise students' awareness on language accuracy/idea development using peer-assessment checklist

Key Points	No. of Stars
1. Including features of a blog, e.g. title, personal feelings, date and time.	☆☆☆
2. Using adjectives to express personal experiences	☆☆☆
3. Using a small range of vocabulary to describe the typhoon	合合合
4. Using the simple past tense to write about the typhoon	合合合
5. Arranging ideas and events chronologically	合合合
6. Writing the blog using paragraphs, including an introduction, body	

and/or conclusion

# Steps in Using the LPF to Enhance Students' Writing Skills

- 1. Provide opportunities to engage students in a range of tasks that cover a variety of purposes and text types in the school's writing programme.
- 2. Identify the **requirements** for each task in terms of the three domains in the LPF.
- 3. Develop a **task-specific feedback sheet** based on the task requirements.
- 4. Help students develop strategies to approach the writing tasks, e.g. highlighting keywords, drawing a mind map, structuring the text.
- 5. Ask students to complete the first draft independently. **OR** Help students develop the first draft through **appropriate teaching strategies**, e.g. shared writing, group writing.
- 6. Guide students to improve the first draft based on constructive feedback from teachers and/or peers.