**Stage 1 Essential English**

**Assessment Type 2 - Creating Texts**

**Task 1: Personal Recount**

**Aim:** Write a personal recount based on a memorable experience

**Task:**

1. Select a memorable experience from your life. You might use photos or talk with friends or family to help you.
2. Plan, write and revise the main features of the recount
	1. Start with an orientation- What? Where? When? How?
	2. What are the key events? Avoid irrelevant details.
	3. Try to focus on a few specific details to bring your story to life.
	4. Write in first person and past tense.

**Assessment Conditions:**

Maximum of 800 words or the equivalent in multimodal form

**Assessment Design Criteria**

**Communication**

The specific features are as follows:

C1 Clarity and coherence of written and spoken expression, using appropriate vocabulary.

C2 Demonstration of grammatical control.

**Comprehension**

The specific features are as follows:

Cp2 Understanding of the purpose, structure, and language features in texts.

**Application**

The specific features are as follows:

Ap1 Creation of texts for different purposes using appropriate textual conventions, in real or imagined contexts.

**Marvellous Munich**

We promised our boys snow.

More like an Adelaide winter, Munich was obscenely warm. We were frantic. With no snow forecast we travelled by rail and funicular to Zugspitze, home to three glaciers, and Germany’s highest mountain.

Outside our train window snow patches expand and multiply. Disembarking, and then climbing the stairs, we burst out onto a bright, white plateau. The summit’s vast, majestic, elemental. It’s life, our life, untainted and festive.

Having whispered to each other in that obvious, magical way as we soared skywards, our boys throw snow at us. We play along. Undentably excited, they slip on the ice like newborn giraffes. I swing between laughter and tears.

Next they jump above me on a platform while I take some photos. The westerly sun devours them in its halo, and across the azure emptiness I can see to Austria, Switzerland and Italy.

It’s Christmas and we’ve hauled our boys a long way from the burnt dirt of home. A long way from family and Nanny’s fruit mince pies and friends and Paul Kelly’s story telling as the Boxing Day Test wanders along like an unending Sunday. But this is our gift. This is, I hope, a noble investment in our boys.

We descend to the handsome mountain resort of Garmisch-Partenkirchen. There’s a cosy knot of stalls selling handicrafts, and Bratwurst the length of rope. A Christmas market! A man roasts chestnuts. Dogs scamper. The boys spring onto the small stage, and dance. I look over the thunderous, darkening valley. It’s a moment.

\*

Wirtshaus in der Au is a Bavarian restaurant famous for dumplings and jazz, and often hosts Dixieland outfit the Occam-Street Footwarmers, which formed in 1953.

We see servers in Lederhosen and smiling women conveying steins of lager in which a netted shark could drown. We eat roast pork and schnitzel and pork knuckle. Now dreamily helpless, we are upsold from ice cream to the monstrous Dessertbrettl.

A regal interval. Then, after a victorious tour of the restaurant, accompanied by sparklers and a clanging cowbell, the Dessertbrettl is carefully docked onto our table’s mothership as if in an indecent pudding version of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. Other diners clap our spectacular gluttony. I can almost hear Wagner. I imagine the waiters who sell these are rewarded with a trip to Majorca.

It is a wagon of lard. There’s ice cream, jellies, chocolates, a vanilla cream pot, mousse, token cubes of fruit, strudel, cakes, and much more. We drag most of this calorific beast home. Next millennium, an archeologist will dig up the carcass of our Dessertbrettl, and when no one is looking, eat it.

\*

Is anything better than falling snow? It’s too, too long since we last saw some a decade ago. Despite the joy of Zugspitze this is the first time for our boys. It cascades down, and bedspreads Munich and us. It’s bliss.

Our snowy pilgrimage is complete. It’s the perfect coda to our week in Germany.

Word count- 495

This text production is illustrative of an A grade.

**Comments:**

*C1 Clarity and coherence of written and spoken expression, using appropriate vocabulary.*

 Writing is fluent and mostly precise using appropriate style and structure.

Meaning within the text is sophisticated and is communicated in an economical way- “Disembarking, and then climbing the stairs, we burst out onto a bright, white plateau. The summit’s vast, majestic, elemental. It’s life, our life, untainted and festive.”

C2 Demonstration of grammatical control**.**

Sentences of varying lengths and structures are used- “It is a wagon of lard. There’s ice cream, jellies, chocolates, a vanilla cream pot, mousse, token cubes of fruit, strudel, cakes, and much more.”

Ap1 Creation of texts for different purposes using appropriate textual conventions, in real or imagined contexts.

 The title of the piece is appropriate in that it signals the celebratory themes explored throughout the recount.

 Text is sophisticated and coherent in the:

* + building of the recount around the setting and the metaphorical significance of snow for the family
	+ use of short sentences within an economical structure which displays a level of effective planning;
	+ use of longer, complex sentences to build detail in the setting and events- .”A long way from family and Nanny’s fruit mince pies and friends and Paul Kelly’s story telling as the Boxing Day Test wanders along like an unending Sunday.”

 Text uses textual, structural and conventional features of recount:

* + establishes the German setting as a place of wonder and excitement;
	+ effective use of the food motif to demonstrate the exotic and unique experiences
	+ use of hyperbole to display awe and wonder- “the Dessertbrettl is carefully docked onto our table’s mothership as if in an indecent pudding version of *2001: A Space Odyssey*. “
	+ The reader is positioned to share the writer’s sense of joy and excitement- “The westerly sun devours them in its halo, and across the azure emptiness I can see to Austria, Switzerland and Italy.”
	+ Rhetorical question engages the reader with the central theme- “Is anything better than falling snow?”
	+ Humour appropriate to the task is used- “Next millennium, an archeologist will dig up the carcass of our Dessertbrettl, and when no one is looking, eat it.” and “steins of lager in which a netted shark could drown.”
	+ The conclusion echoes the optimistic, euphoric tone of the recount- “Our snowy pilgrimage is complete. It’s the perfect coda to our week in Germany.”