

Narrative writing

Question 4

Script G

The sense of immediacy suggested in the given starter continues with the thoughts of the main character as this piece begins at a point where the narrative is well underway. The subject matter and action-packed style of this response could easily have become uncontrolled and unconvincing without clear planning of the constituent parts of the story. As it is, there are defined sections to the piece – the initial attempt to diffuse the explosive device, the gunfire, the explosion and the arrival of the helicopter at the end. The ambitious attempts to vary sentence structure for effect are not always successfully controlled. Punctuation suffers a little and there is insecure control of tense on occasion with the deliberate use of present for effect containing awkward slips here and there.

There is an awareness of audience throughout. Some use of cliché means perhaps opportunities for creativity and precision are missed in places. There is a conscious attempt to recreate a particular style of narrative here though with some deliberate crafting of sentences for effect, and dialogue used sparingly and with intent. Whilst events are dramatic, careful detail in the use of language demonstrates that the writer has considered how to tell the story and not just planned what happens. The careful correction from 'my legs' to 'my leg' is chilling in its simplicity and the recalled promise to his wife is a subtle piece of characterisation – cogent detail possibly less evident at the start of the piece. The uncertainty and suspense created at the end by reference to those 'unfamiliar voices' leaves the narrative at an interesting point for readers.

Effective style overall, though not always the careful choice or precision required for a higher band.

Band 5 content and structure

Band 5 style and accuracy