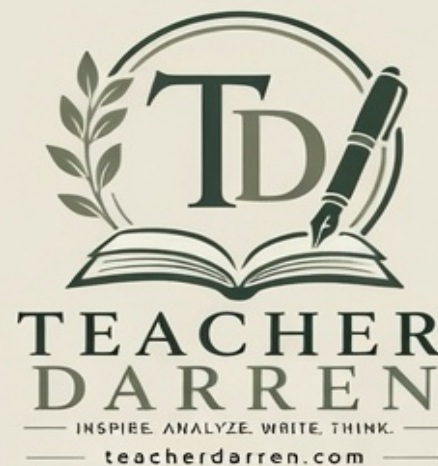




The Carter English Curriculum™

Reading • Writing • Thinking

Grade 9 – Cambridge IGCSE English Language (0500)



Summary Writing

Module 1: Finding the Focus

Summary Writing Module 1

Finding the Focus

Learning Objective

Students will identify the focus of a summary question and distinguish between relevant and irrelevant information.

What is a Summary?

A summary is a brief explanation of the most important ideas from a text.

A good summary:

- ✓ Includes only relevant information
- ✓ Focuses on the question being asked
- ✓ Uses concise language
- ✓ Leaves out unnecessary details
- ✓ Uses your own words where possible

A poor summary:

- ✗ Includes everything from the text
 - ✗ Drifts away from the focus
 - ✗ Copies large sections of the passage
 - ✗ Includes personal opinions
 - ✗ Repeats ideas
-

The Most Important Rule

Before you begin writing a summary, you must identify the focus of the question.

The focus tells you exactly what information to include and what information to ignore.

Consider the following question:

Question

According to Text B, what are the various attractions of cycle touring?

Your summary should not be more than 120 words.

Step 1: Identify the Focus

Circle the key word in the question.

According to Text B, what are the various attractions of cycle touring?

What does the word attractions mean?

The focus of this summary is:

Source Text

Text B: Is Cycle Touring Right for You?

Riding around the world seems like a romantic way to travel – just you, your bike, and the open road, tackling whatever comes your way. However true that is, there's a flip side to cycle touring: the dark, cold, wet side, where misery lurks.

Even sitting in your office beforehand, dreaming about getting out and seeing the world, that rough side can seem scary. Before I left home, I wasn't sure I'd last more than a couple of weeks on the road. I nearly didn't go.

Instead of looking forward to those cosy campsites in the middle of unspoilt forests, I pictured myself at the side of the highway in the rain, with a broken bike and no way to fix it. Rather than those perfect rest days spent lounging on quiet beaches, I imagined terrifying nights in the tent and bandits in the hills. Not realising I'd be talking about life, love, and politics with welcoming locals, I had worried about loneliness.

Perhaps, like me, you find it impossible to imagine that your regular old body, the one that struggles just walking up a steep hill, could handle riding the vast distances involved in a bike trip. Truth is, we discover that we're capable of so much more than we ever thought possible.

At the end of a long day, I was often tired, sore and dreading getting back on the bike the next morning. But after a night's sleep, I'd feel excited and ready to climb back in the saddle to see what the day would bring.

Before leaving on tour, I'd often wondered if cycle touring might turn out to be boring – all that pedalling. I turned out to be right on this one: some days on the bike are dull. But the boredom is far outweighed by the excitement of seeing flowers and animals that you'd never notice from a car.

Cycle touring's not for you if you want to check off every famous sight in your guidebook. A typical cycle tour is about the small things: the tiny villages you pass through, other cyclists who help you along the way, the incredible (sometimes incredibly bad) meals you eat in a roadside shack in the middle of nowhere.

Cycle touring does have its ups and downs, but the triumphs of travelling by bicycle far outweigh the inconveniences.

Step 2: Relevant or Irrelevant?

Remember: the question only asks about attractions.

Decide whether each piece of information should be included in the summary.

Information	Include?
Seeing the world	YES / NO
Fear of rain	YES / NO
Welcoming locals	YES / NO
Loneliness	YES / NO
Discovering personal strength	YES / NO
Broken bicycle	YES / NO
Excitement of each day	YES / NO
Boredom while cycling	YES / NO
Seeing wildlife	YES / NO
Visiting villages	YES / NO
Other cyclists helping	YES / NO
Roadside meals	YES / NO

Step 3: Explain Your Thinking

Why should “welcoming locals” be included?

Why should “broken bicycle” NOT be included?

Step 4: The Summary Filter

Good summary writers constantly ask:

Does this answer the question?

Read each statement and write:

Relevant

or

Irrelevant

1. The writer worried about bandits in the hills.

2. The writer enjoyed meeting local people.

3. The writer learned they were stronger than expected.

4. The writer feared their bicycle would break.

5. The writer enjoyed seeing wildlife.

6. The writer passed through interesting villages.

Reflection

Complete the sentence.

The most important step before writing a summary is:

Exit Ticket

Write one sentence explaining the focus of the question.

According to Text B, what are the various attractions of cycle touring?
