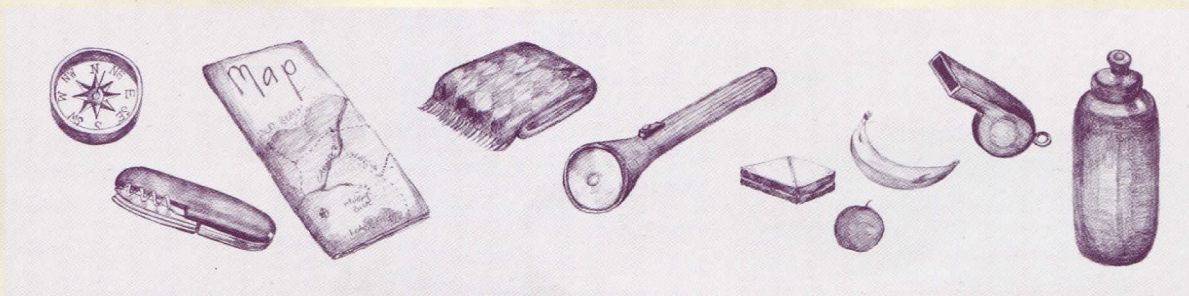


## Writing Task 1: *Instructions for Hikers*



### Literacy skills assessed by ELLA

In the ELLA Writing Task *Instructions for Hikers*, students were asked to write a set of instructions for hikers. The literacy skills assessed included:

- constructing and formatting a set of instructions
- using appropriate modality and sentence structure, as well as correct spelling and punctuation.

### Literacy in the context of the Geography Syllabus

Students should be able to:

- present information clearly
- explain the reasons why

### Strategies to address literacy in geography

Students need to be assisted to develop writing skills, to move from instructions that are simple imperatives to instructions that are organised and elaborated.

#### 1. Planning a writing task

Mind maps clarify understanding of ideas and concepts, or help to revise work students have learnt. The following steps should be used to assist students clarify concepts:

- choose a concept, an idea, or a topic, for example, hiking in National Parks
- draw a circle around the concept and then draw spokes radiating outwards to words associated with the concept
- keep adding more words or ideas and build up the mind map into a web pattern

- look for related ideas where spokes connect
- arrange the mind map into sub-groups or sub-headings (such as *Before you leave*, *Equipment necessary*).

#### 2. Constructing cause and effect sentences

When constructing an explanation text it may be necessary to show cause and effect relationships. Teachers can construct sentences to be completed by students using a word bank that would include words such as: *as a consequence of*; *because*; *caused by*; *gave rise to*; *culminated in*; *as a result of*; *an effect of*; *produced by*; *contributed to*; *hence*; *herefore*; *led to*; *resulted in*; *brought about*; *an outcome of*.

#### 3. Writing a set of non-sequenced instructions

Demonstrate the structure of an instructing text using a scaffold showing the stages:

- statement of goal in introductory paragraph; materials needed; conditions required
- a logically organised set of sentences that tell how or why

Grammatical features of elaborated instructions include:

- appropriate technical language
- conjunctions that help show cause and effect
- use of the timeless present tense