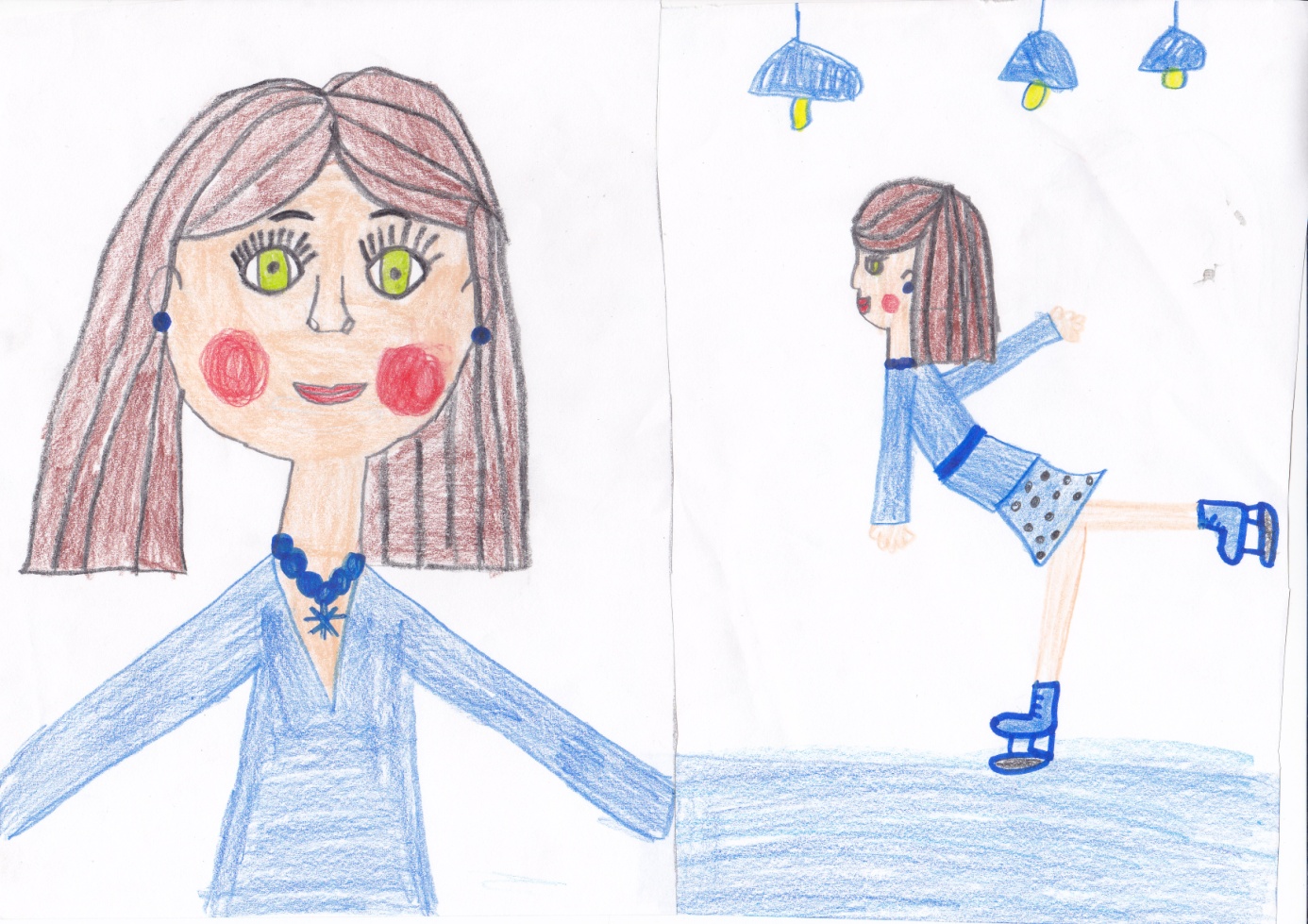
8. Descriptions

1. There are different types of descriptions you can write. Can you think of any?



**Describing a person**

2. Look at the picture and complete the text.

A) *My friend Sara*

B) *Sara has been my schoolmate for almost 2 years. I first met her on the first day of school. She did not know anybody there same as me and we soon became friends. Sara is English and comes from Brighton but she lives in Prague now with her parents and two sisters. Her father is English too, but her mother is Czech. Sara is 15 years old and she is a student at the secondary grammar school.*

C) *Sara is quite small and thin so a lot of people think she is younger. Her .................. face is framed by …………………………………hair and her .....................…………………….eyes show her friendliness. She likes wearing ..........……………………………………. like most girls do. She sometimes puts on ……………………….*

*when she plans to go out.*

D) *As for her personality Sara is an optimistic girl who likes to laugh a lot. She is easygoing and able to make friends anywhere any time. She likes talking to people and always has something interesting to say.*

E) *She does not have much free time because when she does not study she works on projects for school. But when she can, she likes ..............................................................She goes and ................................ twice a week. She also enjoys watching winter sports on TV. Sometimes she goes to cinema to see British or American films especially comedies. Her favourite actor is Daniel Radcliffe who, she thinks, is really handsome. Sara has seen all the Harry Potter films because of him. On Sundays she likes meeting her friends in the centre of Prague where they go to the cinema or just chat in a small cafe.*

F) *Sara is a very good friend who is always ready to help when I need it. She is so positive and never in a bad mood which I really appreciate.*

3. Match the paragraphs with the following points and think about the form of this type of text:

1. Your opinion, comments, feelings
2. Hobbies and interests
3. Name, nationality, age, family, studies/work
4. Physical appearance
5. Personality
6. Title

4. Think about a person who you know very well and answer these questions. What does he/she look like? What is he/she like? What does he/she like? What does he/she mean to you?

5. Write **a description** of a family member who means a lot to you. It is an assignment for your English class. Use **120 to 150 words**.

You should:

* **include significant personal information**
* **write about his/her physical appearance and personality**
* **mention why you like him/her**

*Write your email in an appropriate style and form.*

**Describing a person SUMMARY:**

**Who to:** *friends, schoolmates, teachers, general public*

**Parts of a description:**

1. Title (*information for the reader*)

2. Introduction (*name, nationality, age, family, study/work*)

3. Main body *(1.physical appearance; 2. personality; 3.hobbies and interests; it usually consists of three paragraphs.)*

4. Conclusion (*your opinion, reasons why you like or dislike this person)*

**Useful tips:** *Use a topic sentence in each paragraph to introduce the subject; include linking words to connect ideas (although/however – to contrast; also/as well as – to add more; on the whole/all in all – to conclude); variety of adjectives will make your description more readable; examples of the way a person does things give clearer picture*

**Paragraphs:** *The text is usually divided into five paragraphs – depends on the main body.*

**Describing places/buildings**



1. This is my friend´s new home. Read the questions and make up the answers.

Where is it?

What kind of building is it?

Why did she choose that place?

How old is it?

What does it look like?

How many rooms are there?

Is there a garden?

Who does she live with?

What can you do there?

Do you like it? Why is it good to live there?

2. Read the text and compare it with your ideas. What is the layout of a description of a place?

My new home

This is my new home. It seems quite ordinary but it is not. It is fantastic. It is situated in a small town near the mountains. Me and my husband planned to leave Prague for years and wanted to move to the country but there was never any house that we would really like. Once we saw that this castle was for sale we made up our minds quickly. It is big enough to fit all our large family in when they come for visit. Also, the location is great. It is only a couple of minutes walk from the centre of the town and the shops. At the same time you can get to the forest or ski slopes in 20 minutes.

The house which is our home now has a very interesting history. It was built in the 16th century. It used to be a hunting castle owned by an old Czech noble family who came to the castle only for their summers. 200 years ago a rich merchant bought the castle and had it all rebuilt and enlarged. One of the bedrooms is still furnished in the style of that time. The last owners who now are really old and want to live with their daughter looked after the house very well and that is why we could move in so quickly.

Even though the house is old it has been modernised inside. There is a large kitchen which I like very much because I love cooking with all the modern equipment including a dishwasher. There are 3 large living rooms and a parlour which we are going to turn into my husband´s study. The house well the castle is huge and we also have 10 bedrooms. One of the best things about the castle is that it has a large park around. We only own one third of it but it is still great. I can go for a walk under large trees the first thing in the morning.

We are very happy that our dream has come true and we finally live in the country and in such a beautiful house. It is very relaxing to have so much space around. Also, when my friends come we can have a party and we do not disturb anybody. If my husband needs to work he can do so in one of his bedrooms and I can still listen to my favourite songs the way I like it.

**Describing a pLACE SUMMARY:**

**Who to:** *friends, schoolmates, teachers, general public*

**Parts of a description:**

1. Title (*information for the reader*)

2. Introduction (*name, location of the place; reasons for choosing such a building*)

3. Main body *(specific details – history, layout of the house, equipment)*

4. Conclusion (*feelings, final thoughts, evaluation or recommendation)*

**Useful tips:** *Use narrative techniques to make the text more dynamic; include linking words to connect ideas (although, however – to contrast; also/as well as – to add more; on the whole/all in all – to conclude); variety of adjectives will make your description more vivid; use variety of tenses*

**Paragraphs:** *the text is usually divided into 4 or more paragraphs – depends on the main body.*

3. Write an article for your English magazine called “A house/flat of my dreams”. The **description** of a flat or a house should be **120 to 150 words** long.

You should:

* **mention what kind of place would you like to live at**
* **describe the facilities in your ideal house/flat**
* **mention 2 reasons why this place would be the best for you**

*Write your postcard in an appropriate style and form.*

**References and Bibliography:**

Berwick G., Thorne S., Writing Activities, Scholastic, 2011

Bowen T., Marks J., Inside Teaching*, chapter 10 Write on:,* Macmillan, 1994

Evans V., Successful Writing, Express Publishing, 1998

Harmer J., English Language Teaching*, chapter 18 Writing*, Longman, 2001

Hedges T., Writing, Oxford University Press (OUP), 2005

Waterman J., Straightforward Intermediate Workbook, Macmillan, 2006

<http://www.esolcourses.com/content/topicsmenu/writing.html>

**Answer key:**

Describing a person

1. Description of a person; place; building; objects; festivals and celebrations etc.

2.

A) *My friend Sara*

B) *Sara has been my schoolmate for almost 2 years. I first met her on the first day of school. She did not know anybody there same as me and we soon became friends. Sara is English and comes from Brighton but she lives in Prague now with her parents and two sisters. Her father is English too, but her mother is Czech. Sara is 15 years old and she is a student at the secondary grammar school.*

C) *Sara is quite small and thin so a lot of people think she is younger. Her* ***round/pretty*** *face is framed by* ***long brown*** *hair and her* ***blue*** *eyes show her friendliness. She likes wearing nice* ***clothes*** *like most girls do. She sometimes puts on* ***a dress*** *especially when she goes out.*

D) *As for her personality Sara is an optimistic girl who likes to laugh a lot. She is easygoing and able to make friends anywhere any time. She likes talking to people and always has something interesting to say.*

E) *She does not have much free time because when she does not study she works on projects for school. But when she can, she likes* ***going******ice-skating****. She goes and* ***practices*** *twice a week. She also enjoys watching winter sports on TV. Sometimes she goes to cinema to see British or American films especially comedies. Her favourite actor is Daniel Radcliffe who, she thinks, is really handsome. Sara has seen all the Harry Potter films because of him. On Sundays she likes meeting her friends in the centre of Prague where they go to the cinema or just chat in a small cafe.*

F) *Sara is a very good friend who is always ready to help when I need it. She is so positive and never in a bad mood which I really appreciate.*

3. Match the paragraphs with the following points and think about the form of this type of text:

1. Your opinion, comments, feelings - F

2. Hobbies and interests - E

1. Name, nationality, age, family, studies/work - B
2. Physical appearance - C
3. Personality - D
4. Title - A

4. Students´ own answers.

5. Students´ own answers. Teachers should read through students´ assignments, analyse them based on criteria used for assessing Writing for Maturita Exam (school leaving exam). Teachers may also prepare a list of mistakes that students will correct in the class.

**Describing places/buildings**

1. Students´ own answers based on their own ideas. This is my friend´s new home. Read the questions and make up the answers.

2.

Where is it? *It is situated in a small town near the mountains.*

What kind of building is it? *It is a castle. It is big enough to fit all our large family in when they come for visit.*

Why did she choose that place? *Me and my husband planned to leave Prague for years and wanted to move to the country but there was never any house that we would really like. Once we saw that this castle was for sale we made up our minds quickly.*

How old is it? *It was built in the 16th century. It used to be a hunting castle owned by an old Czech noble family who came to the castle only for their summers.*

What does it look like? *It is a huge house which was rebuilt and enlarged.*

How many rooms are there? *There are 3 large living rooms and a parlour which we are going to turn into my husband´s study. The house well the castle is huge and we also have 10 bedrooms.*

Is there a garden? *One of the best things about the castle is that it has a large park around. We only own one third of it but it is still great. I can go for a walk under large trees the first thing in the morning.*

Who does she live with? *She lives with her husband.*

What can you do there? *Also, when my friends come we can have a party and we do not disturb anybody. If my husband needs to work he can do so in one of his bedrooms and I can still listen to my favourite songs the way I like it.*

Do you like it? Why is it good to live there? *We are very happy that our dream has come true and we finally live in the country and in such a beautiful house. It is very relaxing to have so much space around.*

The suggested layout is:

Title – the place that is described

Introduction – a few basic facts

Main body – history; what it looks like; equipment

Conclusion – opinion

3. Students´ own answers. Teachers should read through students´ assignments, analyse them based on criteria used for assessing Writing for Maturita Exam (school leaving exam). Teachers may also prepare a list of mistakes that students will correct in the class.