

Answers. English 11+ paper B 2016

1. You need to make the cheesecake the day before because it needs to “chill overnight”. You just need to give this very straightforward answer.
2. Many people put that this information is included so you know how many people the cheesecake serves. It does tell you how many people it serves but the question is asking **why** she tells you how many people it serves. She is telling you so you can decide whether you need to make more than one cheesecake, or whether even one would be too much. If you were having a dinner party for twenty people you would know that you would need to make two.
3. Moderately means fairly/quite, so the words “MODERATELY EASY” are telling us that the cheesecake is fairly easy to make. You can’t just put: “It means it is easy”, because you are not explaining what is easy and you are not showing that you know what moderately means.
4. The language technique is a metaphor. We are told that the cheesecake **is** a heavenly marriage when obviously it isn’t really. The description “heavenly marriage” means that the cheesecake is a perfect combination of two desserts. The word marriage is used because that is the joining of two people, like the cheesecake is the joining of two desserts. “Heavenly” tells us that the combination works very well.
5. The ingredients are written as a list, with one item per line, because that means we can very easily read each separate ingredient. We will not get the ingredient and its measurement muddled up with any other ingredient.
6. Tbsp means tablespoon and tsp means teaspoon.
7. Number two of the method describes how to make the filling. We know this because it says at the end of point one: “Set aside to cool while you make the filling”, so we know that the next thing we will be doing is making the filling.
8. An oven with a fan should be preheated to 180 °c. Some people put 200 °c but that is for an oven without a fan and gas mark 6 is for a gas oven. Some people put 110°c/90°c but that is not what the oven is preheated to. That is what the oven is turned down to later on.
9. A lot of people put for this question that there are numbered points so that you do things in the right order. Even if the method for making the cheesecake did not have numbered points, but was just one continuous paragraph, it would still have everything in the correct order. You would still make the cheesecake correctly, but it would take more concentration. Having the numbered points means that the method is much easier to follow and that it is simple to keep track of where you have got up to. The numbered points divide the method up into manageable steps and make it very clear in what order you should do things.
10. Bash.
11. Carefully.
12. You needed to write in a style suitable for a restaurant menu. That meant you needed to make the cheesecake sound delicious so people would want to buy it and you needed to inform people about what was in the cheesecake so they could decide whether they would be likely to enjoy it. It needed to be clear, concise and informative. Some people seemed to try too hard to use clever language but that often just made it confusing and didn’t really tell the reader anything. “This delight will make you full of happiness and jump for joy” is the sort of thing that quite a few people wrote, but this does not really tell me anything useful.
“Bakewell cheesecake. This has a delicious almond biscuit base that has a real crunch to it. The filling consists of gorgeous cream cheese, and sweet and fruity cherry jam. The almonds on top add the perfect finishing touch.”

13. You needed to make it clear to the reader what you were writing about by starting off along the lines of: “My favourite dessert is....” You needed to show exactly why you like the dessert you chose. This should have been by describing the taste, texture and appearance. Again, do not write things that do not tell the reader anything specific about the dessert. Similes need to be effective. You need to compare the dessert with something that will mean the reader understands the simile. Many of your similes did not make sense. “Chocolate cake is as bright as a star.” Chocolate cake is not bright so this simile did not make sense.
“My favourite dessert is chocolate mousse. I absolutely love it because the texture is as light as a feather. It is creamy, rich and sweet. With fresh red berries on top, contrasting with the warm brown of the chocolate mousse, it looks divine.”
14. Again, you needed to make what you were writing about clear to the reader. You needed to explain your dislike for the dessert you chose. It is not enough to write something like: “The taste is horrible and it ruins your day”. This does not tell me what is wrong with the taste. Your metaphor needed to make sense.
“My least favourite dessert is vanilla ice-cream. There is nothing eye-catching about it; it is a blank page. It is far too sweet and sickly. Its coldness hurts my teeth and it very quickly turns into a runny mess.”
15. You needed to have two separate descriptions. Many of you just gave one description where you wrote about the good and bad things about macaroni cheese. I wanted to see that you could write about it as though it is amazing and then write about it as though it is disgusting. This would show real skill with language as obviously you can't really think it is both delicious and disgusting.
“Macaroni cheese is absolutely delicious. I love the golden cheese layer that you get on the top. The sauce is smooth and creamy and very, very cheesy-yummy!
Macaroni cheese is completely revolting. It is just a yellow sloppy mess on the plate. It is far too cheesy and every mouthful is exactly the same as the one before.”
16. With this you needed to make it clear to the reader what you were writing about from the start. “My most memorable meal was....” You needed to make sure that you followed the task. Some people wrote about a snack rather than a meal. You needed to set the scene, where you were and who you were with, and you needed to describe the meal. I wanted to see lots of descriptive language and use of detail. You needed to make sure that I understood why the meal was memorable for you. It is always easier to write about something you have actually experienced, so I would not recommend making something up for this task. The reader will always be more engaged if they find what they are reading believable and convincing.
“My most memorable meal was when I went out for lunch for my tenth birthday. I went with my mum, my dad and my sister. We did not go anywhere posh; we just went to a department store restaurant. My sister had been complaining a little that she felt ill. She often whines though, so nobody paid much attention.
We settled into our chairs which were really comfortable with padded seats. Shiny cutlery was on the table, ready for when we got our food. I was quite excited because I do not often eat out. My mum says it is a waste of money, but I think it is really exciting.
I chose fish and chips. They were absolutely delicious. The chips were crispy on the outside and soft on the inside. The fish just seemed to melt in my mouth. I dipped each forkful into sweet tomato ketchup before popping it into my mouth.
I was really enjoying my meal, and chatting to Mum and Dad about school, when suddenly my sister vomited all over the table. It was disgusting. It smelt vile and it looked hideous. It was also very embarrassing as everyone turned to look. I did not fancy finishing my meal after that and we just quickly left the restaurant.
It was certainly the most memorable meal I have ever had and not particularly for good reasons! Whenever I walk past the department store I always shudder when I remember what happened.”