

WRITERS AT WORK

Leading Writing & English Enrichment

2026 PSLE MODEL COMPOSITION

Picture 3



MODEL COMPOSITION BASED ON PICTURE 3

2026 PSLE COMPO EXAM QUESTION

Write a composition of at least 150 words about **a good way to spend time**



Having a picnic



A pile of books



No phone sign

The pictures, not arranged in sequence, are provided to help you think about this topic. Your composition should be based on one, two or all of these pictures.

Saturday afternoon stretched invitingly before me, and I had already decided on what I thought was **a good way to spend time**. Curled up comfortably on the sofa, I gripped my mobile phone with both hands while my thumbs darted across the screen. I was only one level away from breaking my personal record in my favourite game. Nothing else mattered. Not the warm sunlight spilling through the windows, not the cheerful chirping of birds outside, and certainly not my younger sister, Chloe, who had been wandering around the living room looking for someone to play with. Suddenly, my colourful game disappeared. In its place was the dreaded “*Time Limit*” warning. My stomach sank. I had already used up my daily allowance! Fortunately, I spotted the tempting “*One More Minute*” button and tapped it without hesitation.

That extra minute vanished faster than an ice cube under the afternoon sun. Just as I was about to defeat the final opponent, the screen froze again. I jabbed at the phone repeatedly, hoping some miracle would happen. Nothing did. I switched the phone off and on. Still nothing. I even marched towards the window and held it high above my head, foolishly wondering whether better reception might somehow defeat the restriction. Mother, who had been watching my strange performance from the dining table, finally shook her head. “You have had enough screen time. Find something else useful or enjoyable to do.” My shoulders drooped. Without my phone, Saturday suddenly appeared to contain approximately one hundred hours.

For the next twenty minutes, I wandered around our flat like a restless ghost. I flopped onto the sofa and stared at the ceiling fan until I became dizzy. I counted the tiles on the floor. I watched our goldfish swim around its tank and wondered whether it was equally bored watching me. Several times, my eyes drifted towards my useless phone lying on the table. The *mobile-phone time limit* seemed less like a helpful feature and more like a prison guard. Chloe eventually appeared carrying a box overflowing with marbles, cardboard tubes, toy blocks and old books. With an impish grin, she challenged me, “If your phone is so entertaining, surely you can build something more exciting than it.” My pride was instantly pricked. I sat up.

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We decided to construct the longest marble track our living room had ever seen, a craze that was blazing through social media these days. At first, I joined Chloe only because I had nothing better to do. Soon, however, my boredom began to disappear. We balanced cardboard tubes on stacks of books, used rulers as bridges and propped up a shoebox to form a steep ramp. The first marble rolled smoothly for three glorious seconds before smashing into a toy block and sending half the track tumbling down. Our second attempt was even worse. The marble shot off the table, disappeared under the sofa and emerged several seconds later from the other side, as though it had deliberately taken a secret tunnel. Without realising it, I had discovered that **spending time creating something together** could be far more exciting than staring blankly at a screen.

Determined to succeed, Chloe and I rebuilt everything. This time, our track stretched from the coffee table, curved around the sofa and ended beside the shoe rack. We tested it carefully. The marble rattled through the first tube, sped down a ruler and bounced neatly into a paper cup. However, disaster struck. It flew out of the cup, rolled across the floor and landed inside Father's slipper just as he stepped into it. Father jerked backwards with a startled yelp and stared accusingly at us.

"I thought I bought slippers, not marble traps!" Chloe and I exploded into laughter. Even Father struggled to keep a stern expression. The failed experiment only made us more determined to finish our ridiculous masterpiece.

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Continued from the previous page

By the time the evening sun cast long shadows against the walls, the living room resembled a miniature construction site. Books leaned against cushions, masking tape stretched across chair legs and colourful blocks formed tiny tunnels. My phone remained untouched on the table, although the earlier *"Time Limit"* message was no longer blocking it. Instead, my eyes were fixed on the little marble ball trapped in the fist of my little sister. Chloe released the final marble. It clicked through one tube, raced across a cardboard bridge and spiralled around a paper plate. For one breathless second, we stared. Then, with a resounding clink, the marble neatly found its way home in the belly of the bowl. We leapt into the air, cheering exuberantly as though we had won an Olympic medal. I had spent nearly two hours experimenting, rebuilding and laughing with my sister. Somehow, I had completely forgotten the phone game I had been desperate to continue.

That evening, I finally picked up my phone. My finger hovered over the settings where I could have removed the *screen-time limit*. Earlier, I would have done so immediately. Instead, I left it exactly as it was. The restriction had not ruined my Saturday after all. It had pushed me away from a tiny screen and towards an afternoon filled with laughter, creativity and precious time with Chloe. I realised that mobile phones were enjoyable when used wisely, but they should never swallow every free moment I had. From that day onwards, I tried to put my phone aside more often and look for a **better way to spend my time**.

UNPACKING THE 2026 PSLE COMPO QUESTION: A GOOD WAY TO SPEND TIME

- **A**
 - Keep the story focused on one main experience.
- **Good way**
 - The way of spending time must be positive and worthwhile.
 - Your story must show why it is good: what did the main character gain from it?
- **Spend time**
 - Using your limited time on an activity instead of wasting it.
 - The activity should fill a big part of the story, not appear only in the last paragraph.
- **Important to Cover:**
 - ✓ What was the activity, and who was the main character with?
 - ✓ How did the main character usually spend time before this? (e.g. glued to his phone)
 - ✓ Why was it a good way to spend time? What did the main character gain?
 - ✓ How did the main character show he enjoyed it? Show it through what he says and does.