

Mid Stage 3 English – Explanation – Grade C

How Do Floods Occur?

In winter there is snow on the mountains. When spring comes the sun comes out, it shines onto the snow. The snow melts. The melting snow turns into water and flows off the mountain and enters the rivers. The huge amount of water makes the water level rise.

If rocks and concreted areas surround rivers they can cause floods. If it rains the rain falls onto the rocks, nothing can soak up the water. The water flows down the rocks and into the river.

When it rains for a long time the huge amount of rain cannot soak into the soil. The water forms small streams. The streams all lead to the main river and feed it. As the water enters the river the water level rises. If there is not a dam on the bank of the river the river will flood.

During spring while the rivers are still blocked by ice, floods occur in Siberia. The snow melts but the river is unable to flow because of the ice. The river stops and builds up. When it gets up as high as the ice, it is already so high that it causes a flood.

Though floods occur in most parts of the world they do not occur very often. In the past 250 years there were 150 major floods. The most flood-prone river is the Huang He River (also called the Yellow River and China's Sorrow) which is located in Northern China.

Clear and logical synthesis of cause and effect. Demonstration of sound knowledge of topic

The text has been adequately sequenced with appropriate grouping of information in paragraphs

Appropriate spelling skills have been demonstrated

Grade Commentary

Lou has demonstrated a sound understanding of the structure and features of an explanation. Knowledge of the topic is evident in the clear explanation of cause and effect. The explanation would benefit from more concise factual language and additional detail in some areas. Simple sentences have mostly been used but there are some compound sentences, and adverbial phrases have been used. Effective spelling strategies have been applied. To improve, Lou could use more compound and complex sentences, and vary the connectives showing cause and effect

Lou's response demonstrates characteristics of work typically produced by a student performing at a grade C standard.