

CAMBRIDGE O-LEVELS

ENGLISH LANGUAGE-1123

ESSAY WRITING

QUESTION

Describe the occasion and your feelings when you had to make an important speech.

ANSWER

It was the 72nd Independence Day for Pakistan, and the school was celebrating it with full zeal. Students had gathered in the playground, dressed in green and white to show their support for Pakistan, and were chattering excitedly amongst themselves.

They waved Pakistani flags around with great pride. Groups of students were chanting "Long live Pakistan." The positive atmosphere was infectious and uplifted my spirits.

My heart felt like it was swelling with pride and about to burst out of my chest. The excited atmosphere awakened my patriotic spirit. It was as if I had been transported back to 1947 and had just experienced independence.

"I want you to deliver the Independence Day speech." Miss Subbiha's voice came. Immediately, the blood started to rush about in my ears, and I started to feel dizzy.

Her mouth was moving, but I could not understand what she was saying. I told myself that she couldn't be telling me to do it. She knew how much I hated public speaking.

I could feel my breathing getting faster and shallower. I thought I was going to hyperventilate. I was rooted to the spot as if I had been paralysed with fear.

I focused on Miss Subbiha; she always seemed to have a calming effect on me. Her gentle words and her sense of trust in me gave me the boost of confidence that I needed to deliver the Independence Day speech.

I forced my feet to take a step towards the stage. My stress lifted with every tentative step as I heard the national songs playing in the background.

Despite this, I climbed the steps with shaky legs. Would I be able to face the crowd? Would I be able to speak up in front of so many people? I shook at the thought of the response from the crowd if I began to stammer nervously.

2,000 hopeful faces silently stared at me. They were waiting with bated breath for the Independence Day ceremony to start.

I felt as if I was the one who was going to give them independence with my speech.