A diary entry is a very personal kind of writing. It is meant to record certain significant events and feelings of the writer.

Format:
- Date/day
- Salutation ‘Dear Diary’
- Heading of the entry
- Contents of the diary entry
- Signature

Points to remember:
- Creativity, imagination and expression in diary writing are tested.
- You should write as if you have really been a part of the situation.
- It is written in the first person.
- One does not write about things experienced on a daily basis. Only matters of some significance are recorded.
- It is a secret record of one’s life, so one can be very honest about one’s feelings and emotions.

Marking scheme
- Date — ½ mark
- Time — ½ mark
- Salutation — ½ mark
- Heading — 1 mark
- Content — 2 marks
- Signature — ½ mark

Sample diary entries:

1. The burning topic of debate in the nation is ‘The reservation issue for OBCs, SC/STs has given you food for though’. Make an entry in your diary expressing your feelings on the issue.
Mandal II in the making

When will the reservation issue end? A replay of the anti-reservation stir is anticipated, and if it happens, there will be chaos all over again. The AIIMS doctors have been protesting against the issue since the last ten days, but to no avail. The leaders are showing a callous attitude towards the issue. What they don’t realise is that it is their own people who are being affected adversely. I think the increase in the reservation is brutal and insensitive. The general category of students shall suffer for no fault of theirs. It’s such a desperate and helpless situation. Will we be given some respite from the issue? I hope and pray that we emerge as winners in this agitation.
Rahul

2. You are going on a school picnic with your classmates and teachers. You are very excited. The night before the trip you sit down to write your diary. Describe in about 150 words what you have planned for the picnic and how you hope to enjoy yourself there. You are Jitendra/Jayashree Malik.

Friday, 22 June 2007
9 pm
Dear Diary,

My class picnic

I am feeling very excited tonight. I am going on a picnic tomorrow with my classmates. Some of our teachers will also accompany us. We have been planning for this trip ever since our principal gave us permission a month ago. We are going to Nehru Park. It has a large ground where children can run around and play freely. I have packed some food items including potato chips and chewing gum. My mother has made a dozen sandwiches and a cake. My friends will also be bringing some food, and we shall all share and eat. I am also carrying my cricket bat with me. We plan to play a match. I feel I just cannot go to sleep tonight. I keep imagining all the fun that we are going to have tomorrow. But my mother came into the room just now and warned me that if I do not go to sleep now, I might fall asleep at the picnic! As if that is ever going to happen! But may be she’s right. So, good night!
Jayashree
Worksheet 12

1. It’s the best day of your life. You have scored a whopping 98.2% marks in your Board Examinations, but all your friends have gone their ways and forgotten to congratulate you on your success. You have mixed feelings about the day and decide to pen down your feelings. Write your diary entry.

2. You have been pulled up by the principal of your school for showing an arrogant attitude towards your teacher. You are very upset and decide to write down what you are feeling. Make a diary entry as John.

3. You happen to meet your star idol on the festive occasion of Diwali and are feeling on top of the world. You cannot contain your joy and decide to inform all your friends, who, too, become excited on hearing the news. Write a diary entry about it.

4. You have just finished reading the story ‘Moti Guj—The Mutineer’. It tells about an elephant who is very loyal to his master and understands his every word. When his master does not return after ten days as he had promised, Moti Guj becomes restless and disobedient. You found the story quite thought-provoking for a variety of reasons. Make a diary entry of 150–200 words describing your impression of the story and stating why you liked it.

5. You recently watched a movie that has been declared a hit. Make a diary entry discussing why you liked/did not like it. You should include a brief account of the storyline, the music, the acting and so on while discussing your impression of the film. The word limit is 150–200.

6. Write a diary entry discussing your viewpoint on whether it is better to be an only child or to have brothers and sisters sharing your home and life with you. Do not use more than 150–200 words.