

**Sample Paper 19****Score for Sentence Fluency** \_\_\_\_\_**Chocolate and the Witch's Curse**

If you are one of the thousands of people who love chocolate so much that people call you a chocoholic, you might think you are paying more for your chocolate bars these days (or any chocolate for that matter), and in fact, you are most definitely right, but the reason might not be due to the first cause you think of. Chocolate, which used to be one of the least expensive treats you could buy now it is one of the most expensive. There is a reason for the cost increase and it's not just because the chocolate makers are raising their prices in order to make more money off the thousands of people who have chocolate addictions (you are not the only one!).

The true source of the trouble comes from a thing called witch's broom fungus which attacks the cacao bean, which is the source of chocolate, and turns the inside of the bean into a kind of mush. The cacao farmers have invented a kind of fungus of their own that attacks the witch's broom fungus except that the witch's broom fungus spreads so fast that the new fungus can't get rid of it fast enough to save very many of the cacao plants so it continues to spread.

A lot of the cocoa beans used for chocolate grow in South America, and that is where the largest cocoa bean plantations in the world can be found, so unless something can be done to stop the witch's broom fungus altogether, you can expect to keep paying more and more for your favorite chocolate bar. Scientists are not hopeful of finding a cure anytime soon, unfortunately.

**Sources**

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