



# Cambridge International A Level

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ENGLISH LANGUAGE

9093/42

Paper 4 Language Topics

May/June 2021

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 50

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**Published**

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the May/June 2021 series for most Cambridge IGCSE™, Cambridge International A and AS Level components and some Cambridge O Level components.

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This document consists of **8** printed pages.

**PUBLISHED****Generic Marking Principles**

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:**

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:**

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:**

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:**

Rules must be applied consistently, e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:**

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:**

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

**English & Media subject specific general marking principles**

**(To be read in conjunction with the Generic Marking Principles (and requiring further guidance on how to place marks within levels))**

**Components using level descriptors:**

- We use level descriptors as a guide to broad understanding of the qualities normally expected of, or typical of, work in a level.
- Level descriptors are a means of general guidance, and should not be interpreted as hurdle statements.
- Where indicative content notes are supplied for a question, these are *not* a prescription of required content, and must not be treated as such. Alternative correct points and unexpected answers in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the knowledge and skills demonstrated.
- While we may have legitimate expectations as to the ground most answers may occupy, we must at all times be prepared to meet candidates on their chosen ground, provided it is relevant ground (e.g. clearly related to and derived from a relevant passage/text and meeting the mark scheme requirements for the question).

**English Language specific marking instructions:****AO1 Read and demonstrate understanding of a wide variety of texts. (Understanding)**

- Marks should be awarded for the accuracy of the candidate's understanding of the text and its features, **not** for any analysis of them which is recognised under AO3.
- Where comparison is required, marks should be awarded for the candidate's recognition of similarities and differences between the texts and their features, **not** for any consequent analysis.
- When awarding a 'best-fit' mark within a Level for each AO, consider each bullet point equally.

**AO2 Write effectively, creatively, accurately and appropriately, for a range of audiences and purposes. (Writing)**

- Marks should be awarded equally on the basis of the level of the candidate's written expression (range of features used and accuracy) and the development of their writing (its organisation and relevance to task and audience).
- When awarding a 'best-fit' mark within a Level for each AO, consider each bullet point equally.

**AO4: Demonstrate understanding of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and approaches. (Conceptualisation)**

- Marks should be awarded equally on the basis of the level of the candidate's understanding of the relevant issues, concepts, methods and approaches represented both in the text(s) and in their wider studies.
- When awarding a 'best-fit' mark within a Level for each AO, consider each bullet point equally.

**PUBLISHED****Marking criteria for Section A Question 1 and Section B Question 2****Table A**

<b>Level</b>	<b>AO1: Read and demonstrate understanding of a wide variety of texts.</b> <b>10 marks</b>	<b>AO2: Write effectively, creatively, accurately and appropriately, for a range of audiences and purposes.</b> <b>5 marks</b>	<b>AO4: Demonstrate understanding of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and approaches.</b> <b>10 marks</b>
<b>5</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sophisticated understanding of text (meaning/context/audience)</li> <li>Insightful reference to specific points</li> </ul> <p>9–10 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sophisticated expression, with a high level of accuracy</li> <li>Content is fully relevant; ideas are developed throughout in a sophisticated manner</li> </ul> <p>5 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sophisticated understanding of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and approaches represented in the text</li> <li>Insightful reference to wider study of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and approaches</li> </ul> <p>9–10 marks</p>
<b>4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed understanding of text (meaning/context/audience)</li> <li>Effective reference to specific points</li> </ul> <p>7–8 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective expression, with a few minor errors which do not impede communication</li> <li>Content is relevant; ideas are developed in an effective manner</li> </ul> <p>4 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed understanding of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and approaches represented in the text</li> <li>Effective reference to wider study of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and approaches</li> </ul> <p>7–8 marks</p>
<b>3</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear understanding of text (meaning/context/audience)</li> <li>Clear reference to specific points</li> </ul> <p>5–6 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear expression, with occasional errors which do not impede communication</li> <li>Content is relevant; ideas are developed clearly</li> </ul> <p>3 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear understanding of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and approaches represented in the text</li> <li>Clear reference to wider study of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and approaches</li> </ul> <p>5–6 marks</p>

<b>Level</b>	<b>AO1: Read and demonstrate understanding of a wide variety of texts.</b> <b>10 marks</b>	<b>AO2: Write effectively, creatively, accurately and appropriately, for a range of audiences and purposes.</b> <b>5 marks</b>	<b>AO4: Demonstrate understanding of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and approaches.</b> <b>10 marks</b>
<b>2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited understanding of text (meaning/context/audience)</li> <li>Limited reference to specific points</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">3–4 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expression is clear but may not flow easily, with frequent errors which generally do not impede communication</li> <li>Content is mostly relevant; ideas are developed in a limited manner</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">2 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited understanding of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and/or approaches represented in the text</li> <li>Some limited reference to wider study of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and/or approaches</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">3–4 marks</p>
<b>1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic understanding of text (meaning/context/audience)</li> <li>Minimal reference to specific points</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">1–2 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic expression, with frequent errors which impede communication</li> <li>Content may lack relevance in parts; minimal development of ideas</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">1 mark</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Basic understanding of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and/or approaches represented in the text</li> <li>Minimal reference to wider study of linguistic issues, concepts, methods and/or approaches</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">1–2 marks</p>
<b>0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No creditable response</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">0 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No creditable response</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">0 marks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No creditable response</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;">0 marks</p>

## Section A: English in the world

Question	Answer	Marks
1	<p><b>Read the following text, which is an extract from an article written by the Icelandic novelist Ragnar Jonasson and published in a British newspaper in 2018.</b></p> <p><b>Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the causes and effects of the expansion of English around the world. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of English in the world.</b></p> <p>Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria in Table A.</p> <p><b>Additional guidance:</b></p> <p>The comments below are illustrative and are not intended to be exhaustive. Candidates may make other valid comments that should be credited.</p> <p><b>Responses might discuss the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the concepts of a world language, English as a ‘global’ language, and English as a lingua franca</li> <li>• how reading and writing Icelandic is described as <i>a privilege of the few</i> and how it is <i>facing challenges never seen before</i></li> <li>• how English is becoming <i>almost the first language</i> because of tourism</li> <li>• the effect this is having on the younger generation</li> <li>• the infiltration of another culture as much of the entertainment online is in English</li> <li>• how Icelandic is evolving, and adapting to technological change by creating new words</li> <li>• how this process is evident in other languages</li> <li>• <i>the ubiquity of English</i> around the world and the effect that has on Icelandic and other indigenous languages</li> <li>• the potential risk of Icelandic <i>disappearing more or less completely</i></li> <li>• other examples of languages at risk around the world and the concept of language death</li> <li>• the idea that it <i>is almost our moral obligation</i> to save languages from dying, because of the <i>value of the language</i>.</li> </ul>	25

## Section B: Language and the self

Question	Answer	Marks
2	<p><b>Read the following text, which is an extract from an article by linguist John McWhorter. It was published in the online magazine <i>Aeon</i> in 2016.</b></p> <p><b>Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the ways in which language can shape and reflect personal and social identity. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of Language and the self.</b></p> <p>Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria in Table A.</p> <p><b>Additional guidance:</b></p> <p>The comments below are illustrative and are not intended to be exhaustive. Candidates may make other valid comments that should be credited.</p> <p><b>Responses might discuss the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how words which seem <i>loaded and abusive</i> today were once <i>considered civil</i></li> <li>• the concept of a <i>euphemism treadmill</i> or how acceptable words <i>seem to change every generation or so</i></li> <li>• how this may be a <i>healthy process</i></li> <li>• other examples of euphemisms</li> <li>• how <i>thought changes more slowly than we can change the words for it</i></li> <li>• how words can have <i>opinion, assumption and bias</i> built into their meanings</li> <li>• how words can <i>harbour shades of abuse</i></li> <li>• the wider relationship between language and thought</li> <li>• linguistic determinism/relativity</li> <li>• how euphemisms might be used to protect the receiver and make the user feel more acceptable in society.</li> </ul>	25