

**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS**  
GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

**MARK SCHEME for the October/November 2010 question paper  
for the guidance of teachers**

**8004 GENERAL PAPER**

**8004/12**

Paper 1, maximum raw mark 100

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 must be read in conjunction with the question papers and the report on the examination.

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### USE OF ENGLISH CRITERIA TABLE

	Marks	
Band 1  'excellent': fully operational command	18–20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very few slips / errors.</li> <li>• Highly fluent.</li> <li>• Very effective use of expressions and idioms.</li> <li>• Excellent use of vocabulary; (near) faultless grammar.</li> <li>• Excellent sentence structure and organisation of paragraphs.</li> <li>• Excellent spelling / punctuation.</li> </ul>
Band 2  'good – very good': effective command	14–17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few slips / errors.</li> <li>• Fluent.</li> <li>• Effective use of expressions / idioms.</li> <li>• Good use of vocabulary; sound grammar.</li> <li>• Good sentence structure / well-organised paragraphs.</li> <li>• Good spelling / punctuation.</li> </ul>
Band 3  'average': reasonable command	10–13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some slips / basic errors but acceptable standard overall.</li> <li>• Reasonably fluent / not difficult to read.</li> <li>• Generally appropriate use of expressions / idioms.</li> <li>• Fair range and apt use of basic vocabulary; acceptable grammar.</li> <li>• Simple / unambitious sentence structure paragraphing.</li> <li>• Reasonable spelling / punctuation.</li> </ul>
Band 4  'flawed but not weak': inconsistent command	6–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular and frequent slips / errors.</li> <li>• Hesitant fluency / not easy to follow at times.</li> <li>• Some inappropriate expressions / idioms.</li> <li>• Limited range of vocabulary; faulty grammar.</li> <li>• Some flawed sentence structure / paragraphing.</li> <li>• Regular spelling / punctuation errors.</li> </ul>
Band 5  'weak – very weak': little / (no) effective communication	0–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost every line contains (many) slips / errors of all kinds.</li> <li>• Little / (no) fluency / difficult (almost impossible) to follow.</li> <li>• (very) poor use of expression / idiom.</li> <li>• (very) poor range of vocabulary: (very) poor grammar.</li> <li>• (very) poor sentence structure / paragraphing.</li> <li>• (very) poor spelling / punctuation.</li> <li>• Bracketed descriptors denote 0–2 range of marks.</li> </ul>

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### CONTENT CRITERIA TABLE

<p style="text-align: center;">Band 1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘excellent’:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Very good and comprehensive knowledge / understanding of topic</p>	26–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Comprehensive coverage, totally relevant material, perceptive, analytical.</li> <li>• Thoughtful, enlightening illustration using local, national and international examples where applicable.</li> <li>• Coherent and engaging discussion, displaying sensitivity, sophistication, awareness and maturity.</li> <li>• (very) well structured.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Band 2</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘good – very good’:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">good knowledge / understanding of topic</p>	20–25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Totally (near totally) relevant, well focused but less analytical and perceptive than Band 1.</li> <li>• Major points well developed.</li> <li>• (very) good range of examples / illustration.</li> <li>• Logical and systematic discussion.</li> <li>• Effectively structured.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Band 3 UPPER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘average’:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">sound knowledge / understanding of topic</p>	16–19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competent: major points adequately developed.</li> <li>• Largely relevant and remains focused on the question.</li> <li>• Reasonable range of examples / illustration to support key points.</li> <li>• Reasonably structured.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Band 3 LOWER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">fair knowledge / understanding of topic</p>	13–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More obvious points mentioned rather than adequately developed.</li> <li>• Some digression, but generally sticks to the question.</li> <li>• Does not always support major points with apt illustration.</li> <li>• Tendency to assert / generalise rather than argue / discuss in detail.</li> <li>• May lack focus.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Band 4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘flawed but not weak’</p> <p style="text-align: center;">limited knowledge / understanding of topic</p>	7–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restricted material / scope: rather pedestrian.</li> <li>• Some relevance but may be implicit / tangential at times.</li> <li>• Prone to unsubstantiated, sweeping statements: ideas vague and / or lacking sustained development: can be digressive and wander off topic.</li> <li>• Limited illustration and / or factual inaccuracy.</li> <li>• Insufficient focus; essay offloads everything known about the particular topic with inadequate reference to the key words in the question.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;">Band 5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">‘weak – very weak’</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Poor / very poor knowledge / understanding of topic</p>	0–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (totally) inadequate content with little / no substance: (very) vague and confused ideas.</li> <li>• Question largely (completely) misinterpreted / misunderstood.</li> <li>• Very limited (total) irrelevance.</li> <li>• Very limited / (no) appropriate illustration.</li> <li>• Bracketed descriptors denote 0–2 range.</li> </ul>

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### Section 1

#### 1 'To what extent was your country affected by the recent global financial crises?'

Key words are 'To what extent ...?' and 'your country affected' and 'recent financial crises'.

- What was the nature of the effect on your country?
- Was it less / more / roughly the same as other comparable countries in your region?
- Specific examples required of the effects.
- A clear indication of measures taken to rectify the situation.
- The current situation: how strong is the recovery?

#### 2 How far has eco-tourism been developed in your country?

Key words are 'How far ...?' and 'eco-tourism' and 'developed' and 'your country'.

- Is 'eco-tourism' a declared policy in your country?
- Outline the timelines of the agreed programme.
- Which aspects of eco-tourism have been targeted?
- Examples of early success / failure.
- What are the benefits for your country?
- Main projects should be illustrated with specific examples.

#### 3 How far would you agree with the accusation that religion is the 'opium of the people'?

Key words are 'How far ...?' and 'religion' and 'opium of the people'.

- How do we account for religion - its origin / development / persistence / survival in modern society?
- Karl Marx regarded economics as the base of all human life and history, as an expression of material realities and economic injustice.
- Problems in religion are therefore ultimately problems in society.
- Religion is not the disease but simply a symptom of a failing society.
- Oppressors make the afflicted feel better about the distress experienced due to being poor and exploited.
- This is the origin of his statement re: 'opium of the people'.
- Do people today cling to religion as a solace for misery and as a door to a better after-life?

#### 4 'Civilisation is essentially an attitude of equal respect for all people.' Discuss.

Key words are 'Civilisation' and 'equal respect' and 'Discuss'.

- Has any civilisation ever attained this ideal?
- How far are we away today from achieving this ideal?
- Was George Orwell correct in claiming "all animals are equal but some are more equal than others"?
- What progress, if any, has been made to date on the journey towards equal respect?
- How closely is it linked with social mobility and equality of opportunity?
- Does respect stem from such things as status, wealth, celebrity, professional success, family, honesty and integrity, which makes it unattainable for all?

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## **5 Can democracy be imposed or must it grow naturally?**

Key words are 'Can ...?' and 'imposed' and 'grow naturally'.

- Democracy is a tender plant which takes time to take root and flourish in new soil.
- Recent examples illustrate the above point clearly, e.g. constituent countries of the post-war Eastern Bloc and the USSR, North Korea, Iraq and Afghanistan.
- However, natural growth needs time and patience – most of the established Western democracies have evolved over centuries and are still far from perfect.
- Any imposition of democracy against the will, culture, wishes of the people will encounter major difficulties and can easily result in all kinds of conflict.

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## Section 2

### 6 How effective are diets in helping people to lose weight and become fit?

Key words are 'How ...?' and 'effective' and 'diets' and 'lose weight' and 'become fit'.

- To be effective diets need to help people lose weight gradually and steadily to achieve permanent weight loss.
- This generally means adopting healthy eating habits and life style with some form of fitness exercise (appropriate for the age and interests of the person involved).
- Weight loss is a multi million pound industry and includes some of the 'fad', crash and celebrity diets which are often ineffective because they are unsustainable over time and weight is piled back on when they are discontinued (yo-yo effect).
- Some crash diets can be injurious to health and medical advice should always be sought before embarking on any diet.
- Diets can only be effective if participants have the will-power to stick to them – sometimes joining in with others on diets on structured programmes such as Weightwatchers can help people succeed in achieving their dietary goals.

### 7 To what extent should developing countries be expected to limit their industrial output to suit current environmental concerns?

Key words are 'To what extent ...?' and 'developing countries' and 'limit industrial output' and 'suit current environmental concerns'.

- This is a question dependent on short / long-term priorities.
- Developing countries see any restriction to industrial growth as an unfair / unacceptable burden, e.g. the question of carbon controls.
- Developed countries were not subject to any limits on their path to industrialisation.
- However, many mistakes, especially re: pollution of all kinds were made which developing countries would do well to avoid although it may slow the desired progress.
- Most developing countries see rapid industrialisation as the key goal and are neither heeding the lessons from history nor the pleas of the developed countries re: environmental concerns
- Examples required, e.g. China where environmental concerns have been overridden with disastrous consequences.

### 8 Which mathematicians do you consider have greatly influenced the modern world? Justify your choices.

Key words are 'Which' and 'mathematicians' and 'greatly influenced the modern world'.

Candidates may nominate any mathematicians, but must provide justification.

Mathematicians chosen may include:

- Newton (three laws of motion, law of gravitation) who furthered earlier work by Aristotle and Galileo and in tandem with Leibniz, produced Calculus and also was the first to understand the motion of the planets.
- Leibniz also invented the first calculator which could do multiplication.
- Archimedes for aspects of algebra and for calculating the area of a triangle.
- The Swiss Euler for the development of modern trigonometry.
- Pythagoras who was first to prove the previously known theorem and who showed 'how number rules the universe'.

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**9 Today, news can be transmitted by anybody with access to technology. Assess the implications of this change.**

Key words are 'news transmitted by anybody', 'access to technology' and 'Assess the implications'.

- News here in the sense of any kind of new information even gossip, e.g. via Facebook and Twitter.
- Also includes factual, instantaneous breaking news.
- Includes personal takes on events, and evidence captured on photographs and video.
- technology provides appliances to avoid censorship and governmental control not only by repressive regimes but also sometimes by democracies, e.g. ban on Twitter in China and the problems with Google and the ban on Blackberry usage in Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

**10 To what extent can the impact of natural disasters be lessened?**

Key words 'To what extent ...?' and 'natural disasters' and 'impact ... lessened'.

- The number of people affected by disasters has doubled since the 1990s with an average of 188 million people affected each year.
- The impact looks set to intensify, mainly in poorer countries, largely due to growing populations and a greater vulnerability to natural hazards.
- Contributory factors include rapid, poorly planned urbanisation and rural planning and governance and environmental degradation caused by such acts as deforestation and the damming of rivers with insufficient attention paid to potential consequences and safety measures.
- Recent examples of floods and mudslides in a variety of countries illustrate the above point
- Disaster prevention – an informed feasibility report as the central plank of good planning is the obvious answer (no house building in disaster / risk-prone areas).
- Disaster mitigation – includes measures / legislation in advance of any possible disaster to minimise the impact on society and the environment, e.g. stringent building regulations to reinforce key structures to make buildings and their surroundings safer in hazardous situations.
- Disaster preparedness – to combine pre- and post-emergency measures designed to minimise loss of life, to facilitate by good organisation effective / timely rescue, relief and rehabilitation following disasters.

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### Section 3

#### 11 Consider the special appeal of poetry.

Key words are 'Consider' and 'poetry' and 'special appeal'.

- Poetry is a high form of literary art in which language is used for its aesthetic and evocative qualities in addition to or in place of its apparent meaning.
- It can thus say things that prose cannot.
- It uses words to their fuller potential and the language can colour our perceptions.
- Particular forms and conventions can suggest alternative meanings in the words and can evoke emotional and / or sensual responses.
- Assonance, alliteration, onomatopoeia, and rhythm are used to invoke musical or incantatory effects.
- Ambiguity, symbolism, irony, and other stylistic elements of poetic diction can leave a poem open to multiple interpretations.
- Metaphor, simile, and metonymy create a resonance between otherwise disparate images, a layering of meanings and forming connections previously not conceived.
- Similar / kindred forms of resonance may exist between patterns of rhyme and rhythm.
- The appeal is in a 'feast' for the imagination fuelled by the 'magic' of language which grips the emotions and feelings in a memorable way that the objectively informative, prosaic forms of writing can not achieve.

#### 12 To what extent is accurate grammar important in speech and in the written word?

Key words are 'To what extent ...?' and 'accurate' and 'speech' and 'written word'.

- Grammar is the system by which words and sentences are assembled to convey the intended meaning.
- When native speakers make grammatical errors when speaking, it is normally of little consequence because they seldom distort or change the meaning of the sentence.
- If some misunderstanding / ambiguity does arise, it can be instantly queried.
- Many non-native speakers more frequently commit errors which can distort or change meaning thus creating some misunderstanding.
- This is the reason why non-native speakers pay more attention to grammar than native speakers.
- A lack of grammatical accuracy in leading politicians / newsreaders / eminent professional people etc. might be interpreted as a sign of appropriate education / ability for their particular function.
- Grammatical accuracy in the written word tends to be more important, particularly when setting up such items as legal and binding contracts as ambiguity may arise and become a subject of legal dispute.
- A good knowledge of grammar is useful when learning a foreign language. Grammatical similarities and dissimilarities are easier to understand and remember if the learner understands his / her own grammar.



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**13 What, in your opinion, makes a work of art worth a huge amount of money? Give reasons and examples for your choice.**

Key words are 'What ...?' and 'huge amount of money' and 'Give reasons ... examples'.

- Works of art have been collected for centuries.
- Acclaimed 'masterpieces' have become increasingly sought after by national galleries and private collectors.
- This has led to a very limited supply and abundant demand situation in a highly commercial market with the works of old 'masters' attaining ever soaring prices at auction because of their rarity, popularity and the acclaimed aesthetic and artistic merit.
- Collecting works of art has become a huge business worldwide – buying the works of little known and as yet unrecognised artists is tantamount to investing in stocks and shares.
- Candidates may refer to high prices paid at auctions – recent examples include over \$104 million for one Picasso and over \$95 million for another. A decorated Faberge egg sold for over £9 million.

**14 What kind of music do you find most appealing? Give reasons and examples for your choice.**

Key words are 'What ...?' and 'most appealing' and 'Give reasons ... examples'.

- Candidates have a free choice of any genre or any composer.
- Candidates must state reasons and give examples for their choice.

**15 How effectively are traditional crafts maintained and supported in your society?**

Key words are 'How ...?' and 'traditional crafts' and 'maintained / supported and 'your society'.

- What are the traditional crafts in the candidate's society?
- What is their cultural significance and their economic value?
- How are traditional skills maintained?
- How are the crafts supported?
- What role does the national and / or local government play in sustaining traditional crafts?
- Are these crafts currently flourishing or perishing?