



**MARKING NOTES
REMARQUES POUR LA NOTATION
NOTAS PARA LA CORRECCIÓN**

May / mai / mayo 2011

ENGLISH / ANGLAIS / INGLÉS A1

**Standard Level
Niveau Moyen
Nivel Medio**

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1

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Provisional marking

During the early period of your marking your team leader (or principal examiner in the case of team leaders) will contact you to convey information about the standard of marking and the interpretation of the marking notes. Before this discussion, it is necessary to have provisionally marked (in pencil) about ten scripts.

If your team leader has failed to make contact with you, please try to make contact with her or him yourself, by phone or e-mail.

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**Criteria A and B**

The danger of rewarding or penalizing the use of illustration/references/quotations twice in both these categories should be avoided.

Criterion B

The passages for commentary offer candidates a variety of possibilities for analysis and interpretation. The test of any interpretation is that it has to be tied carefully to the words, images and relevant details of the text. Personal response, in the same way, must be tied to the passage.

In the descriptor for level 2, there may be other conditions under which a “2” may be awarded, such as a limited use of evidence or a generally weak response. Substantiation of points may be made but be very weak/superficial.

What is sought by “personal response” is an individual voice and engagement with how the text works. Engaged and individual commentaries will usually make themselves clear by the depth of insight into the text and the quality and interest of the details cited in support.

The first person singular does not automatically constitute a personal response and conversely an impersonal academic style does not necessarily indicate a lack of personal response.

Criterion C

“Awareness” and “appreciation” of literary features are the key elements under this criterion. The mere labelling, without appreciation, of literary features will not score the highest marks. On the other hand, the candidate who is attentive to literary features and deals with them in a meaningful way, but who does not consistently use the vocabulary of literary criticism, can still be awarded the higher achievement levels.

Reminder: the term “literary features” is broad and includes elements as basic as plot, character, *etc.*, attention to which is valid and must be rewarded as appropriate.

Criterion D

Any form of structuring to the commentary will be rewarded if it is effective and appropriate. Different conventions are in operation and therefore all approaches, including the linear (line by line analysis), are acceptable and will be judged on the basis of their effectiveness. Examiners should remember that structure does not exist by itself, but any structure must be measured by appropriate reference to the passage or poem and by its capacity to integrate these towards the development of an organized and coherent commentary.

Reminder: In this criterion, supporting examples must be evaluated in terms of how fluently they are incorporated/integrated to shape/advance the argument, **not** in terms of their appropriateness or accuracy.

Criterion E

If you have reservations about awarding a four, you should ensure that these are well-founded before awarding a three. The breadth of achievement in level three sometimes makes examiners reluctant to award four.

Use judgment when dealing with lapses in grammar, spelling and punctuation; therefore do not unduly penalize.

Mechanical accuracy is only a part of this criterion. Ensure that all the other elements are considered.

Examiners should be careful to avoid being prejudiced in their application of this criterion by achievement levels in other criteria. It is possible to score highly on this criterion even if candidates have scored in the lower levels on the other criteria, and vice versa.

These notes to examiners are intended only as guidelines to assist marking and as a supplement to the published external assessment criteria for written paper 1. They are not offered as an exhaustive and fixed set of responses or approaches to which all answers must rigidly adhere. Good ideas or angles not offered here should be acknowledged and rewarded as appropriate. Similarly, answers which do not include all the ideas or approaches suggested here may still be very good answers.

Of course, some of the points listed below will appear in weaker papers, but are unlikely to be developed.

The following elements are particularly relevant to criteria A, B and C.

Question 1. Prose

Satisfactory and good papers, three to four, on a spectrum of increasing precision and detail, **may**:

- appreciate the ways the “white nights” affect the various characters
- respond to the presentation of Anna and her situation
- show an understanding of the many contrasts in the passage
- comment on the structure of the passage and the impact of the different settings
- comment on the narrative voice
- discuss some features of language and imagery.

Very good to excellent papers, four to five, on a spectrum of increasing sophistication, **may also**:

- show a more detailed understanding of the central characters’ reactions
- show a more sophisticated appreciation of the impact of the contrasts in the passage
- explore in greater detail the effects of the way the passage is structured
- explore in greater depth the quality of the narrative voice and its effects
- discuss literary features in greater detail, with well-chosen examples.

Question 2. Poem

Satisfactory and good papers, three to four, on a spectrum of increasing precision and detail, **may**:

- consider the ways in which the accident is presented, responding to the key features of form, structure and language: for example, syntax, arrangement of the stanzas, punctuation and diction
- engage with the poet’s presentation of the characters and their relationships
- address the tone and narrative perspective
- offer some discussion of the final stanza and its impact.

Very good to excellent papers, four to five, on a spectrum of increasing sophistication, **may also**:

- show a more sophisticated understanding of the effects of the key features of form, structure and language
- show understanding of the significance of the characters and their relationships and the role of the speaker
- show a more sophisticated understanding of the significance of the choice of tone and perspective
- attempt to explain the meaning of the final stanza, showing some understanding of why it is different from the others and the way this contributes to an open-ended or possibly ironic reading, tolerant of ambiguity.