

Marking notes
Remarques pour la notation
Notas para la corrección

November / Novembre / Noviembre de 2020

English / Anglais / Inglés ab initio

Standard level
Niveau moyen
Nivel medio

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1

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Criterion A: Language

How successfully does the candidate command written language?

- To what extent is the vocabulary appropriate and varied?
- To what extent are the grammatical structures varied?
- To what extent does the accuracy of the language contribute to effective communication?

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1-2	Command of the language is limited Vocabulary is sometimes appropriate to the task. Basic grammatical structures are used. Language contains errors in basic structures. Abundant repetition and inaccuracies interfere with meaning.
3-4	Command of the language is generally effective. Vocabulary is generally appropriate to the task, and varied. Some basic grammatical structures are used, with some attempts to use more complex structures. Language is generally accurate for basic structures, but errors occur in more complex structures. Errors at times interfere with communication.
5-6	Command of the language is effective and mostly accurate. Vocabulary is appropriate to the task, and varied. A variety of basic and more complex grammatical structures is used effectively. Language is mostly accurate. Occasional errors do not interfere with communication.

Language

Not all errors have the same importance, and examiners should bear this in mind. Some errors affect the communication of meaning significantly, and others do not. Also, some errors indicate a fundamental lack of command of the language, while others may simply indicate a moment of forgetfulness.

SLIPS – mistakes at all levels of difficulty, but erratic and occasional – *eg* the candidate normally forms past tenses well, but occasionally forgets “-ed”.

FLAWS – errors occur more regularly, particularly in certain structures – *eg* past tenses are formed correctly quite often, but are not really reliable, and there may be basic confusions (*eg* past simple versus present perfect).

GAPS – some structures are rarely correct, or simply don’t appear – *eg* the past tenses are needed, but do not appear.

Criterion B: Message

To what extent does the candidate fulfil the task?

- How relevant are the ideas to the task?
- To what extent are ideas developed?
- To what extent do the clarity and organization of ideas contribute to the successful delivery of the message?

The “descriptor unpacked” explain the assessment criteria in greater detail. Where a candidate’s response does not correspond exactly to a single mark band, the statements in bold should be used as a guide for the ‘best fit’ approach.

Marks	Level descriptor	Descriptor unpacked
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.	
1–2	<p>The task is partially fulfilled.</p> <p>Some ideas are relevant.</p> <p>Ideas are stated, but with no development.</p> <p>Ideas are not clearly presented and do not follow a logical structure, making the message difficult to determine.</p>	<p>The link between the response and task is unclear at times; the reader has difficulty in understanding the message.</p> <p>The response covers only some points in the task, and not all the points expressed are relevant.</p> <p>Supporting details and/or examples barely feature, if at all.</p> <p>The ideas do not link well together; inadequate or inappropriate use of cohesive devices confuse the message.</p>
3–4	<p>The task is generally fulfilled.</p> <p>Most ideas are relevant to the task.</p> <p>Some ideas are developed with some detail and examples.</p> <p>Ideas are generally clearly presented and the response is generally structured in a logical manner, leading to a mostly successful delivery of the message.</p>	<p>The link between the response and the task is mostly clear; the reader’s overall understanding is not impeded, despite some ambiguity.</p> <p>The response covers most of the points in the task, and most of the points expressed are relevant.</p> <p>The response includes some supporting details and examples.</p> <p>The ideas are organized in a logical way; basic cohesive devices are used correctly to aid the delivery of the message, although there may be areas of slight confusion at times.</p>
5–6	<p>The task is fulfilled effectively.</p> <p>Ideas are relevant to the task.</p> <p>Ideas are developed well, providing details and relevant examples.</p> <p>Ideas are clearly presented and the response is structured in a logical manner, supporting the delivery of the message.</p>	<p>The link between the response and the task is clear; the reader has a good understanding of the message conveyed.</p> <p>The response covers all the points in the task, and the points expressed are relevant.</p> <p>The response uses supporting details and examples to clarify the message.</p> <p>The ideas are organized well; a range of basic cohesive devices are used correctly to deliver the message with little or no ambiguity.</p>

Note: When marking candidate responses, keep in mind that neither the **factual accuracy** of the information presented, nor the **validity** of the candidates’ personal opinions, are being assessed. Therefore, scripts that are factually inaccurate should not be marked down, provided the ideas presented have coherence and are sufficiently developed.

Criterion C: Conceptual understanding

To what extent does the candidate demonstrate conceptual understanding?

- To what extent is the choice of text type appropriate to the task?
- To what extent are register and tone appropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task?
- To what extent does the response incorporate the conventions of the chosen text type?

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1	<p>Conceptual understanding is limited.</p> <p>The choice of text type is generally inappropriate to the context, purpose or audience.</p> <p>The register and tone are inappropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task.</p> <p>The response incorporates limited recognizable conventions of the chosen text type.</p>
2	<p>Conceptual understanding is mostly demonstrated.</p> <p>The choice of text type is generally appropriate to the context, purpose and audience.</p> <p>The register and tone, while occasionally appropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task, fluctuate throughout the response.</p> <p>The response incorporates some conventions of the chosen text type.</p>
3	<p>Conceptual understanding is fully demonstrated.</p> <p>The choice of text type is appropriate to the context, purpose and audience.</p> <p>The register and tone are appropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task.</p> <p>The response fully incorporates the conventions of the chosen text type.</p>

Note: Examiners must balance all three elements in criterion C (choice of text type, appropriateness of tone and register, and use of text type conventions) to arrive at the final mark.

Question specific guidance (Criterion B and C)

Section A

Task 2

You recently moved to a new school in a new country where your routine is very different. You want to reflect on this experience. Write a text describing two or more differences about your new routine and how this is making you feel.

Blog

Diary

Speech

Criterion B:

Points to be covered:

- Information relevant to the context: reference to a move to a new country and / or going to a new school.
- Description of two or more differences in routine between the student’s own country or school and the new one. These differences do not have to be linked to the new school but may refer to the customs of the country.

The word “routine” suggests a difference in time /organization/programme of the day. Also accept the description of a difference in habit, lifestyle, custom...

- Description / explanation of how this move to a new country makes the student feel.

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Diary	The text type is suitable: the candidate is asked to reflect on the situation. This text type is usually personal and not shared with other readers.
Generally appropriate	Blog	This text type could contain some elements of reflexion although the audience is more numerous. If the blog is specifically addressed to friends or classmates this choice could be generally appropriate
Generally inappropriate	Speech	This text type is addressed to an audience. It does not allow the “author” of the speech to reflect.

Note: If a response makes the context, audience and purpose of the writing clear, and these conform to the task, the “generally appropriate” text type can be considered “appropriate”, and the “generally inappropriate” text type can be considered “generally appropriate”.

Register and tone:

- informal
- personal

Please refer to the appendix for a list of text type conventions.

Section B

Task 4

Your class went on a language exchange visit to an English-speaking country last month. You thought the visit was particularly successful, and you want to let your school principal know. Write a text describing what you did, and two or more things that you learned from the visit.

Article

Letter

Presentation

Criterion B:

Points to be covered:

- Information relevant to the context: the letter refers to the school language exchange.
- Description of what the student did: a list of events or activities or a single, well-developed, activity. The description of the exchange should be positive to reflect “particularly successful”, but these words are not required in the letter.
- Mention of two or more things the student learned. These points may be linked to what the student did (events and /or activities) or be more general (referring, for example, to the experience of the exchange).

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Letter	This text type is suitable since it is addressed to an individual, the school principal. A letter can be used to describe an event or experience.
Generally appropriate	Presentation	This text type is generally an oral text given to a class or to a small audience. It could be suitable if the presentation is specifically delivered to the teachers and the headmaster, for example.
Generally inappropriate	Article	This text type is not suitable since it does not allow for communication with the headmaster.

Note: If a response makes the context, audience and purpose of the writing clear, and these conform to the task, the “generally appropriate” text type can be considered “appropriate”, and the “generally inappropriate” text type can be considered “generally appropriate”.

Register and tone:

- formal
- polite

Please refer to the appendix for a list of text type conventions.

Appendix: Text type conventions (Criterion C)

The most common and recognisable conventions of the text types are given below:

Blog

- Title
- Time / Date
- Writer's name / username
- Reference to audience (directly, or through use of "we" and "you" etc)

Diary

- Date
- First person narration
- Opening and closing statement
- Form of address and signature

Speech

- Opening address
- Reference to audience (directly, or through use of "we" and "you" etc)
- Concluding remarks / closing statement

Article

- Headline
- Writer's name or date of publication
- Introduction

Letter

- Date
- Opening salutation / greeting
- closing salutations
- Name of the sender

Presentation

- Opening address
 - Reference to the topic of the presentation
 - Concluding remarks / closing statement
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