

Marking notes Remarques pour la notation Notas para la corrección

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English / Anglais / Inglés B

Standard level Niveau moyen Nivel Medio

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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.		
	Command of the language is limited.		
1–3	Vocabulary is sometimes appropriate to the task.		
	Basic grammatical structures are used.		
	Language contains errors in basic structures. Errors interfere with communication.		
	Command of the language is partially effective.		
	Vocabulary is appropriate to the task.		
4–6	Some basic grammatical structures are used, with some attempts to use more complex structures.		
	Language is mostly accurate for basic structures, but errors occur in more complex structures. Errors at times interfere with communication.		
	Command of the language is effective and mostly accurate.		
	Vocabulary is appropriate to the task, and varied.		
7–9	A variety of basic and more complex grammatical structures is used.		
	Language is mostly accurate. Occasional errors in basic and in complex grammatical		
	structures do not interfere with communication.		
	Command of the language is mostly accurate and very effective.		
	Vocabulary is appropriate to the task, and varied, including the use of idiomatic expressions.		
10–12	A variety of basic and more complex grammatical structures is used effectively.		
	Language is mostly accurate. Minor errors in more complex grammatical structures 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.	
	The task is partially fulfilled. Few ideas are relevant to the task.	The link between the response and task tends to be unclear; the reader has difficulty understanding the message.
	Ideas are stated, but with no development.	The response touches upon some aspects of the task but there is also much unrelated information.
1–3	Ideas are not clearly presented and do not follow a logical structure, making the message difficult to	The response addresses the task in a simple manner, and supporting details and/or examples barely feature, if at all.
	determine.	The ideas do not link well together; inadequate or inappropriate use of cohesive devices confuse the message.
	The task is generally fulfilled.	The link between the response and the task is
	Some ideas are relevant to the task.	mostly detectable; the reader's general understanding of the message is not impeded, despite some ambiguity.
4–6	Ideas are outlined, but are not fully developed.	The response covers some aspects of the task, or touches upon all aspects but superficially.
4-0	Ideas are generally clearly presented and the response is	The response includes some supporting details and examples.
	generally structured in a logical manner, leading to a mostly successful delivery of the message.	The ideas are organized in a logical way; some cohesive devices are used appropriately to aid the delivery of the message, although there may be areas of confusion at times.
	The task is fulfilled.	The link between the response and the task is
	Most ideas are relevant to the task.	clear; the reader has a good understanding of the message conveyed.
7–9	Ideas are developed well, with some detail and examples.	The response covers all aspects of the task, despite losing focus at times.
7-3	Ideas are clearly presented and the response is structured in a logical	The response uses supporting details and examples to clarify the message.
	manner, supporting the delivery of the message.	The ideas are organized well; a range of cohesive devices are used appropriately to deliver the message with little or no ambiguity.
	The task is fulfilled effectively.	The link between the response and the task is
10–12	Ideas are relevant to the task.	precise and consistently evident; the reader has a clear understanding of the message conveyed.
	Ideas are fully developed, providing details and relevant examples.	The response covers all aspects of the task fully, and maintains focus throughout.

Ideas are clearly presented and the	The response uses well-chosen supporting details and
response is structured in a logical	examples to illustrate and explain ideas persuasively.
and coherent manner that	The ideas are organized well; a range of cohesive
supports the delivery of the	devices are used appropriately to deliver the message
message.	with clarity and ease.

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.		
	Conceptual understanding is limited.		
	The choice of text type is generally inappropriate to the context, purpose or audience.		
1–2	The register and tone are inappropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task.		
	The response incorporates limited recognizable conventions of the chosen text type.		
	Conceptual understanding is mostly demonstrated.		
	The choice of text type is generally appropriate to the context, purpose and audience.		
3–4	The register and tone, while occasionally appropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task, fluctuate throughout the response.		
	The response incorporates some conventions of the chosen text type.		
	Conceptual understanding is fully demonstrated.		
	The choice of text type is appropriate to the context, purpose and audience.		
5–6	The register and tone are appropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task.		
	The response fully incorporates the conventions of the chosen text type.		

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)

Task 1

You have read an article which raised concerns that today's young people prefer making friends online rather than having face-to-face friendships. You want to share your views about this with the public. Write a text in which you express your opinion on the topic and describe how you make friends.

Letter to the editor	Proposal	Social media posting	
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Criterion B:

- The two required aspects of the task are (i) "express your opinion on the topic (of making friends online rather than having face-to-face friendships)" and (ii) "describe how you make friends".
- Equal weight does not have to be given to those two elements, but both should be given some developed attention. If either aspect is ignored or given only cursory attention (e.g., very brief and general or in a single sentence), no more than the 4-6 band should be awarded since the task has only been "generally fulfilled" at best.
- Discussion of (i) may focus on whether young people prefer to make friends online rather than having face to face friendships, whether they think this is a good thing or not, or both.
- Discussion of (ii) should include some personal and/or anecdotal information about how they
 make friends. This should go beyond specifying whether they make friends online/face to face or
 both.
- Discussion of (ii) could be reflected through suggestions or pieces of advice. If this is clearly presented based on personal experience, it should be accepted.
- Discussion of (ii) should refer to experiences in the present time.

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Letter to the editor	The text type is appropriate for expressing an opinion as a reaction to a text that appeared in the press. The text is suitable for a mass audience (the public).
Generally appropriate	Social media posting	The text type may reach a large audience, but this is typically more targeted than 'the public'. It is also a more informal text. The choice may be considered appropriate if the response makes clear the text is being shared with a mass audience (i.e. wider than their social circle / other young people), using an appropriate semi-formal register
Generally inappropriate	Proposal	This text type is primarily used to suggest a solution to a problem rather than describe a personal experience. It is not used to give a personal reaction.

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 may be considered "appropriate", or the "generally inappropriate" text type considered "generally appropriate".

Register and tone:

- Semi-formal register
- Persuasive and informative tone

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

Task 2

An international sporting event will be taking place in your town. The organizers need Englishspeaking volunteers to assist visitors from abroad. You think this is a good opportunity for you. Write a text to the organizers in which you explain what relevant experiences you have and describe the ways in which your English skills could help the visitors.

Criterion B:

- The two required aspects of the task are (i) "explain what relevant experience you have" and (ii) "describe the ways your language skills could help the visitors".
- Equal weight does not have to be given to those two elements, but both should be given some developed attention. If any aspect is ignored or given only cursory attention (e.g., very brief and general or in a single sentence), no more than the 4-6 band should be awarded since the task has only been "generally fulfilled" at best.
- Discussion of (i) should detail the writer's background that they consider relevant for the role (e.g. positions of responsibility held at school, work/volunteering outside of school etc) AND/ OR experiences related to how language was acquired to fit for the role offered.
- Discussion of (ii) should focus on the writer's abilities in English, and how this could help visitors (e.g. giving instructions/directions, creating bilingual signs, helping visitors/athletes from other countries, English being a lingua franca etc.)

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

-	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Personal statement	This text type is appropriate for conveying personal information of an informative and persuasive nature to an authority figure in a professional context. It must be clear that it is addressed to the "organisers" of the event.
Generally appropriate	Social media posting	This text type is suitable for a persuasive and personal communication, but it is not typically used in a professional context for a specific audience. The choice may be considered appropriate if the response makes clear that the target audience is the organizers (e.g. in response to an advert posted on the social media platform), using an appropriate semi-formal to formal register.
Generally inappropriate	Letter to the editor	The text type is typically used to communicate a point of view to a general audience. It is not usually used for professional communication for a specific audience.

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 may be considered "appropriate", or the "generally inappropriate" text type considered "generally appropriate".

Register and tone:

- Formal register with possible flashes of semi-formality
- Persuasive, informative and enthusiastic tone

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

Task 3

Your school is thinking about organizing a trip to an English-speaking country and wants the students to suggest a suitable place to visit. You want to share your idea with your school's management. Write a text in which you explain to the management why your choice is an ideal destination and suggest some educational activities that students could do there.

	Article	Proposal	Speech
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Criterion B:

- The two required aspects of the task are (i) "explain (to the management) why your choice is an ideal destination" and (ii) "suggest some educational activities that students could do there".
- Equal weight does not have to be given to those two elements, but both should be given some developed attention. If any aspect is ignored or given only cursory attention (e.g., very brief and general or in a single sentence), no more than the 4-6 band should be awarded since the task has only been "generally fulfilled" at best.
- Discussion of (i) should mention the writer's chosen destination and give reasons for that choice. The response may offer multiple reasons, or one overarching reason developed in detail.
- The chosen destination could be real or an imaginary one.
- Discussion of (ii) should focus on activities suitable for students (age-appropriate, educational, develop life skills etc.). If leisure activities are mentioned, they should be directly linked to an educational element.
- Both "why your choice is an ideal destination" and "the educational activities" could be presented in an intertwined manner.

	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Proposal	This text type is appropriate for communicating an opinion or suggestion to a specific audience in order to persuade them. It is frequently used for formal communication with a decision maker. It should be explicitly mentioned that the audience is "school's management".
Generally appropriate	Speech	This text type is appropriate for a persuasive text to convey a personal point of view, but it usually requires a specific context for the speech to be made. The choice may be considered appropriate if this is achieved, and the response makes clear the audience is the school management, rather than the school community in general.
Generally inappropriate	Article	This is a mass-media text type typically used to broadcast topical information to a general audience. It is not usually used to persuade a specific audience.

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

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 may be considered "appropriate", or the "generally inappropriate" text type considered "generally appropriate".

Register and tone:

- Formal with appropriate flashes of semi-formality
- Persuasive, informative and excited tone

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:

Article

- relevant headline/title
- introduction intended to catch the readers' attention.
- techniques that engage and interest readers, e.g. direct address

Letter to the editor

- appropriate opening and closing salutations
- reference to the original article/issue raised*
- interesting and engaging style

Personal statement

- relevant title/heading
- distinct introduction and conclusion
- style that is lucid and easy to follow

Proposal

- title summarising the overall subject
- clearly set-out format, e.g. headings, short clear paragraphs, bullets, numbering, insetting etc.
- style aimed to persuade a specified audience

Social media posting

- first person narration/statement
- seek to engage the reader, e.g. direct address, lively and interesting style
- may include typical online communication techniques, e.g. references to other postings, members and forums, hashtags, @references, and 'likes' etc.

Speech

- catch the audience's attention at the beginning, and leave a clear impression at the end
- address the audience and keep contact with them throughout, e.g. use of "we" and "you" etc.
- elements of speech rhetoric e.g. rhetorical questions, repetition etc.