

English A1 HL Paper 1 marking notes

These notes to examiners are intended only as guidelines to assist marking. 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 should not be so heavily penalised as to distort appreciation of individuality.

HL Paper 1 (Prose)

A good commentary will include most or all of the following:

- acknowledge the narrative and dialogue features of the passage
- understand the nature of the problem of land ownership
- understand the nature of family/sibling relationships
- address some stylistic features such as tone, structure, characterisation and diction in terms of the narrative, in an accurate way, with citation of examples.

A better commentary should additionally include some or all of the following:

- acknowledge the first paragraph as a framing paragraph
- pay attention to physical gesture and words
- address the ways in which the characters and their points of view are shaped through the dialogue
- discuss stylistic features in greater detail with highly relevant examples and integrate them in a meaningful way.

Consideration of other relevant features or elements, such as geographical setting, Preacher Ericson, Carl Linstrum, the Catholic fair, should be rewarded, although inaccurate interpretation or absence of such cultural details should not be penalised.

HL Paper 1 (Poem)

A good commentary will include most or all of the following:

- show comprehension that books are not passive objects, but have some way of affecting people's lives
- show a sense of the poet's attitude (tone)
- identify images and explain how they enrich the poem
- show awareness of the structure of the poem; also of features of sound, and of effective word choices.

A better commentary should additionally include some or all of the following:

- an awareness of how the playful and/or witty tone of the poem functions
- the poetic ways of describing the reading transaction
- images and patterns of images, eg "They have written you", "Like invalids long reconciled to stillness" and their effect
- the function of structure in creating tone and other effects of both sound and meaning.

NB: In addition to the content, the descriptors for presentation and language (Criteria D and E) will qualify the quality of the commentary.