

English A1 HL Paper 2 marking notes

HL Paper 2 (Essay)

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.

It should be noted that candidates will be penalised under all criteria (see Examiner Manual, Part 5, Language A1 HL/SL paper 2) if, having studied texts in a specific category, they then answer a question from a different category. However, candidates are free to answer any of the **General Questions on Literature**, using the Part III works studied.

With reference to Criterion C, the better answers will contain examples that show an adequate sense of stylistic features with some awareness of their effects, using critical analysis and pertinent detail.

The best answers will show a strong sense of the stylistic and comparable features of the works, as well as the effects of these features.

These apply to all answers below.

Drama

1(a)

A barely satisfactory answer will cite examples of concealment and revelation as evidence of their knowledge of the texts.

A better answer will also include explicit discussion and development of dramatic tension, with appropriate examples.

The best answers will consider the action of the play unfolding in relation to other elements, using sufficient exemplification of style, and appreciation of effect.

1(b)

The satisfactory answer will discuss contrastive and/or comparative presentation of the characters.

A better answer will consider **how** this is done, using detail relevant to the feature discussed.

The best answers will consider the **effect** of dramatic force with a precise sense of the relevant matters of style.

Poetry

2(a)

Both the following are permissible:

- discussion of the importance of gender for the writers
- discussion of the way in which gender is reflected in the poems themselves.

Depth and detail may make discussion more valuable than an extensive, but superficial survey of a number of poems. Superior answers will show how particular features such as word choice, images and the structures of both meaning and sound underline and/or differentiate one poem or writer from another.

2(b)

A satisfactory answer will discuss memory and recollection as playing a part in the materials of the poems.

A better answer will analyse the apparent role of memory and recollection in shaping the poetry.

Superior (best) answers will refer to particular elements of style as they support the position taken on the topic.

Attention to the quotation *may* be discussed but need not specifically appear in a successful answer.

Prose: The Novel and Short Story

3(a)

A barely satisfactory answer will cite examples of uses and abuses of power in the texts.

A better answer will also show some comparative discussion of uses and abuses of power as a theme with some sense of stylistic features.

The best answers will additionally focus on the **presentation** of the theme through particular address of stylistic features.

3(b)

A satisfactory answer will discuss individual titles early and later in the candidate's experience.

A better answer will show the **means**, ie the stylistic features used by a writer to change or reinforce impressions gained.

The best will discuss the effects of style.

NB:

- The examiner should accept the title of the works as known to the candidate, eg “A Doll House”, “A Doll’s House”.
- Answers to this question may have a greater degree of personal response, which must be supported by relevant reference to the text.

Prose: Other than the Novel and Short Story

4(a)

A satisfactory answer will discuss what has been learned about other cultures with implications about presentation.

A better answer will discuss the stylistic features involved in the ways in which the knowledge has been presented.

The best answers will discuss the effects of these features as well.

4(b)

A barely satisfactory answer will give an indication of some of the ways in which the works studied have helped the candidate to see the world through the eyes of someone else.

A better answer will provide a fuller discussion of the stylistic features whereby writers do this.

The best answer will also include some extension of insight into and sympathy with the subject, as well as the effects of style on these views.

General Questions on Literature

5(a)

A satisfactory answer will give **instances** of either one or the other, or both types of narrative voice, with some detail which indicates a clear sense of the types.

A better answer will compare the effects of the differences in both types.

5(b)

A satisfactory answer will show knowledge of works in relation to some understanding of realism.

A better answer will include the quotation in a discussion of realistic texts, with some attention to style.

The best answers will engage with the proposition, arguing for a particular point of view and support the view with details relating to stylistic features.

5(c)

A satisfactory answer will compare two or three works, identifying regional material as well as features of style.

A better answer will, additionally, discuss style in conjunction with examples of regional angles.

The best answers will identify what is gained by this local focus through pertinent analysis of stylistic features and their effects.

5(d)

A satisfactory answer will offer some reading of two or three texts in the light of “reading against the grain” as defined in the quotation.

A better answer will go on to treat “with what validity?” including in the answer some address of stylistic features and their effects.

NB: Any assessment of the quality of answers to this question should acknowledge its difficulty.