

English A1 SL Paper 2 marking notes

SL 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 some sense of stylistic features and their effects in the individual works.

The best answers will show, through analysis and detail, a strong sense of the stylistic and comparable features of the works.

These apply to all answers below.

Drama

1(a)

A satisfactory answer will identify issues, justifying their importance in the plays discussed.

A better answer will deal with “bringing them into the open” with clear emphasis on the issues.

1(b)

A satisfactory answer will **compare** the sequences of the unfolding of the action, but will not be merely plot summary.

A better answer will also tackle the effects of these arrangements.

Poetry

2(a)

A satisfactory answer will compare the presence and use of nature and the natural world.

A better answer will also give attention to the comparative presentation of nature as well as its inclusion in poems.

2(b)

A satisfactory answer will compare the language in three or four poems.

A better answer will compare, specifically, the force and impact of the language.

Prose: The Novel and Short Story

3(a)

A satisfactory answer will examine the texts in general terms, including the effects of length.

A better answer will discuss the effectiveness of length in relation to individual texts and in comparative terms.

3(b)

A satisfactory answer will compare contradictions in human behaviour in the texts studied.

A better answer will also show the means and the effects of the way in which these contradictions are presented.

Prose: Other than the Novel and Short Story

4(a)

A satisfactory answer will identify and compare the ways of describing people and/or places.

A better answer will show specifically how these descriptions contribute to the work as a whole.

4(b)

A satisfactory answer will identify and account for the rewarding qualities in individual texts.

A better answer will offer some argument concerning the merits of the writing itself.

General Questions on Literature

5(a)

Both of the following are acceptable:

- Traditional and new **within** works
- Traditional and new **between** works

A satisfactory answer will identify traditional and new in terms of the texts chosen.

A better answer will discuss how illuminating this contrast is in the work as a whole.

5(b)

A satisfactory answer will discuss attitudes to human nature, and, by implication, compare the ways in which these attitudes are presented.

A better answer will analyse the comparison of attitudes in greater depth.

5(c)

NB: It should be noted that ‘story telling’ can be done in genres other than the novel and short story.

A satisfactory answer will identify story tellers from different cultures and compare their telling of stories.

A better answer will have a greater analysis of the style and the cultural context.

5(d)

A satisfactory answer will identify and discuss the ways in which writers make us look at ourselves in a new way.

A better answer will discuss by what literary means this is done.