



**MARKING NOTES  
REMARQUES POUR LA NOTATION  
NOTAS PARA LA CORRECCIÓN**

**May / mai / mayo 2012**

**ENGLISH / ANGLAIS / INGLÉS A1**

**Standard Level  
Niveau Moyen  
Nivel Medio**

**Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1**

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**Provisional marking**

**During the early period of your marking your team leader (or principal examiner in the case of team leaders) will contact you to convey information about the standard of marking and the interpretation of the marking notes. Before this discussion, it is necessary to have provisionally marked (in pencil) about ten scripts.**

**If your team leader has failed to make contact with you, please try to make contact with her or him yourself, by phone or e-mail.**

**ASSESSMENT CRITERIA****Criteria A and B**

The danger of rewarding or penalizing the use of illustration/references/quotations twice in both these categories should be avoided.

**Criterion B**

The passages for commentary offer candidates a variety of possibilities for analysis and interpretation. The test of any interpretation is that it has to be tied carefully to the words, images and relevant details of the text. Personal response, in the same way, must be tied to the passage.

In the descriptor for level 2, there may be other conditions under which a “2” may be awarded, such as a limited use of evidence or a generally weak response. Substantiation of points may be made but be very weak/superficial.

What is sought by “personal response” is an individual voice and engagement with how the text works. Engaged and individual commentaries will usually make themselves clear by the depth of insight into the text and the quality and interest of the details cited in support.

The first person singular does not automatically constitute a personal response and conversely an impersonal academic style does not necessarily indicate a lack of personal response.

**Criterion C**

“Awareness” and “appreciation” of literary features are the key elements under this criterion. The mere labelling, without appreciation, of literary features will not score the highest marks. On the other hand, the candidate who is attentive to literary features and deals with them in a meaningful way, but who does not consistently use the vocabulary of literary criticism, can still be awarded the higher achievement levels.

**Reminder:** the term “literary features” is broad and includes elements as basic as plot, character, *etc.*, attention to which is valid and must be rewarded as appropriate.

## Criterion D

Any form of structuring to the commentary will be rewarded if it is effective and appropriate. Different conventions are in operation and therefore all approaches, including the linear (line by line analysis), are acceptable and will be judged on the basis of their effectiveness. Examiners should remember that structure does not exist by itself, but any structure must be measured by appropriate reference to the passage or poem and by its capacity to integrate these towards the development of an organized and coherent commentary.

**Reminder:** In this criterion, supporting examples must be evaluated in terms of how fluently they are incorporated/integrated to shape/advance the argument, **not** in terms of their appropriateness or accuracy.

## Criterion E

If you have reservations about awarding a four, you should ensure that these are well-founded before awarding a three. The breadth of achievement in level three sometimes makes examiners reluctant to award four.

Use judgment when dealing with lapses in grammar, spelling and punctuation; therefore do not unduly penalize.

Mechanical accuracy is only a part of this criterion. Ensure that all the other elements are considered.

Examiners should be careful to avoid being prejudiced in their application of this criterion by achievement levels in other criteria. It is possible to score highly on this criterion even if candidates have scored in the lower levels on the other criteria, and vice versa.

These notes to examiners are intended only as guidelines to assist marking and as a supplement to the published external assessment criteria for written paper 1. 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 may still be very good answers.

**Of course, some of the points listed below will appear in weaker papers, but are unlikely to be developed.**

The following elements are particularly relevant to criteria A, B and C.

### Question 1. Prose

Satisfactory to good papers, three to four, on a spectrum of increasing precision and detail, **may**:

- give an outline of what is happening in the passage
- comment on the two characters and give some explanation of how they are presented *e.g.* physical details of Doris's appearance and Percy's thought processes
- show some awareness of the balance between the supernatural and the everyday and identify how they are presented
- make some comment on the way Percy reacts to seeing his wife's ghost.

Very good to excellent papers, four to five, on a spectrum of increasing sophistication, **may also**:

- explain the effects of the first two paragraphs and how they differ from the rest of the passage
- explain the creation of comic effects including the role of the everyday and the supernatural
- discuss the style, in particular the way the narrative voice changes from addressing the reader, to description in the third person and portrayal of Percy's thoughts.

### Question 2. Poem

Satisfactory to good papers, three to four, on a spectrum of increasing precision and detail, **may**:

- convey a competent grasp of what is happening in the poem
- comment on the alternation between the voice of the radio broadcaster and the voices of the people at the party
- comment on the contrasts in imagery and the use of other poetic techniques
- show some grasp of the way the form of the poem helps to convey its meaning.

Very good to excellent papers, four to five, on a spectrum of increasing sophistication, **may also**:

- demonstrate a more sophisticated understanding of the situation portrayed here
  - recognise the unemotional nature of both voices and speculate on possible reasons for their objectivity
  - comment in detail on the effects of poetic techniques such as rhyme, repetition and alliteration
  - make some comment on how both imagery and diction contribute to the meaning and tone of the final three lines.
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