

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 penalized as to distort appreciation of individuality.

HL paper 1 (prose)

A good commentary will:

- recognise the different angles of vision in the narrative
- offer some interpretation about the dream elements and the elements of “real” life and culture
- address the portrayal of Bosaaso’s mother and his feelings about her
- speak to some elements of style such as tone, diction and imagery.

A better commentary will:

- address the interplay and effects of the different angles of vision
- connect the elements of dream and reality and integrate them to some degree
- discuss and connect the effects of such stylistic aspects as shifts of narrative, use of description, tone, diction, imagery, sentence and paragraph structure.

HL paper 1 (poem)

A good commentary will:

- take a position on the meaning and significance of the poem’s subject
- capture and describe the tone of the poem
- identify the way the spirit of the poem is articulated through some stylistic features
- say something about the structure of the poem.

A better commentary will:

- analyse the ways interlocked words and phrases work in the poem
- trace such aspects as time, movement, light, speed and geography in the poem and their effects on meaning
- explore the implications of this imagery as well as the effects of arrangement, line length, enjambment, repetition and similar structural aspects of the poem.

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