

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 questions below.

Drama

1(a)

A satisfactory answer will take a position on this view of the attractions of drama and will likely invoke at least two plays to exemplify the way hope is possible in spite of or because of the subject matter, and will at least allude to technique.

A better answer will include the above but will explore the means by which hope is elicited (or dashed?) through the *presentation* of instances of unhappiness or frustration.

Other answers may possibly seek other reasons for the attractions of the theatre, but all the better answers should include exploration of technique and its effects.

1(b)

A good answer will identify and compare points of emphasis or heightened emotion in drama and show how the audience is likely to respond or make conclusions.

A better answer will also compare the techniques of the playwrights, showing how they elicit responses.

Poetry

2(a)

A good answer will identify reference to and use of the natural world in the poems studied and attempt some comparative discussion of striking or fresh treatments.

A better answer will also be able to explore technique and effect in a comparative and evaluative way.

2(b)

A good answer will demonstrate a clear sense of metaphor and the different or similar ways poets have used it in their work.

A better answer will compare, in concrete ways, the importance of metaphor to different poems and might possibly explore the question of whether it is essential to good poetry.

Prose: The Novel and Short Story

3(a)

A good answer will be able to identify “social” setting, compare some ways it works in different texts, and offer some sense of its relative importance in the fiction.

A better answer will further compare the function of the social setting and its effect on the way the narrative is developed.

3(b)

A good answer will establish a position on the prompt, clarifying what “moral judgment” in fiction would be, and try to show how either passing or not passing moral judgment operates in the works.

A better answer will go further, into the effects on the work and the reader of implying or portraying moral judgment.

Prose: Other than the Novel and Short Story

4(a)

A good answer will address the features of structure identified in the prompt, and will explore their presence and relative importance in works studied, ie essays, autobiography and travel writing. Alternatively, a candidate might argue that these features are important, but might add other suggestions.

A better answer will explore such features of structure, and discuss the effects of these and others not mentioned in the prompt.

4(b)

A good answer will define, locate and discuss features associated with fiction in the works they have studied, comparatively and with some measure of evaluation.

A better answer will, further, be able to discuss the varying effects these features have had on the works.

General Questions on Literature

5(a)

A good answer will be able to define and identify heroes in works studied and show how the hero(ine) has operated within the community.

A better answer will distinguish the role of the hero in different works with some precision and the relative importance of this role in different works.

5(b)

A good answer will be able to distinguish between literature and propaganda and to discuss how the two operate in different works.

A better answer will make sophisticated distinctions about the range involved in employing these two labels and explore use as well as effect.

5(c)

A good answer will compare some beginnings to some endings, establishing a framework that is more than a descriptive list, and attempt some comparative evaluation.

A better answer may take on the validity of the view, but will do all the above, and with a greater measure of sophistication.

5(d)

A good answer will identify and compare some opposing facets, and show how writers have incorporated both in their works.

A better answer will make precise distinctions about “opposing facets of human experience” and both the means and effects of their inclusion.