

MARKING NOTES
REMARQUES POUR LA NOTATION
NOTAS PARA LA CORRECCIÓN

November / novembre / noviembre 2004

ENGLISH / ANGLAIS / INGLÉS A2

Higher Level
Niveau Supérieur
Nivel Superior

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1

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Higher level, Paper 1

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.

SECTION A

This section invites candidates to comment on and compare excerpts about surfing, one from a novel and one from travel writing.

A barely satisfactory comparative commentary will:

- comment on the similarities and differences in theme
- recognize that text 1(a) reflects a positive experience and text 1(b) a more negative one
- recognize that both texts are in the first person
- identify some stylistic elements in both texts

A better comparative commentary will:

- comment on the one voice in text 1(a) and the use of dialogue in text 1(b)
- comment on the short sentences and paragraphs in text 1(a) and the variety of sentence and paragraph length in text 1(b)
- contrast the attitude towards surfing presented in the two texts
- comment on the audience in relation to both texts
- make more detailed comments about the literary elements and stylistic devices in both texts

The best comparative commentaries should also include most of the following:

- identify that text 1(a) is literary and text 1(b) is travel writing but both texts are autobiographical in nature
- comment on the humorous elements in text 1(b) and the intense almost hyperbolic tone in text 1(a)
- comment on the use of the present tense in text 1(a) and the reflective past tense in text 1(b)
- comment on the relative sophistication of the two texts
- make detailed comments on the use of verbs, adjectives and vocabulary related to surfing
- make detailed comments about the literary features
- comment on the effect of the final short paragraph in both texts

SECTION B

This section invites candidates to comment on and compare excerpts about water, one from a feature article and the other from a promotional information sheet.

A barely satisfactory comparative commentary will:

- comment on similarities and differences in theme
- identify the non-literary nature of both texts
- comment on the layout and presentation of the two texts
- comment on the fact that text 1(a) treats the theme in a more light, entertaining way and the second text is more serious

A better comparative commentary will:

- comment on the informative nature and the use of proper nouns and statistics in both texts
- discuss the fact that text 1(a) explores the water industry and water as a luxury product whereas text 1(b) presents water as a fundamental need
- make some comment about the variety of sentence length in both texts and the overall structure

The best comparative commentaries should also include most of the following:

- comment on the use of irony in text 1(a) and the repetition of the phrase ‘tastes of nothing’ and the straight, informative and almost persuasive nature of text 2(b)
 - compare the use of statistics in terms of what is spent on water, and that to an extent text 2(b) exposes the extravagance of text 2(a).
 - recognize that the writer of text 2(a) is aware of the luxury of the water industry and yet the tone remains light rather than critical
 - make detailed comments about elements of style in the two texts
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