



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

November / novembre / noviembre 2008

ENGLISH / ANGLAIS / INGLÉS A2

**Higher Level
Niveau Supérieur
Nivel Superior**

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 2

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Higher Level, paper 2

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.

1. This question invites the candidates to consider the Cultural Option “Language and culture”.

- (a) A barely satisfactory answer will provide a reason for languages dying out and note a language preservation strategy. One or two examples will be given.

A better answer will consider more than one reason for the loss of language, and refer to several preservation strategies. The chosen examples will be more specific and possibly more varied. The essay will have a coherent structure.

The best answers will discuss a range of reasons for the disappearance of languages and outline a number of preservation strategies, supporting its position with examples that are pertinent, precise and varied. The essay will have a clear and organized structure.

- (b) A barely satisfactory answer will note at least one way in which language might be said to define cultural identity. One or two examples will be given.

A better answer will draw on examples in discussing the extent to which language defines cultural identity. The chosen examples will be more specific and possibly more varied. There will be some attempt to define the terms involved in the question. The essay will be organized.

The best answers will demonstrate a range of reasons for the position that they maintain, and will support these positions with examples that are pertinent, precise, and varied. Terms will be clearly defined. The essay will be well organized.

2. This question invites the candidates to consider the Cultural Option “Media and culture”.

- (a) A barely satisfactory answer will acknowledge an affirmative or negative position and identify one or more reasons for its argument. One or two supporting examples will be given.

A better answer will draw on examples in discussing the statement. The chosen examples will be more specific and possibly more varied. There will be some attempt to define the terms involved in the question. The essay will be organized.

The best answers will demonstrate a range of reasons for the position maintained, and may look at more than one side of the issue. Positions will be supported with examples that are pertinent, precise, and varied. Terms will be clearly defined. The essay will be well organized.

- (b) A barely satisfactory answer will identify some ways in which print media distort or exaggerate people’s lives. One or two supporting examples will be given.

A better answer will draw on examples to discuss a range of ways in which print media distort or exaggerate people’s lives. Various aspects of media such as content, audience and method may be discussed. There will be some attempt to define the terms involved in the question. The essay will be organized.

The best answers will provide a more detailed analysis of various types of print media and the different methods used to distort or exaggerate. Positions will be supported with examples that are pertinent, precise, and varied. Terms will be clearly defined. The essay will be well organized.

3. This question invites the candidate to consider the Cultural Option “Future issues”.

A barely satisfactory answer will identify two issues to which the statement could be applied and, using at least one example in each case, explain why the statement applies to these issues.

A better answer will discuss more specifically how the two future issues are related to the notion of a “critical moment in our history” and what choices these issues might or must entail. It will draw on relevant and varied examples. The essay will be organized.

The best answers will offer well thought-out support for the choice of the two issues and a good sense of the relevance of the quotation to the issues. Both the notion of a critical moment in history and that of humanity’s choosing its future will be specifically addressed. Pertinent, precise and varied examples will support the discussion. The essay will be persuasive and well organized.

4. This question invites the candidate to consider the Cultural Option “Global issues”.

A barely satisfactory answer will take a position on the question, referring to one or two global problems and giving at least one supporting example for its position.

A better answer will draw on appropriate evidence to make its argument. The essay will have a coherent structure.

The best answers will draw on varied and pertinent evidence to make a persuasive argument, demonstrating a thorough knowledge of the global problem or problems. The essay will show clear organization and will reach an informed conclusion.

5. This question invites the candidate to consider the Cultural Option “Social issues”.

A barely satisfactory answer will identify a social issue that creates polarized reactions. It will explain its choice of this particular issue, drawing on one or two examples.

A better answer will demonstrate an understanding of the particular social issue by discussing it and the reaction that it creates in people in some detail, drawing on specific evidence to make its point. The essay will have a coherent structure.

The best answers will show a thorough knowledge of the particular social issue and people’s responses to it, drawing on a range of pertinent evidence and presenting an in-depth analysis of the complexities of the issue. The essay will be well-organized and will reach an informed conclusion.

6. This question invites the candidate to consider a Literary Option.

- (a) A barely satisfactory answer will take a position on the statement in the light of at least two texts and identify one or more reasons for taking this position. At least one supporting example will be provided from each text.

A better answer will use a range of specific examples to support its position and may draw some comparisons. It will have a coherent structure.

The best answers will show a detailed knowledge of the two works and the characters discussed, supported by varied and pertinent examples. Terms will be clearly defined. A distinction between “flaw” and “fault” may be proposed.

- (b) A barely satisfactory answer will consider and take a position on the statement about friendship and love in the context of at least two texts studied. At least one example will be given from each text to support the position taken.

A better answer will use a range of specific examples to support its position and may draw some comparisons. It will have a coherent structure.

The best answers will demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the two works, supporting the position taken on the statement with varied examples, relevant insights and persuasive arguments about friendship and love in the two texts. The essay will be well-organized.

- (c) A barely satisfactory answer will identify an example of symbolism in at least two works, and consider why it is used in each case.

A better answer will use pertinent examples to discuss in some detail the use of symbolism in at least two texts. The essay will demonstrate a good understanding of the texts and will have a coherent structure.

The best answers will consider symbolism as a powerful literary technique and will demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the texts cited. Varied examples will be used and relevant insights made in developing persuasive arguments about the use and effects of symbolism in the works. The essay will be well-organized.
