

English A1 SL 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 penalised as to distort appreciation of individuality.

NB: Responding to the guiding questions is not compulsory. If they are answered, a high mark cannot be obtained if candidates only do so in list form. To gain high marks the answers should be fluently integrated and form a coherent structure.

SL Paper 1 (Prose)

A good commentary will:

- convey an accurate understanding of the events and the interactions of the characters
- identify the play of some stylistic features such as diction, tone, suspense, and the role of the narrator
- explore the function and effect of the last line.

A better commentary will:

- deal with the presentation of the speaker's dilemma and his choice of resolution
- discuss the use of the letter in the narrative
- analyse the way the narrative is presented and the effects of some of the stylistic features of the passage.

SL Paper 1 (Poem)

NB: Responding to the guiding questions is not compulsory. If they are answered, a high mark cannot be obtained if candidates only do so in list form. To gain high marks the answers should be fluently integrated and form a coherent structure.

A good commentary will:

- correctly interpret the events the speaker describes
- explore the speaker's experiences, attitudes, and conclusions
- identify and discuss some of the stylistic features of the poem such as diction, imagery, arrangement of lines, italics, and questions.

A better commentary will:

- address the role of memory in the poem
- interpret and analyse such provocative lines as 7-8, 9-12, 21-24
- discuss the effects of metaphor, pause, enjambment, repetition, and parallelism, as well as address some of the features mentioned above.

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