

English A1 SL Paper 2 marking notes

SL 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 some sense of stylistic features and their effects in the individual works.

The best answers will show, through analysis and detail, a strong sense of the stylistic and comparable features of the works.

These apply to all questions below.

Drama

1(a)

A good answer will offer a clear understanding or paraphrase of the terms found in the prompt, take a position on its validity, provide some examples, which prove the position, and include some address of the audience.

A better answer will demonstrate clear linkage between expectation and defiance (or non-defiance) and consider the effect on the audience.

1(b)

A good answer will show consideration of similar or different desires and the ways they are expressed in the plays, with some address of presentation.

A better answer will offer a confident view of the question and possible answers, and include both examples of the desires expressed and the effect on the audience.

Poetry

2(a)

A good answer will hone in on either “renew” or “different”, or both, and offer some ideas about the ways in which the poets have created renewal and/or difference.

A better answer will be able to offer some substantive analysis of difference or renewal, and develop the discussion in the light of a clear sense of the implications of the question.

2(b)

A good answer will make some clear choices between the question’s options, and pursue a line of argument that is based on some specific references to both content and style.

A better answer will, additionally, be able to identify and compare techniques used by the poets to achieve their ends.

Prose: The Novel and Short Story

3(a)

A good answer will go beyond simply identifying conflicts, but will compare conflicts in different texts and their use.

A better answer will focus on the use of conflicts and will explore the way they may generate interest and heighten effectiveness of the plot.

3(b)

A good answer will make a firm choice among the alternative views of this prompt and show comparatively how their reading supports their position.

A better answer will be precise about how works are comparable in terms of their view, supporting that with detail from the texts.

Prose: Other than the Novel and Short Story

4(a)

A good answer will make a judiciously limited choice of “alien” materials and discuss specifically how they have handled and learned from their encounter and discussion of these materials.

A better answer will also try to explore how the writers’ ways of presenting these materials have affected their reception of them.

4(b)

A good answer will certainly need to identify some views and/or values or a “common ground” which reaches out to some audience, most likely the student. Some evaluation of the writer’s success in connecting with the student will need to be expressed.

A better answer will explore the ways the connection between writer and reader has been attempted and the effectiveness of these strategies.

General Questions on Literature

5(a)

A good answer will show awareness of each of the four terms in the prompt and make a selection of a strategy, discuss their presence in the text, and address in some way the techniques and effects.

A better answer will fluently manipulate the terms and offer a firm handling of techniques and effects.

5(b)

A good answer will make a sensible judgement of strategy here, setting out a framework by which to handle one or both elements, and address to some degree both presentation and effect.

A better answer will, further, confidently deal with presentation and effect.

5(c)

A good answer will define “appreciation” or “critique” and show a sense both of the culture of the work and the author’s attitude toward it through some salient examples.

A better answer will show a critical attitude to both terms and a detailed demonstration of the grounds for judgment about these matters.

5(d)

A good answer will provide a viable interpretation of the prompt and compare the ways different writers have handled its view, with some sense of the strategies they have used.

A better answer will effectively use detailed evidence to connect the strategies to the views of different writers on the subject of this prompt.