

MARKING NOTES
REMARQUES POUR LA NOTATION
NOTAS PARA LA CORRECCIÓN

November / novembre / noviembre 2003

ENGLISH / ANGLAIS / INGLÉS A2

Standard Level
Niveau Moyen
Nivel Medio

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1

Standard 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 that 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 discuss the similarities and differences between two texts about snakes, one an informative, factual account from a natural history book and the other a literary extract from a children's fantasy book.

A barely satisfactory answer will:

- Identify the common theme and explain that one is factual and the other fantastic.
- Comment on the differences in audience and purpose.
- Make some comment about some elements of style and structure.

A better paper will:

- Illustrate the factual/informative elements of text 1(a) and the fantastic elements of text 1(b) and that text 1(a) relates to snakes in a more general sense and text 1(b) to a very particular snake.
- Comment on the narrator's voice.
- Compare the dramatic elements in the two texts.
- Comment on and relate the structures and stylistic elements of the texts to their intended audience and purpose.

The best answers may include some or all of the following:

- Observe that many similar features of snakes are described: their eyes; their prey; their methods of hunting; their location and yet the language used to describe these elements is very different – the use of dramatic realism in text 1(a) and the use of magical hyperbole in text 1(b).
- Comment on the attitudes shown toward the snake by the narrator in text 1(a) and the fictional characters in text 1(b).
- Make detailed comments about the stylistic devices and relate the structural form to the age of the audience and the entertaining purpose of text 1(b) and the didactic purpose of text 1(a) and provide supporting examples.

SECTION B

This section invites candidates to discuss the similarities and differences between two texts about the education and cultural conditioning of women, one an extract from a ‘self help’ book of a psychological nature and the other an extract from a public speech.

A barely satisfactory answer will:

- Show that both texts are concerned with the position and education of women.
- Observe that text 2(a) is an extract from a relatively recent text book aimed at a broad, possibly female audience and text 2(b) is a speech from a 19th century speech aimed at a particular audience.
- Make some comment as to the texts’ purpose.
- Make some comments about some stylistic elements.

A better answer will:

- Provide examples to show how the theme of education and social conditioning is presented in the texts.
- Identify the features which show that text 2(a) is a written text which has elements of spoken language whereas text 2(b) is a spoken text which has been carefully prepared.
- Comment on the anecdotal examples in text 2(a) and the more abstract yet amusing examples used in text 2 (b).
- Note the purpose of the more fragmented structure of text 2(a) and comment on some of the rhetorical devices in text 2(b).

The best answers may additionally include some or all of the following:

- Note and illustrate the contrasting tones of the two texts, the feisty irony of text 2(b) and the chummy ‘you and I’ nature of text 2(a).
 - Make detailed comments about the stylistic devices, in particular the rhetorical features of text 2(b) and the everyday examples and use of direct speech in text 2 (a).
 - Note that despite differences in time and context, the overall message and purpose are quite similar.
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