



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

**November / novembre / noviembre 2008**

**ENGLISH / ANGLAIS / INGLÉS B**

**Higher Level  
Niveau Supérieur  
Nivel Superior**

**Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 2**

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*These notes are not intended to replace the published criteria but to supplement them in some instances.*

*These notes are intended to define the **top** mark of the scale in this examination. The phrase, “a good answer”, is intended to refer to scripts which are likely to be placed in the 9 to 10 band of descriptors. Scripts should be marked proportionately lower to the degree to which they fail to meet these requirements.*

*In each case, good answers will meet **most**, though not necessarily **all**, of the following requirements.*

- 1. A travel magazine is running a competition for articles describing places of natural beauty in your country. The best article will be published in the magazine. Write an article that will help readers to appreciate the natural beauty of a place you know well and like very much.*

Evocative description – magazine article

A good answer

- will adopt a register in the range formal to informal but should not employ slang except, perhaps, occasionally for effect.
- will have a title.
- will clearly convey the writer’s positive feelings for the place being described.
- may encourage the reader to visit the place; this should be rewarded.
- will deal with a place of **natural beauty**. Failure to concentrate on this would result in a maximum score of 4 for Criterion C.
- will deal with just **one** place. Failure to concentrate on just one place should receive a maximum score of 6 for Criterion C.

- 2. In your English class, each student has to give a talk about a leisure activity that she/he considers unusual and is very interested in, explaining clearly what is involved in it and trying to convince others of its appeal. Write the text of your talk.*

Factual information – informal talk

A good answer

- will adopt a fairly informal register and may include some examples of “youthspeak”.
- will clearly acknowledge the audience with a greeting and a concluding expression of thanks and by the occasional use of “you”.
- will refer to both parts of the task: explanation and persuasion. If only one of these is referred to, the maximum mark for Criterion C should be 6.
- will clearly convey the speaker’s enthusiasm for the chosen leisure activity.
- will make extensive use of appropriate rhetorical devices.
- may describe a **particularly** unusual activity; this should be rewarded.

3. *In a novel or play you know well and enjoy, family relationships are very important, and you would like to encourage others of your age to share your enjoyment of this text. Write a review of this literary work for your fellow IB students, remembering to name the work and its author.*

Analysis and critique – subjective review

A good answer

- will have a title.
- will adopt a register in the range formal to fairly informal.
- will deal with the written text of a novel, rather than a film based on a novel; it may, however, deal with a stage or film performance of a play or, indeed, the text of a play.
- will clearly convey the writer’s enjoyment of the work.
- will clearly explore the family relationships.
- will not merely retell the story but will refer to incidents to illustrate the relationships.
- will include an element of encouragement.
- will identify the work and the relevant characters.

4. *Many countries have banned, or are thinking of banning, smoking inside buildings such as offices, shops, schools, bars and restaurants. In an essay for your English class, discuss the points for and against a ban and indicate your own position.*

Balanced argument – essay

A good answer

- will have a title.
- will adopt a formal register.
- will deal with arguments both for and against banning – a minimum for each of approximately a third of the total length; failure to achieve this approximate balance would suggest a maximum score of 6 on Criterion C, while essays which deal with only one side of the argument should receive no more than 4 on Criterion C.
- will use very clear markers as the argument is developed.
- may advance different arguments and reach different conclusions for different kinds of premises; this should be rewarded.

5. *Your ambition is to become a writer, so you decide to write a short story that you hope will be published in a local magazine which is read by young adults. Imagine something mysterious, sad, funny or embarrassing has happened at school and write your short story about it.*

Narration imaginative – anecdote

A good answer

- will have a title.
- will adopt a register in the range formal to informal, depending on the nature of the incident.
- will have a title.
- will clearly convey the mystery or sadness or humour or embarrassment that should characterise the incident.
- may combine two or more of the stated qualities; this should be rewarded.
- may convey a sense of the writer’s enthusiasm in the act of creative writing; this should be amply rewarded.

6. *Many people would like to know more about the experiences, thoughts and interests of their grandparents or great-grandparents when they were young. Write a letter to your future great-grandchildren to give them an idea of your experiences, thoughts and interests in 2008.*

Written interaction – informal letter

A good answer

- will adopt an informal register and may adopt a grandmotherly/grandfatherly tone.
  - will probably assume that the readers will be children or young adults.
  - will deal with all three aspects – experiences, thoughts and interests – though not necessarily at equal length; failure to do so should result in a maximum for Criterion C of 3 if only one aspect is dealt with and 6 if two aspects are discussed.
  - will not ask questions as in a normal letter – this for the obvious reason. Rhetorical questions are, of course, acceptable.
  - may have a sense of the writer’s still being present when the letter is read; this should be amply rewarded.
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