



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

May / mai / mayo 2009

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. Many people’s lives are influenced by events that happen far away from them. An event which made international headlines had this kind of impact on you. In an article for a school magazine, describe the event and its effect on you.*

Narration/Factual – semi-formal – article/story

A good answer

- is likely to be fairly formal but appropriate informal treatments should be accepted.
- will clearly relate how the event had an impact on the writer.
- will utilise effective storytelling or narrative techniques.
- will cover both parts of the answer (describing the event and its effect on the writer).
- need not be factually accurate and may even be fictional.

- 2. Your friend has gone into a state of panic shortly before taking final exams and has decided not to take them. Write a letter to your friend encouraging him/her to take the exams and give reasons why taking the exams would be beneficial.*

Written interaction – informal – letter to a friend

A good answer

- will include aspects of format appropriate to an informal letter.
- will address the importance of taking exams.
- will include reasons to convince the friend that taking exams is beneficial.
- will be sympathetic and supportive in tone.

3. *The International Olympic Committee has decided to expand the range of sporting events offered. Write a proposal to the head of the committee proposing a new sporting event. Describe what it is and why you think it would be beneficial, giving **at least** two reasons.*

Explanation/Argumentative – formal – proposal

A good answer

- will adopt a fairly formal register.
- will make the writer’s viewpoint quite clear.
- may include proposal headings and subheadings – this should be rewarded.
- will cover all parts of the answer (nominating an event, describing the event and giving reasons for the nomination).

4. *You are participating in a class debate on the motion: “School summer vacations are too long and they should be shortened”. Write the text of your speech, either agreeing or disagreeing with this motion.*

Argument/Controversial – semi-formal to formal – text of a speech/debate

A good answer

- will make the writer’s viewpoint quite clear.
- may devote some space to the opposing viewpoint for rebuttal purposes.
- will focus mainly on either agreement or disagreement with the theme.
- will provide support or the reasons for agreement/disagreement.
- will adopt a fairly formal register, perhaps with flashes of informality.
- will address the audience and keep contact with them throughout the speech – this should be rewarded.

5. *It has been said that young people value friends more than family. Your teacher has set this as the topic of your next essay. Write your essay.*

Argument/Balanced – formal – essay

A good answer

- will include a title.
- will address the importance of this issue.
- will be clearly organised with appropriate supporting details.
- may personalise the topic somewhat – this should be rewarded.
- will give attention to several different aspects of the issue in a rounded fashion.
- need not give equal weight to friends and family.

6. *Give the name of a novel or play you are familiar with. There is an aspect of the story that you don't like. Write a letter to the author saying why you are unhappy with this aspect and how you would change it.*

Literary analysis and critique – formal – letter to an author

A good answer

- will be addressed to the author of the work.
 - will clearly explain which novel or play they were unhappy about and the reasons for this unhappiness.
 - will tactfully explain the proposed changes.
 - will not retell the story, but will illustrate the reasons for the unhappiness through the use of examples.
 - will adopt a register and tone that is fairly formal but may be lightened by some informality.
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