



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

November / novembre / noviembre 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. A local youth magazine has just announced a short story competition for which entries must begin with the following words: “Just before the asteroid hit Earth, I ...”. Write your short story.*

Narration/Fiction – semi-formal to informal – short story

A good answer

- will adopt a semi-formal to informal register range; may include some “youthspeak”
- will clearly relate how the event had an impact on the writer’s life
- will utilize effective storytelling or narrative techniques
- may approach this very open task in unpredictable ways - these should be accepted, provided that the “asteroid” element is not simply abandoned in the first line (if so, penalise under “relevance” in Criterion C).

- 2. Governments and insurance companies find most car accidents are caused by younger drivers. You are participating in a class debate on the motion: “The minimum legal driving age should be 21”. Write the text of your speech, either agreeing or disagreeing with this motion.*

Argument – semi-formal to formal – text of a speech in debate

A good answer

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

3. *Your school is facing a financial crisis and has asked the student body to suggest ways in which the school may save money. Write a short article for the school newspaper suggesting ways in which this might be achieved.*

Explanation/Persuasion/Explanation – formal – article

A good answer

- will adopt a fairly formal register
- may include headings and subheadings
- will provide support for the ideas mentioned.

4. *A wealthy donor has just given money to pay for an annual award to an individual or group within your school. Write a letter to the school administration suggesting who this award might be given to, why the individual or group deserves the award and what it is for.*

Written interaction – formal – letter

A good answer

- will include formal aspects of a formal letter (greeting, closing, *etc.*)
- will cover appropriately the two task elements “who” and “why” - scripts which distinguish the third “what for” element, and explain how the award will support the awardees, should be rewarded.

5. *A local charity wants to know what are the social problems that most worry students. It has launched a competition to write an essay, the first line of which is: “If I could solve just one problem in the world ...”. Write your essay presenting what you consider to be a relevant problem and offering possible solutions.*

Argument – formal – essay

A good answer

- will address the importance of the problem selected
- will have a form clearly related to, and supporting, an obviously well-thought-out grasp of the issue
- will probably be a “balanced” formal essay - but the phrasing of the question allows for “the convincing statement of a subjective point of view”.

6. *A fictional character writes a diary entry at a time of social or personal conflict in the literary work in which he or she exists. Write the entry. Do not forget to mention the name of the work and the character.*

Literary analysis and critique – mainly formal – diary entry

A good answer

- will introduce the work and character being referred to – this may be done explicitly, or by implications in the text
 - will clearly set out the character's thoughts
 - will not retell the story, but will illustrate the conflict being felt
 - will use a degree of formality or informality related, and appropriate, to the character chosen.
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