

Marking notes

Remarques pour la notation

Notas para la corrección

May / Mai / Mayo de 2021

English / Anglais / Inglés ab initio

Standard level
Niveau moyen
Nivel Medio

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1

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Criterion A: Language

How successfully does the candidate command written language?

- To what extent is the vocabulary appropriate and varied?
- To what extent are the grammatical structures varied?
- To what extent does the accuracy of the language contribute to effective communication?

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1-2	Command of the language is limited Vocabulary is sometimes appropriate to the task. Basic grammatical structures are used. Language contains errors in basic structures. Abundant repetition and inaccuracies interfere with meaning.
3-4	Command of the language is generally effective. Vocabulary is generally appropriate to the task, and varied. Some basic grammatical structures are used, with some attempts to use more complex structures. Language is generally accurate for basic structures, but errors occur in more complex structures. Errors at times interfere with communication.
5-6	Command of the language is effective and mostly accurate. Vocabulary is appropriate to the task, and varied. A variety of basic and more complex grammatical structures is used effectively. Language is mostly accurate. Occasional errors do not interfere with communication.

Language

Not all errors have the same importance, and examiners should bear this in mind. Some errors affect the communication of meaning significantly, and others do not. Also, some errors indicate a fundamental lack of command of the language, while others may simply indicate a moment of forgetfulness.

SLIPS – mistakes at all levels of difficulty, but erratic and occasional – eg the candidate normally forms past tenses well, but occasionally forgets “-ed”.

FLAWS – errors occur more regularly, particularly in certain structures – eg past tenses are formed correctly quite often, but are not really reliable, and there may be basic confusions (eg past simple versus present perfect).

GAPS – some structures are rarely correct, or simply don’t appear – eg the past tenses are needed, but do not appear.

Criterion B: Message

To what extent does the candidate fulfil the task?

- How relevant are the ideas to the task?
- To what extent are ideas developed?
- To what extent do the clarity and organization of ideas contribute to the successful delivery of the message?

The “descriptor unpacked” explain the assessment criteria in greater detail. Where a candidate’s response does not correspond exactly to a single mark band, the statements in bold should be used as a guide for the ‘best fit’ approach.

Marks	Level descriptor	Descriptor unpacked
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.	
1–2	<p>The task is partially fulfilled.</p> <p>Some ideas are relevant.</p> <p>Ideas are stated, but with no development.</p> <p>Ideas are not clearly presented and do not follow a logical structure, making the message difficult to determine.</p>	<p>The link between the response and task is unclear at times; the reader has difficulty in understanding the message.</p> <p>The response covers only some points in the task, and not all the points expressed are relevant.</p> <p>Supporting details and/or examples barely feature, if at all.</p> <p>The ideas do not link well together; inadequate or inappropriate use of cohesive devices confuse the message.</p>
3–4	<p>The task is generally fulfilled.</p> <p>Most ideas are relevant to the task.</p> <p>Some ideas are developed with some detail and examples.</p> <p>Ideas are generally clearly presented and the response is generally structured in a logical manner, leading to a mostly successful delivery of the message.</p>	<p>The link between the response and the task is mostly clear; the reader’s overall understanding is not impeded, despite some ambiguity.</p> <p>The response covers most of the points in the task, and most of the points expressed are relevant.</p> <p>The response includes some supporting details and examples.</p> <p>The ideas are organized in a logical way; basic cohesive devices are used correctly to aid the delivery of the message, although they may be areas of slight confusion at times.</p>
5–6	<p>The task is fulfilled effectively.</p> <p>Ideas are relevant to the task.</p> <p>Ideas are developed well, providing details and relevant examples.</p> <p>Ideas are clearly presented and the response is structured in a logical manner, supporting the delivery of the message.</p>	<p>The link between the response and the task is clear; the reader has a good understanding of the message conveyed.</p> <p>The response covers all the points in the task, and the points expressed are relevant.</p> <p>The response uses supporting details and examples to clarify the message.</p> <p>The ideas are organized well; a range of basic cohesive devices are used correctly to deliver the message with little or no ambiguity.</p>

Note: When marking candidate responses, keep in mind that neither the **factual accuracy** of the information presented, nor the **validity** of the candidates’ personal opinions, are being assessed. Therefore, scripts that are factually inaccurate should not be marked down, provided the ideas presented have coherence and are sufficiently developed.

Criterion C: Conceptual understanding

To what extent does the candidate demonstrate conceptual understanding?

- To what extent is the choice of text type appropriate to the task?
- To what extent are register and tone appropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task?
- To what extent does the response incorporate the conventions of the chosen text type?

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1	<p>Conceptual understanding is limited.</p> <p>The choice of text type is generally inappropriate to the context, purpose or audience.</p> <p>The register and tone are inappropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task.</p> <p>The response incorporates limited recognizable conventions of the chosen text type.</p>
2	<p>Conceptual understanding is mostly demonstrated.</p> <p>The choice of text type is generally appropriate to the context, purpose and audience.</p> <p>The register and tone, while occasionally appropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task, fluctuate throughout the response.</p> <p>The response incorporates some conventions of the chosen text type.</p>
3	<p>Conceptual understanding is fully demonstrated.</p> <p>The choice of text type is appropriate to the context, purpose and audience.</p> <p>The register and tone are appropriate to the context, purpose and audience of the task.</p> <p>The response fully incorporates the conventions of the chosen text type.</p>

Note: Examiners must balance all three elements in criterion C (choice of text type, appropriateness of tone and register, and use of text type conventions) to arrive at the final mark.

Question specific guidance (Criterion B and C)

Task 1

You are the president of the school drama club. The club is going to put on a performance of a play next week. Write a text to remind the students in the club about the next practice. Include information about the time and place of the practice, what they should bring to it, and what they can do at home to prepare.

Invitation	Message	Social media posting
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Criterion B:

Points to be covered:

- Time **and** place of the next drama practice, e.g. Monday at 2pm in the gym... (both pieces of information are required)
- What the students should bring, e.g. snack, costume... (at least one example)
- What the students can do at home to prepare, e.g. practise the part, get enough sleep... (at least one example)

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Social media posting	The text type is suitable for communicating various messages quickly to a group of people known to the writer.
Generally appropriate	Message	The text type is suitable for communicating various messages but it is not necessarily used for group communication. The choice may be considered “appropriate” if the response makes clear throughout that they are addressing the students at the club.
Generally inappropriate	Invitation	The text type is typically used to invite people to an event. It is not usually used to communicate information quickly to a group of people.

Note: If a response makes the context, audience and purpose of the writing clear, and these conform to the task, the “generally appropriate” text type can be considered “appropriate”, and the “generally inappropriate” text type can be considered “generally appropriate”.

Register and tone:

- Semi-formal to formal register
- Friendly and encouraging tone

Please refer to the appendix for a list of text type conventions.

Task 2

You planned to visit your grandparents next month, but unfortunately you can't go. Write a text for your grandparents about the situation. Explain what you wanted to do on the visit, why you can't go, and how you feel about this.

Email	Message	Social media posting
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Criterion B:

Points to be covered:

- Information relevant to the context, e.g. visit to grandparents, you cannot go
- Describe what you wanted to do on the visit, e.g. eat special food, share an activity with your grandparents... (at least one example)
- Explain why you cannot go, e.g. exams, you have to work to earn some money... (at least one reason)
- Reflexions on how you feel about the situation, e.g. disappointed, sad...

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Email	The text type is suitable for communicating with individuals known to the writer about a personal situation.
Generally appropriate	Message	The text type is suitable for communicating various messages but it is not necessarily used for communicating with individuals known well to the writer. The choice may be considered "appropriate" if the response makes the context and audience of the message clear.
Generally inappropriate	Social media posting	The text type is typically used to communicate with a wide group of people. It is not usually used to communicate with individuals.

Note: If a response makes the context, audience and purpose of the writing clear, and these conform to the task, the "generally appropriate" text type can be considered "appropriate", and the "generally inappropriate" text type can be considered "generally appropriate".

Register and tone:

- Informal register
- Sad, apologetic tone

Please refer to the appendix for a list of text type conventions.

Task 3

You want to celebrate a special occasion with your friends at a theme park. Write a text to ask them to come. Give details about what you are celebrating. Explain why you want to go to a theme park and what you are looking forward to doing there.

Blog

Invitation

Social media posting

Criterion B:

Points to be covered:

- Specify what you are celebrating, e.g. the end of the school year, a birthday...
- Explain why you want to go to a theme park, e.g. to have fun, to mark the end of the school year... (at least one reason)
- Describe what you are looking forward to doing at the theme park, e.g. going on rides, eating ice-cream... (at least one example)

Note: information may not be repeated; for example, “to have fun” or “to celebrate the end of the school year” can only be awarded marks once.

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Invitation	The text type is suitable for inviting a specific group of people known to the writer to an event.
Generally appropriate	Social media posting	The text type is suitable for communicating a wide range of messages, but it is not necessarily used to communicate with a specific group of people. The choice may be considered “appropriate” if the response makes clear throughout that they are addressing their friends.
Generally inappropriate	Blog	The text type is typically used to communicate with a general audience. It is not usually used to communicate with a specific group of people, nor for the specific purpose of inviting them to an event.

Note: If a response makes the context, audience and purpose of the writing clear, and these conform to the task, the “generally appropriate” text type can be considered “appropriate”, and the “generally inappropriate” text type can be considered “generally appropriate”.

Register and tone:

- Informal register
- Enthusiastic tone

Please refer to the appendix for a list of text type conventions.

Task 4

You would like to become the student representative for your class. Write a text to tell students about the improvements you will make to the school if they vote for you. Explain the changes you propose for homework, the daily schedule and school lunch.

Article	Guidelines	Speech
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Criterion B:

Points to be covered:

- Information relevant to the context, e.g. that you want to be the student representative for your class and you will make improvements to the school...
- Explain the changes you suggest in homework, e.g. not at the weekends, not more than one hour per day... (at least one example)
- Explain the changes you suggest in the daily schedule, e.g. start later in the day, have a longer lunch... (at least one example)
- Explain the suggested changes for school lunch, e.g. vegetarian, more fruit (at least one example)

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Speech	The text type is suitable for communicating with a group of people on a specific topic. It is suitable for the purpose of informing and persuading.
Generally appropriate	Article	The text type is suitable for communicating a wide range of messages. The choice may be considered “appropriate” if the response makes the context clear: persuasive text to school peers.
Generally inappropriate	Guidelines	The text type is used to communicate with a general or specific audience. It is suitable for the purpose of giving practical advice in an objective way. It is not usually used to persuade or suggest.

Note: If a response makes the context, audience and purpose of the writing clear, and these conform to the task, the “generally appropriate” text type can be considered “appropriate”, and the “generally inappropriate” text type can be considered “generally appropriate”.

Register and tone:

- Semi-formal register
- Enthusiastic tone

Please refer to the appendix for a list of text type conventions.

Task 5

A new student has started at your school after recently moving to your country. The student would like everyone at the school to get to know him/her better. Write a text about where the student came from, why he/she came to your country and what he/she is looking forward to the most.

Interview	Report	Speech
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Criterion B:

Points to be covered:

- Information relevant to the context, e.g. student from another country starting at the school and who wants students to know him/her... (introductory paragraph)
- Information: where the student comes from
- Information: why he/she came to this country, e.g. a better education, join family... (at least one reason)
- Information: what he/she is looking forward to the most, e.g. improving his/ her English, making new friends... (at least one example)

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Interview	The text type is suitable for communicating with a group of people who may share a common interest. It is used to inform the reader.
Generally appropriate	Speech	The text type is suitable for communicating with a specific group of people. The choice may be considered “appropriate” if the context is explained in the introduction.
Generally inappropriate	Report	This text type is formal and usually addressed to a specific person or group in a position of authority. It is not usually used to communicate information about an individual’s situation to a general audience.

Note: If a response makes the context, audience and purpose of the writing clear, and these conform to the task, the “generally appropriate” text type can be considered “appropriate”, and the “generally inappropriate” text type can be considered “generally appropriate”.

Register and tone:

- Informal register
- Friendly tone

Please refer to the appendix for a list of text type conventions.

Task 6

Many people in your town cycle to work, so you want to write a text about road safety. Give advice on what cyclists should wear to be safe and on how to keep their bike in good condition. Explain which rules of the road must always be followed.

Guidelines	Interview	Report
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Criterion B:

Points to be covered:

- Information relevant to the context, e.g. that many people cycle, road safety is important
- Give advice about what to wear to be safe, e.g. helmet, bright coloured clothes... (at least one example)
- Give advice about how to keep a bike in good condition, e.g. test brakes, clean and oil bike... (at least one example)
- Give advice about which rules of the road must be followed, e.g. obey traffic lights, use cycle lanes... (at least one piece of advice)

Criterion C:

Choice of text type:

	Text type	Rationale
Appropriate	Guidelines	The text type is suitable for giving practical advice on a specific topic to a group of people. The information is given in an objective way.
Generally appropriate	Report	This text type is usually addressed to a specific person in a position of authority. The register and tone are generally objective but the text may include an opinion, judgement or recommendation. This text type could be “appropriate” if it includes advice or suggestions to improve road safety.
Generally inappropriate	Interview	The text type is suitable for informing and communicating the views or experiences of one person with a group of people. It is not usually used to give instructions or advice.

Note: If a response makes the context, audience and purpose of the writing clear, and these conform to the task, the “generally appropriate” text type can be considered “appropriate”, and the “generally inappropriate” text type can be considered “generally appropriate”.

Register and tone:

- Semi-formal register
- Informative tone

Please refer to the appendix for a list of text type conventions.

Appendix: Text type conventions (Criterion C)

The most common and recognisable conventions of the text types are given below:

Invitation

- Relevant title / heading / greeting
- Name of the recipient(s)
- Name of sender
- Request for a response (if appropriate)

NOTE: The invitation may be presented within the framework of an email, provided the main features of the invitation are also present.

Message

- Identify the recipient (unless the audience is the self)
- Opening or closing comment
- Writer's name

Social media posting

- General greeting / opening salutation
- First person narration/statement
- Closing comment

Email

- Form of address ("Dear...", "To...")
- Opening and closing greeting
- Sender's name

Blog

- Title
- Date (and time)
- Writer's name / username
- Reference to audience (directly, or through use of "we" and "you" etc)

Article

- Headline
- Writer's name
- Date of publication
- Brief introduction and conclusion

Guidelines

- Title
- Brief introduction
- Other format features, e.g. subtitles / bullet points / numbering
- Practical elements, e.g. name of distributor / contact info / links

Speech

- Opening address / greeting / statement
- Reference to audience (directly, or through use of “we” and “you” etc)
- Concluding remarks / closing statement

Report

- Date
 - Title / reference
 - Author of report
 - Brief introduction and conclusion
-