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A-level  
**BIBLICAL HEBREW**  
**7677/1**

Paper 1 Translation, Comprehension and Composition

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Mark scheme

June 2023

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Version: 1.0 Final



Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

Further copies of this mark scheme are available from [aqa.org.uk](http://aqa.org.uk)

### **General Guidance**

A high level of accuracy in written English is required at this level, and accurate spelling and punctuation are important.

All answers must be written in English, with the following exceptions, which may be written in Biblical Hebrew where relevant:

- roots
- individual Hebrew letters
- words or short phrases from the text, if the Hebrew is necessary for a complete illustration of the answer

Answers in Biblical Hebrew must be written using the 'block' system.

Transliteration of Biblical Hebrew words is only acceptable for proper nouns – all other words must be translated into English.

Where the natural answer to a comprehension question consists entirely or partly of words or phrases from the text, students may translate that material into English without rephrasing it. However, the AO1 mark will not be awarded for a response in which the student includes irrelevant material from the stimulus, eg by 'lifting' an element from the original which does not match the phrasing of the question set.

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## Guidance on applying the marking grids for translation

The general principle in assessing each section should be the proportion (out of 5) of sense achieved.

One approach for each section is given. Acceptable alternatives will be illustrated during Standardisation, but examiners should assess on its own merits any approach that satisfactorily conveys the meaning of the Biblical Hebrew.

The determination of what is a “minor” error is only necessary when it is the only error in a translation; this distinction will then determine whether a mark of 5 or 4 is appropriate. Where marks of 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0 look likely, the overall proportion of meaning conveyed in the section is the only consideration. The classification below should be seen only as a general guide, the intention of which is to maintain standards year-on-year. Lead markers should consider each instance on its own merits in the context of the passage and the section.

1. Tense/aspect errors are “major”. Note, however, that participles can often be correctly translated as past, present or even future, depending on the context. If a candidate repeatedly makes the same error of tense/aspect, the error should be counted once only.
2. Vocabulary errors that are close to the right meaning are “minor” errors; any wrong meaning that alters the sense is “major”.
3. Omission of particles (eg conjunctions) that add nothing to the sense may be ignored; those that add little to the sense are “minor” errors; omission of other words is generally a “major” error. All likely omissions should be categorised at Standardisation.
4. Errors of number are “major”, “minor” or they can be ignored altogether and this will depend on their context.
5. Mistranslation of binyanim (eg passive to active, causative to reflexive) is a “major” error if the sense is compromised. If the sense is not compromised, it is a “minor” error. If the mistranslation includes an incorrect pronoun, this is usually a major error.

The final decisions on what constitutes a “minor” and “major” error will be made and communicated to assessors via the standardisation process (after full consideration of candidates’ responses) and these decisions will be captured in the final mark scheme for examiners and centres.

Marks	Description
5	Accurate translation with one minor error allowed.
4	Mostly correct.
3	More than half right.
2	Less than half right.
1	Little recognisable relation or meaning to the Biblical Hebrew.
0	No response or no response worthy of credit.

**Examples of minor and major errors:**

וְאָמַרְתֶּם לָהֶם אֲשֶׁר נִכְרְתוּ מִיַּמֵּי הַיַּרְדֵּן מִפְּנֵי אֲרוֹן בְּרִית־יְיָ בְּעָבְרוֹ בַּיַּרְדֵּן

“You shall say to them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the Ark of the covenant of the L-rd when it passed through the Jordan.”

- (i) “You shall say to them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the Ark of the covenant of the L-rd when it passed the Jordan” – the omission of ‘through’ is a minor error as it does not change the sense, so 5 marks.
- (ii) “You shall say to them that the water of the Jordan was cut off before the Ark of the covenant of the L-rd when it passed over the Jordan.” – the number error on ‘water’ (plural in the Biblical Hebrew) is minor, so 5 marks.
- (iii) “You said that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the Ark of the covenant of the L-rd when it passed through the Jordan.” – the tense/aspect error is major, so a mark of 4 is appropriate.
- (iv) “You said to them that the water of the Jordan was cut off before the Ark of the L-rd when it passed the Jordan” – there are a number of errors here: the tense/aspect error is major; the number error on water is minor; the omission of ‘covenant’ is major; and the omission of ‘through’ is minor. However, the overall sense is more or less correct, so a mark of 3 would be appropriate.
- (v) “You shall say to them that they cut from the Jordan before the Ark of the L-rd when it passed the Jordan” – there are a number of errors here: the mistranslation of the binyan is major as it changes the subject and object and therefore compromises the sense; the mistranslation of ‘waters’ is major; the omission of ‘covenant’ is major; and the omission of ‘through’ is minor. The key judgement here is that the general meaning has not been communicated, so a maximum of 2 marks is appropriate. There is enough correct sense here to score more than 1.

**Section A: Unseen prose translation, comprehension and pointing**

For June 2023 only: translation (whether correct or incorrect) and lack of translation of names/places which should have been included in the glossary but were not will be disregarded.

Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
01	The passage for translation is in 4 sections, each worth 5 marks. Award up to 5 marks per translated section according to the 5-mark marking grid above		No credit given for words provided with question.
	And while he was speaking with me these words, I set my face to the ground and was silent. And behold, the one who looked like a person touched my lips and I opened my mouth and spoke and I said, to the one who stood before me,	5	כְּדָמוֹת בְּנֵי אָדָם Accept 'like a man'
	"My lord, because of the vision, my [pangs] came upon me and I did not [retain] my strength. How can the servant of my lord speak with my lord? And I from now - strength does not stay in me, and breath does not remain in me."	5	בְּמַרְאֵה Accept 'by the vision' נֶהְפְּכוּ Accept 'were turned' נִשְׁמָה Accept 'soul' or 'spirit'
	The one who looked like a person continued and touched me and gave me strength. He said, "Don't be afraid, precious man, it will be well with you, be strong, be strong." And while he was speaking with me, I was strengthened, and I said, "Let my lord speak because you have strengthened me."	5	
	He said, "Do you know why I have come to you? Now I will return to fight with the guardian angel of Persia, and as I go forth, behold, the guardian angel of Greece comes. But I will tell you that which is inscribed in a book of truth: there is none holding strongly with me against these except Michael, your guardian angel."	5	מִתְחַזֵּק Accept 'strengthening himself'

[20 marks]

Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.1	a) Jotham is the youngest in his family. b) He was hidden	1 1	Accept 'hid himself'
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.2	Any 2 of: 1) olive, 2) fig, 3) vine/grape	2	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any 6 of:</li> <li>Olive – 1) fatness/oil which 2) honours G-d and man</li> <li>Fig – 3) sweetness and 4) good produce</li> <li>Vine – 5) fresh wine which 6) makes G-d and man rejoice</li> </ul>	6	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.4	If you are truly anointing me king over you, shelter in my shade, and if not, fire will come forth and consume the cedars of Lebanon	2	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.5	Jerubbaal: 1) fought on their behalf 2) risked his life for them 3) saved them from Midian	3	For June 2023 only: Allow 'saved them from judgement'
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.6	Jotham says 'you killed' to the people of Shechem, although it was Abimelech who killed the 70 sons of Jerubbaal.	1	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.7	√ יתר Niphal	2	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.8	Hophal	1	

Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.9	It makes the imperative emphatic/softer/extended	1	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interrogative ׀</li> <li>• seghol preceding guttural + unstressed kamatz</li> </ul>	2	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.11	Absolute/Lexical form/stand-alone form (as opposed to construct, the form in which it usually appears).	1	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.12	Replaces missing root letter in צלל	1	Accept 'after a short unstressed open vowel'
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
02.13	Chataf-patach replaces sh'va under guttural, but lengthened to patach preceding sh'va	1	Accept 'Characteristic of first root letter guttural'

### Mark Scheme for Question 3

Guidance on applying the marking grid for pointing

The number of pointing errors should be added up and marks awarded according to the grid below

Each separate vowel or point should be included in the count, as follows:

1. an incorrect vowel = one error
2. a vowel on a letter which should be unpointed = one error
3. a missing vowel or dagesh = one error
4. a dagesh in a letter which should not have one = one error.

The original answer is given below. Any acceptable alternatives will be illustrated during Standardisation and should be detailed in the notes below. Examples of acceptable alternatives include weak dagesh (or its absence) at the beginning of a word where the preceding word ends in an open syllable; and strong dagesh or its absence in a קנמלוֹ letter vowelled with a sheva.

Marks	Description
5	1–5 errors
4	6–10 errors
3	11–20 errors
2	21–30 errors
1	31–45 errors
0	More than 45 errors



Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
03	<p>וַיֵּצֵא אֶת־הַמֶּלֶךְ לְאֹמֶר כְּכֹל־וַיֵּצֵא  אֶת  כָּל־דְּבָרֵי הַמֶּלֶךְ לְדַבֵּר אֶל־  הַמֶּלֶךְ  וְהָיָה אִם־תִּעַלָּה חֶמֶת הַמֶּלֶךְ וְאָמַר  לֵךְ מִדֹּעַ נִגְשָׁתָם אֶל־הָעִיר  לְהִלָּחֵם הֲלוֹא יִדְעַתֶּם אֶת אֲשֶׁר־יִרְוּ  מֵעַל הַחֹמָה:</p>	5	<p>לֵךְ Accept</p>

[5 marks]

**Section B – Unseen poetry translation and comprehension**
**Mark scheme for question 4**

Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
04	The passage for translation is in 5 sections, each worth 5 marks. Award up to 5 marks per translated section according to the 5-mark marking grid above		No credit given for words provided with question.
	For a nation has come up to my land, strong and beyond number; his teeth are the teeth of a lion and fangs of a lion are his. He has set my vine for destruction and my fig for splintering; he has stripped it completely bare and discarded it; he has whitened its branches. Wail like a virgin	5	שָׁם Accept 'appointed' וְהִשְׁלִיךְ Accept 'thrown away'  חֲגָרָת Accept 'bound'
	girded in sackcloth for the husband of her youth. Meal-offering and libation have been destroyed from the house of the L-rd; the priests mourn, ministers of the L-rd. The land is destroyed, the ground mourns, for the corn is ruined, the new wine has dried up, the fresh oil has failed. The ploughmen have been put to shame, the vineyard workers howl over the wheat and over the barley because the harvest of the field is ruined.	5	הִכָּרְתָּ Accept 'have been cut off' מְשָׁרְתַי Accept 'who serve' שָׂדֵה Accept 'field' אֲבֵלָה Accept 'mourned' אֲמָלַל Accept 'languishes' or 'languished' כְּרֹמְמִים Accept 'vinedressers' עַל Accept 'about' אָבַד Accept 'has perished'
	The vine has dried up, the fig has failed, the pomegranate, also the date and apple, all the trees of the field are dried up, for joy has been put to shame from the children of man.	5	אֲמָלַל Accept 'languishes' or 'languished' יָבֵשׁוּ Accept 'withered' בָּנָי Accept 'sons of'  Accept 'ye' and without 'o' מְשָׁרְתַי Accept 'who serve'
	'Gird yourselves and lament, o priests, howl, ministers of the altar, come, spend the night in sackcloth, ministers of my G-d, for offering and libation is withheld from the house of your G-d. Sanctify a fast, proclaim an assembly, gather elders, all the inhabitants of the land to the house of the	5	קִדְשׁוּ Accept 'Keep holy'
	L-rd your G-d, and cry out to the L-rd. Alas for the day, because the day of the L-rd is near and it will come as destruction from the Almighty. Is not food cut off before our eyes? joy and gladness from the house of our G-d?	5	

**[25 marks]**

**Mark Scheme for Question 5**

Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
05.1	a) Nourish faithfulness, b) delight in the L-rd	1 1	Accept Cherish ( רעה ii)
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
05.2	Those who hope for the L-rd will inherit the land.	2	Accept 'who wait for'
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
05.3	1) Look carefully/consider 2) the wicked will vanish	2	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
05.4	Any 3 out of: 1) their sword will go into their heart, 2) their bows will be broken, 3) their forearms will be broken, 4) they will perish, 5) they will go up in smoke	3	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
05.5	They will not be ashamed in an evil time; they will be sated in days of famine.	2	Accept 'dried up'
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
05.6	The wicked borrows and does not repay but the righteous is gracious and gives.	2	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
05.7	Any 3 of: G-d 1) sets firm his steps, 2) delights in his way, 3) does not let him remain cast down 4) supports his strength/hand	3	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
05.8	Dagesh lene in כפת בגד absent following open vowel.	2	

Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
05.9	רפה/וִּהַרְרֵף Hiphil, imperative, 'refrain'	4	
Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
05.10	מְבָרְכָיו Pual, participle + possessive suffix, 'his blessed ones'	3	Accept without 'possessive suffix' Accept 'bless'

## Section C – Composition

The passage has been divided into 9 sections each worth 5 marks. Award up to 5 marks per translated section according to the 5-mark marking grid listed below. The general principle in assessing each section should be the proportion (out of 5) of sense achieved.

There are many acceptable ways of turning a piece of English into correct Biblical Hebrew. One approach for each sentence is given. Acceptable alternatives will be illustrated during Standardisation, but examiners should assess on its own merits any approach that satisfactorily conveys the meaning of the English.

The determination of what is a 'minor' error is only necessary when it is the only error in a section; this distinction will then determine whether a mark of 5 or 4 is appropriate. Where marks of 4, 3, 2, 1 and 0 are applicable, the overall proportion of meaning conveyed in the section is the only consideration. The term "major" error has been used here to determine an error which is more serious than a "minor" error.

The classification below should be seen only as a general guide, the intention of which is to maintain standards year-on-year. Lead markers should consider each instance on its own merits in the context of the passage and the section.

It is likely that some of the errors below may be regarded as "major" if they appear in a relatively short and straightforward section, whereas in longer or more complex sections they are more likely to be a "minor" error.

- Errors of construction are always "major".
- Tense/aspect errors are "major", including use of the perfect instead of imperfect with vav conversive for narrative prose.
- Abstruse vocabulary or paraphrasing that conveys the required sense are "minor" errors; any wording that distorts the sense is a "major" error.
- Any vocabulary word which is not used in Biblical Hebrew is a "major" error – even if it is common in Rabbinic or Modern Hebrew.
- Omission of words where the sense is compromised is generally a "major" error, unless the word has been effectively taken care of by an idiomatic Biblical Hebrew rephrasing. Omission of words where the sense is not compromised is either a "minor" error or can sometimes be ignored – these will be categorised at Standardisation.
- Errors in number are usually "major", but where the difference is minimal, they are "minor"; sometimes they can be ignored altogether. Debatable instances will be categorised at Standardisation.
- Change from active to passive (or vice versa) is allowable if the agent is expressed or if the agent is omitted and the sense is not compromised. If the agent is omitted and the sense is compromised, it is a "minor" error.
- Deviations from standard Biblical Hebrew word order are usually "minor" errors, unless they are clearly intentional, in which case they may be awarded an additional 'style' mark (for example for dramatic effect). In some cases word order deviation may be a "major" error – these will be categorised at Standardisation.
- Candidates may change the format of a passage for the sake of the Biblical Hebrew style, for example from reported speech to direct speech. If this has been done successfully it should be awarded an additional 'style' mark. If done unsuccessfully, the attempt itself should generally not be counted as an error, but errors of grammatical construction within the phrase should be considered in accordance with the guidance above.

The final decisions on what constitutes a “minor” and “major” error will be made and communicated to assessors via the standardisation process (after full consideration of candidates’ responses) and these decisions will be captured in the final mark scheme for examiners and centres.

For each of the nine phrases, start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that mark. The descriptor for the mark indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student’s answer for that mark. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the mark and the answer.

If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme (eg pointing correct but grammatical errors present, or no grammatical errors but spelling errors) you should use a best fit approach for defining the marks. An answer with no attempt at pointing cannot gain more than 2 marks for the phrase.

Marks	Grammar	Spelling and pointing
5	Accurate translation with one minor error allowed.	Spelling all correct, pointing 75% or more correct
4	Mostly correct.	One or two minor spelling errors, pointing 50% or more correct
3	More than half right.	Minor spelling errors, any attempt at pointing
2	Less than half right.	Spelling errors, no pointing present
1	Little recognisable relation or meaning to the Biblical Hebrew	Spelling errors, no pointing present
0	No response or no response worthy of credit.	

### Additional marks for idiom and style

Additional marks (to a maximum of 5) should be awarded for individual instances of idiomatic and stylish Biblical Hebrew writing. Some examples are given (+) in the mark scheme below, but these are by no means the only permissible points. Other successful attempts at including more complex style features (such as infinitive absolute, infinitive construct etc.) and particularly apt word choices should also be rewarded. Each word or phrase credited with an additional mark should be indicated with +.

The following code applies to examples listed in the mark-scheme below:

- ✓ = acceptable alternative
- = minor error
- X = major error → max.4 for that section.
- + = specific 'improvement' credited with a 'style mark' (see above)

**Examples of minor and major errors:**

Joshua said to them, 'Remember the word which Moses the servant of the L-rd commanded you'.

A possible response:

וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ לָהֶם זְכוֹר אֶת הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֶתְכֶם מֹשֶׁה עֶבֶד יי

- (i) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ לָהֶם זְכוֹר אֶת הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה מֹשֶׁה עֶבֶד יי אֶתְכֶם – the words 'to them' have been omitted here. This is a minor error as it does not compromise the sense of the passage, so a mark of 5 is appropriate. This response would achieve an additional style mark for the use of the word לָאמַר to introduce the direct speech.
- (ii) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֲלֵיהֶם זְכוֹר אֶת הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֶתְכֶם מֹשֶׁה עֶבֶד יי – the pronoun 'them' has been used instead of 'you' – this is a major error as it compromises the sense of the passage, so a mark of 4 is appropriate. This response would achieve an additional style mark for the use of the infinitive absolute זְכוֹר.
- (iii) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֲלֵיהֶם זְכוֹר אֶת הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה לָהֶם מֹשֶׁה הָעֶבֶד יי – the spelling of 'Joshua' is incorrect; the tense error is major; the use of the preposition אֶל is not stylistically accurate as it is extremely rare in Biblical Hebrew; and the definite article has been used inappropriately. There are pointing errors but these can be ignored as the pointing is more than 50% correct and this response would certainly not be awarded more than 4 marks. The main consideration here would be the overall proportion of meaning transferred – whether it is 'mostly correct' for 4 marks or 'more than half correct' for 3 marks. In this case the errors are significant enough not to classify this response as 'mostly correct', so a mark of 3 would be appropriate.
- (iv) אֶמַר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ אֲלֵיהֶם זְכוֹר אֶת הַמְּלִים מֹשֶׁה צִוָּה אֶתְכֶם – there are a number of errors here: the narrative imperfect with vav conversive tense is absent; the number error in the imperative; the word מִלָּה is not stylistically accurate as its use is rare (and exclusive to poetry); the word 'which' is omitted; the word order of מֹשֶׁה צִוָּה is not standard, a subject pronoun has been used instead of an object pronoun. Since there are errors in four out of the nine words, plus an omission and a syntax error, this response would be deemed less than half right and would therefore be awarded a mark of 2. The pointing errors here can be ignored as the pointing is more than 50% correct. There is enough correct sense here to score more than 1.
- (v) וַיֹּאמֶר יְהוֹשֻׁעַ לָהֶם זְכוֹר אֶת הַדְּבָר אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֶתְכֶם מֹשֶׁה עֶבֶד יי – even though there are no grammatical errors here, this response cannot be awarded a mark of more than 2 since there is no attempt at pointing.

Qu	Accept	Mark	Notes
06	וּתְאֹמַר רַבָּקָה לְאֹמֵר רְאִיתִי בְּחֵלוֹם אֶת־יוֹם מוֹתִי	5	Accept without לְאֹמֵר
	וְכִי אָחִיָּה רַק מֵאָה שָׁנָה וְחֲמִשׁ שָׁנִים:	5	Accept וְחֲיִיתִי Accept וְהָיוּ יָמַי חַיִּי Accept מֵאָה וְחֲמִשׁ שָׁנָה
	וַיִּצְחַק יַעֲקֹב עַל דְּבָרֵי אָמוֹ	5	
	כִּי הִיא יוֹשֶׁבֶת נִגְדָּו וְלֹא נָס לַחָה	5	Accept וְהִיא
	כִּי הִיא יוֹצֵאת וּבָאָה וְהִיא יִכְלָה לְרֵאוֹת וְחִזְקוֹת שְׁנֵיהֶן	5	Accept וּבָאָה הִיא יִצְאָה וְתִבּוֹא וְתוֹכֵל לְרֵאוֹת ... טוֹבוֹת
	וְכָל חֲלִי לֹא נִגַּע בָּהּ כָּל יָמֵי חַיֶּיהָ:	5	Accept מִחֲלָה .. נִגְעָה Accept וְלֹא חֲלָתָהּ Accept כָּל
	וַיֹּאמֶר יַעֲקֹב אֵלֶיהָ לוֹ אָמִי אִם יִשְׁיגוּ	5	Accept לָהּ Accept אֲשֶׁרִי
	יָמַי חַיִּי לְיָמֵי חַיֶּיךָ: לֹא תִּמְוֹתֵנִי	5	
	כִּי אֶתְּ צִחֻקְתָּ עַל מוֹתֶיךָ:	5	Accept מִצִּחֻקְתָּ

[50 marks]