

Mark scheme June 2003

GCE

Communication Studies

Unit CMS5

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UNIT 5: CULTURE, CONTEXT AND COMMUNICATION

Aims

When you are marking scripts your aim should be:

- 1. to identify and reward the achievements of candidates;
- 2. to ensure compatibility of assessment for all candidates, regardless of question or examiner.

Approach

Please be *positive* when marking scripts, looking to reward relevant points that candidates make rather than penalise what they don't know.

A specification of this type must recognise the variety of experiences and knowledge that candidates will bring to the examination. The questions have been designed to provide opportunities for candidates to demonstrate what they have learned about different aspects of Communication Studies.

The Marking Grid

The marking grid is organised according to the specification's Assessment Objectives which are printed above the descriptors. There are five broad levels representing different levels of achievement.

Each level reflects the weighting of Assessment Objectives in particular questions and across the examination as a whole. You will need to give different marks to levels for different Assessment Objectives.

Using the Grid

Descriptors in italics are generic and relate to all mark schemes drawing on that particular Assessment Objective. Descriptors in roman text are question specific.

You will need to give a mark for each Assessment Objective being tested in a particular question. These marks will then be totalled up for that question. To identify the mark for an Assessment Objective you are required to choose a level which best fits the candidate's response and then 'fine tune' this to give a specific mark from within the level that most accurately describes the candidate's level of achievement for that Assessment Objective.

To do this you will need to decide whether a script is displaying all the characteristics firmly (top of level) or just some (bottom of level) or a mixture (in the middle) as appropriate. If there is evidence of one level's descriptors and the beginnings of the level above, give a mark in the higher level.

Annotating Scripts

It is important that the way you arrive at a mark should be recorded on the script. This will help you with making accurate judgements and it will help any subsequent markers to identify how you are thinking, should adjustment need to be made.



To this end you should:

- identify points of merit with ✓ or ✓✓, where a single tick indicates merit and a double tick a particularly good point
- identify errors by underlining or placing a cross in the margin
- write a brief summative comment at the end
- indicate the marks for each Assessment Objective being tested at the end of the answer in the margin in sequence
- add up the marks for each Assessment Objective
- put a ringed total in the margin at the end.



UNIT 5: CULTURE, CONTEXT AND COMMUNICATION

MARK SCHEME (June 2003)

This unit tests Assessment Objective 1 (communicate an awareness and understanding of categories, forms and uses of communication in contemporary life using appropriate terminology and accurate and coherent written expression) and Assessment Objective 2 (demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key concepts, conventions and theories in communication study).

Up to 10 marks are available for AO1 and up to 20 marks are available for AO2.

The term 'canon' is often used to refer to a body of texts including works of art, literature and music which are said to have achieved 'classic' status. It is claimed these works of art have stood the test of time and that they meet high standards of beauty, quality and value. Popular culture has sometimes been seen as a threat to the canon of 'great works'.

How does popular culture differ from the canon and why is it seen as a threat? (30 marks)

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
5	Candidates communicate excellent	Candidates demonstrate excellent	5
(9 - 10)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(17 –
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	20
	communication as applied to contemporary life.	and theories.	marks)
	Responses are fluent and sophisticated. There is an effective use of technical vocabulary and register. Answers are coherent and well organised.	At this level responses should show critical understanding of key concepts and, usually, some acknowledgement of problems of definition and diverse approaches to the debates indicated in the question.	
		Balanced consideration of arguments on different sides of the debate about value or a well informed and closely argued polemic.	
		Apposite examples integrated into broader theoretical discussion.	



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communications. Question 1 continued.

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
4	Candidates communicate good	Candidates demonstrate good	4
(7 - 8)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(13 - 16)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.	A thoroughgoing understanding of	
	Responses are competent, confident	both popular culture and 'the canon'	
	and largely effective in the use of	in the context of the question.	
	technical vocabulary and register. Answers are coherent.	Answers at this level will show a	
	Answers are concrene.	familiarity with the terms of the	
		popular culture debate and,	
		particularly, issues of cultural value.	
		This should include an expression	
		and understanding of those arguments	
		which see popular culture as a threat.	
		Answers should demonstrate a firm	
		grasp of relevant conceptual material	
		and/or well-developed critical	
		analysis.	
		Examples should be apposite and	
		illuminating with a clear link to	
		conceptual points or ideas.	
3	Candidates communicate satisfactory	Candidates demonstrate satisfactory	3
(5-6)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(9-12)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of communication as applied to	communication concepts, conventions and theories.	marks)
	communication as applied to contemporary life.	ana ineories.	
	comemporeary tye.	A reasonable understanding of	
	Responses are clear and show some	popular culture, 'the canon' and	
	attempt to use technical vocabulary	differences between them. Usually,	
	and register. There is some attempt to	at least some acknowledgement of	
	structure the answer.	the diversity of definitions and	
		interpretations, may be expected.	
		At this level the second part of the	
		question ('threat') should be	
		addressed with at least a few relevant	
		suggestions.	
		Answers are likely to show strength	
		either in the use of relevant	
		theoretical perspectives and/or further	
		key concepts or in the well-illustrated	
		consideration of contrasting points of	
		view in relation to the popular	
		culture, cultural value debate.	



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communications. Question 1 continued.

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
2	Candidates communicate limited	Candidates demonstrate limited	2
(3 - 4)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(5 - 8)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to contemporary life.	and theories.	
		Some understanding of the nature of	
	Responses are understandable but	popular culture and 'the canon'	
	basic in terms of technical vocabulary	though this may be expressed in the	
	and register. There is limited evidence	form of unsubstantiated assertions or	
	of organisation.	simple description. It is likely that	
		the issue of cultural value is	
		neglected at this level or, perhaps,	
		recognised only implicitly.	
		Theoretical understanding is weak or irrelevant. For marks at the top of this level, examples will be relevant	
		and developed in context.	
1	Candidates communicate little	Candidates demonstrate little	1
(1-2)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(1 - 4)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.		
		Little or no reference to the central	
	Expression is limited and lacks	concept of culture. Misunderstanding	
	coherence.	of the nature of popular culture.	
		No evidence of understanding of	
		relevant areas of theory. Superficial	
0	NT 1	and/or anecdotal use of examples.	0
0	No relevant response.	No relevant response.	0



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communication. Question 2.

Up to 10 marks are available for AO1 and up to 20 marks are available for AO2.

2 "Personal forms of communication such as clothing, appearance, language and personal possessions can symbolise conformity or resistance to dominant ideology. On occasions, an individual's personal communication may symbolise both conformity and resistance."

Using examples discuss the view of personal communication that is expressed here.
(30 marks)

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
5	Candidates communicate excellent	Candidates demonstrate excellent	5
(9 - 10)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of	(17 - 20)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	key communication concepts,	marks)
	communication as applied to	conventions and theories.	
	contemporary life.		
		Answers at this level will approach	
	Responses are fluent and	the question critically and	
	sophisticated. There is an effective	discursively drawing on relevant	
	use of technical vocabulary and register. Answers are coherent and	and clearly contrasting examples.	
	well organised.	The implications of the quotation	
	C	should be clearly understood in	
		answers which are likely to make	
		comparisons between different	
		theoretical perspectives in the	
		context of appropriate and	
		contrasting examples. It is likely	
		that answers at this level will	
		recognise the potential for divergent	
		readings of personal	
		communication.	_
4	Candidates communicate good	Candidates demonstrate good	4
(7 - 8)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of	(13-16)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	key communication concepts,	marks)
	communication as applied to contemporary life.	conventions and theories.	
		Answers will interpret the question	
	Responses are competent, confident	accurately and develop a response	
	and largely effective in the use of	which shows a clear understanding	
	technical vocabulary and register. Answers are coherent.	of dominant ideology and identity.	
		The question is subjected to	
		theoretical and/or critical scrutiny	
		based on a sound understanding of	
		perspectives. However, well-	
		observed discussion of relevant	
		examples may compensate for some	
		lack of theoretical sophistication,	
		theoretical and/or critical scrutiny	
		based on a sound understanding of	
		perspectives.	



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communication. Question 2 continued.

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
3	Candidates communicate satisfactory	Candidates demonstrate satisfactory	3
(5-6)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(9 - 12)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.	Candidates will show a reasonable	
	Responses are clear and show some	level of understanding of key concepts,	
	attempt to use technical vocabulary	particularly identity and ideology.	
	and register. There is some attempt to	Responses should include contrasting	
	structure the answer.	examples which address the main	
		concerns of the question.	
		At this level, candidates may still have	
		some difficulty in accounting for the	
		ambiguous nature of some personal communication as suggested in the	
		question.	
		4	
		Emerging conceptual understanding	
		signalled by the (possibly limited) use	
		of theoretical perspectives and/or	
		further key concepts (i.e. mode of	
2	Candidates communicate limited	address, culture). Candidates demonstrate limited	2
$\frac{2}{(3-4)}$	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(5-8)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	,
	contemporary life.		
		Candidates demonstrate some	
	Responses are understandable but	understanding of the key concepts of	
	basic in terms of technical vocabulary	ideology and identity in the context of	
	and register. There is limited evidence of organisation.	the question.	
	or organisation.	Answers at this level may not fully or	
		exactly comprehend the question but	
		should, nevertheless, offer descriptions	
		of personal communication which are	
		related to issues of resistance and	
		conformity.	
		Examples should be relevant though	
		the grasp of theoretical/conceptual	
		material may be relatively weak.	
		Broad generalisations rather than	
		analytical discussion are likely to	
		characterise answers at this level.	



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communication. Question 2 continued.

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
1	Candidates communicate little	Candidates demonstrate little	1
(1-2)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(1 - 4)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.		
		Little or no reference to key concepts.	
	Expression is limited and lacks		
	coherence.	Minimal, narrowly descriptive or	
		barely relevant response. The idea of	
		dominant ideology may be	
		misunderstood.	
		Inadequate or inappropriate	
		examples.	
0	No relevant response.	No relevant response.	0



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communications. Question 3.

Up to 10 marks are available for AO1 and up to 20 marks are available for AO2.

- Describe and evaluate the mode of address of an organisation with which you are familiar. In your answer you may wish to consider:
 - how the organisation addresses different audiences
 - advertising, marketing and corporate identity.

(30 marks)

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
5	Candidates communicate excellent	Candidates demonstrate excellent	5
(9 - 10)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(17 - 20)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.		
		Critical understanding of key	
	Responses are fluent and	concepts in the question. A wide	
	sophisticated. There is an effective	ranging exploration of issues raised	
	use of technical vocabulary and	in the question in the context of a	
	register. Answers are coherent and well organised.	suitable example of an organisation.	
	C	Modes of address are not only	
		described (in their diversity) but also	
		evaluated against clearly established	
		criteria.	
		Answers use theoretical perspectives	
		confidently and competently to	
		develop a coherent, discursive	
		response.	
4	Candidates communicate good	Candidates demonstrate good	4
(7 - 8)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(13 - 16)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to contemporary life.	and theories.	
		At this level there should be evidence	
	Responses are competent, confident	of a thorough understanding of the	
	and largely effective in the use of	key concept, mode of address, in the	
	technical vocabulary and register. Answers are coherent.	context of a well chosen example.	
		Answers will bring to bear further	
		key concepts and/or theoretical	
		perspectives and/or detailed critical	
		analysis in a response which is	
		clearly evaluative as well as	
		descriptive.	
		Some exploration of the potential of	
		the question is expected at this level.	



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communication. Question 3 continued.

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
3 (5 – 6 marks)	Candidates communicate satisfactory awareness and understanding of the categories, forms and uses of communication as applied to contemporary life.	Candidates demonstrate satisfactory knowledge and understanding of key communication concepts, conventions and theories.	3 (9 – 12 marks)
	Responses are clear and show some attempt to use technical vocabulary and register. There is some attempt to structure the answer.	The key concept of mode of address is addressed explicitly in the description of a suitable organisation. Answers begin to explore the potential of the question by, for	
		example, responding to suggestions in the 'handholds'. For marks in the upper part of this level there should be a clear attempt to evaluate as well as describe an	
		organisational mode of address. Some competence in bringing theoretical perspectives or detailed critical analysis to bear on the discussion.	
2 (3 – 4 marks)	Candidates communicate limited awareness and understanding of the categories, forms and uses of communication as applied to contemporary life.	Candidates demonstrate limited knowledge and understanding of key communication concepts, conventions and theories.	2 (5 – 8 marks)
	Responses are understandable but basic in terms of technical vocabulary and register. There is limited evidence of organisation.	Answers show some, albeit limited, understanding of the key concept of mode of address in the context of the question.	
		Mainly descriptive account with little or no evaluation, possibly more reliant on personal anecdote than analysis. Use of some relevant examples in a response that is weak in theoretical understanding.	
		Critical analysis is limited and likely to be undermined by unsubstantiated assertion or broad generalisation.	



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communication. Question 3 continued.

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
1	Candidates communicate little	Candidates demonstrate little	1
(1-2)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(1 - 4)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to contemporary life.	and theories.	
	comemporary tye.	Little understanding or reference to	
	Expression is limited and lacks coherence.	mode of address as a key concept.	
		Inappropriate selection of examples	
		with little or no reference to relevant	
		theory. No significant specific	
		analysis.	
0	No relevant response.	No relevant response.	0



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communication. Question 4.

Up to 10 marks are available for AO1 and up to 20 marks are available for AO2.

4 It has been asserted that social divisions based on race, gender and class are reinforced by the mass media. Using examples discuss the strengths and limitations of this point of view.

(30 marks)

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
5	Candidates communicate excellent	Candidates demonstrate excellent	5
(9 - 10)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(17 - 20)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.		
		Answers at this level will	
	Responses are fluent and	demonstrate a thoroughgoing and	
	sophisticated. There is an effective	critical understanding of the role of	
	use of technical vocabulary and	the mass media in reinforcing or	
	register. Answers are coherent and	diminishing social divisions. It may,	
	well organised.	of course, be concluded that the	
		media does both of these things in different ways.	
		different ways.	
		Appropriate examples will be	
		integrated into broader theoretical	
		discussion which clearly addresses	
		both the strengths and limitations of	
		the proposition in the question.	
4	Candidates communicate good	Candidates demonstrate good	4
(7 - 8)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(13 - 16)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	•
	contemporary life.		
		The implications of the question	
	Responses are competent, confident	should be recognised at this level	
	and largely effective in the use of	with consideration given to both the	
	technical vocabulary and register.	strengths and limitations of the	
	Answers are coherent.	position set out in the question.	
		Consideration of at least two	
		theoretical perspectives and/or further	
		key concepts would normally be	
		expected here, though it is possible	
		for some theoretical shortcomings to	
		be compensated for by detailed and	
		cogent analysis of relevant examples.	



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communication. Question 4 continued.

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
3	Candidates communicate satisfactory	Candidates demonstrate satisfactory	3
(5-6)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(9-12)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.	Reasonable understanding of the role	
	Responses are clear and show some	of the media in cultural transmission	
	attempt to use technical vocabulary	and the key concept of dominant	
	and register. There is some attempt to	ideology.	
	structure the answer.		
		The discussion will include ideas and	
		examples showing some familiarity	
		with the terms of the debate indicated	
		in the question with at least some	
		points made on both sides of the	
		argument (strengths and limitations).	
		At the top of this level, candidates are	
		likely to engage with theoretical	
		perspectives in a way that is rather	
		more sophisticated than assertions of	
		conspiracy.	
		Commenter and another than the second and address	
		Some strength will be evident either in use of well-chosen examples or in	
		the level of theoretical discussion.	
2	Candidates communicate limited	Candidates demonstrate limited	2
(3 - 4)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(5 - 8)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.		
	Dagmangag ang un dangtan dahla hut	Some implicit understanding of the	
	Responses are understandable but basic in terms of technical vocabulary	role of the mass media in reinforcing (or undermining) social divisions.	
	and register. There is limited evidence	(or undermining) social divisions.	
	of organisation.	Answers here are broadly relevant	
	2	but are likely to operate at the level of	
		unsubstantiated assertion with	
		simplistic, unqualified statements	
		about, for example, the 'power of the	
		media'.	
		Responses which simply rehearse	
		arguments about the power of the	
		media with minimal or no reference	
		to the keywords such as 'race, gender	
		and class' are likely to feature at this	
		level.	



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communication. Question 4 continued.

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
1	Candidates communicate little	Candidates demonstrate little	1
(1-2)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(1 - 4)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.		
		Minimal understanding of issues	
	Expression is limited and lacks	raised in the question.	
	coherence.		
		Superficial and/or anecdotal use of	
		examples with little or no reference to	
		theory.	
0	No relevant response.	No relevant response.	0



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communication. Question 5.

Up to 10 marks are available for AO1 and up to 20 marks are available for AO2.

- 5 Discuss the view that places and spaces can be understood as texts in the same way as, for example, magazines, films or advertisements. In your answer you may wish to consider examples drawn from:
 - city or town centres
 - rural environments
 - shopping centres or malls
 - housing estates
 - public or commercial buildings.

(30 marks)

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
5	Candidates communicate excellent	Candidates demonstrate excellent	5
(9 - 10)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(17 - 20)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.		
	D	These answers will demonstrate a	
	Responses are fluent and	sophisticated understanding of	
	sophisticated. There is an effective	cultural transmission in the context of the constructed environment.	
	use of technical vocabulary and register. Answers are coherent and	the constructed environment.	
	well organised.	A variety of appropriate illustrations	
	wen organised.	will support an exposition which	
		handles theoretical and conceptual	
		material confidently and fluently.	
		It is possible that the discussion will	
		include points of view which	
		challenge the suitability of textual	
		analysis as a means of understanding	
		places and spaces.	
4	Candidates communicate good	Candidates demonstrate good	4
(7 - 8)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(13 - 16)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions and theories.	marks)
	communication as applied to contemporary life.	and ineories.	
	contemporary tije.	Answers here will demonstrate a	
	Responses are competent, confident	clear familiarity with the analysis of	
	and largely effective in the use of	places such as those suggested in the	
	technical vocabulary and register.	'handhold' as sites for the creation of	
	Answers are coherent.	meaning and cultural transmission.	
		The discussion will be supported by	
		the apposite use of examples and	
		there will be evidence of competence	
		in handling conceptual and	
		theoretical material.	



Unit 5: Culture, Context and Communication. Question 5 continued.

Level	AO1	AO2	Level
3	Candidates communicate satisfactory	Candidates demonstrate satisfactory	3
(5 - 6)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(9 - 12)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.	Reasonable understanding of cultural	
	Responses are clear and show some	transmission in the context of the	
	attempt to use technical vocabulary	constructed environment.	
	and register. There is some attempt to		
	structure the answer.	Some emerging competence in the	
		use of conceptual material should be	
		evident either in the extension of the	
		discussion to other key concepts or in	
		the application of at least one of the perspectives (Marxism, feminism,	
		postmodernism, post-colonialism).	
2	Candidates communicate limited	Candidates demonstrate limited	2
(3-4)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(5-8)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
,	communication as applied to	and theories.	,
	contemporary life.		
		Some implicit understanding of the	
	Responses are understandable but	constructed environment as a context	
	basic in terms of technical vocabulary	for cultural transmission.	
	and register. There is limited evidence	A 441: 1 1 19 1 4	
	of organisation.	Answers at this level are likely to	
		feature straightforward descriptions of a limited range of places, but at the	
		top of this level there should be some	
		attempt, however limited, to consider	
		the possibility that the environment	
		may be understood as 'text'.	
		The anatical and denote a divergence to	
		Theoretical understanding weak or	
1	Candidates communicate little	irrelevantly applied. Candidates demonstrate little	1
(1-2)	awareness and understanding of the	knowledge and understanding of key	(1-4)
marks)	categories, forms and uses of	communication concepts, conventions	marks)
	communication as applied to	and theories.	
	contemporary life.		
		Little or no reference will be made to	
	Expression is limited and lacks	key concepts. Simplistic or	
	coherence.	misconceived responses	
		demonstrating little understanding of	
	N. 1	the 'reading' of places and spaces.	0
0	No relevant response.	No relevant response.	0

