



General Certificate of Education

Communication Studies 5626

**CMS2 Texts and Meanings in
Communications**

Mark Scheme

2008 examination – June series

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation meeting attended by all examiners and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation meeting ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for the standardisation meeting each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed at the meeting and legislated for. If, after this meeting, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been discussed at the meeting they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' 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 to download from the AQA Website: www.aqa.org.uk

Copyright © 2008 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

COPYRIGHT

AQA retains the copyright on all its publications. However, registered centres for AQA are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use, with the following important exception: AQA cannot give permission to centres to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within the centre.

Set and published by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance.

UNIT 2: TEXTS AND MEANINGS IN COMMUNICATION (CMS2)

MARK SCHEME (JUNE 2008)

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 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 of each answer.

UNIT 2: TEXTS AND MEANINGS IN COMMUNICATION (CMS2)**MARK SCHEME (JUNE 2008)**

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 3 (demonstrate understanding and competence in the use of techniques of critical reading applied to a diverse range of communication texts).

Text One: 'Work' from the *IKEA® furniture catalogue 2006*

Text Two: Promotional card for *Telewest Broadband*

Task 1

Up to **10** marks are available for AO1 and up to **20** marks are available for AO3.

TEXT ONE

Through a detailed textual analysis examine the ways in which this text communicates with its audiences. **(30 marks)**

Level	AO1	AO3	Level
5 (9–10 marks)	Language use is accurate and fluent and/or confident in its use of a technical vocabulary and register.	Detailed analysis paying careful attention to aspects of the selection, content and layout of material. Candidate clearly distinguishes between more and less important aspects of the text.	5 (17–20 marks)
4 (7–8 marks)	Language use shows competence and accuracy although range may be limited, especially in terms of technical vocabulary.	Some evidence of the detailed analysis of text covering such aspects as visuals, text, tone, layout, audience appeal, conventions, narrative, genre, representation and mode of address. Response explores the text in an active way, selecting significant details to inform their response.	4 (13–16 marks)

Unit 2: Texts and Meanings in Communication. Task 1 continued.

Level	AO1	AO3	Level
3 (5–6 marks)	Language is clear despite inaccuracies and limitations and/or some evidence of a technical vocabulary or register is offered.	Competent response which operates at a fairly basic level but offers an informed commentary on the text. Response will likely concentrate on versions of a ‘preferred reading’.	3 (9–12 marks)
2 (3–4 marks)	Limited in terms of its linguistic competence and/or its command of the language of the subject. Does not meet the standard expected of AS study.	Mostly descriptive – comments on surface features of text only. Some limited awareness of the techniques of textual analysis will be evident, but insufficient to clearly meet the demands of AS level.	2 (5–8 marks)
1 (1–2 marks)	Confused to the point where communication is impeded.	Little appropriate material offered. Little or no discussion of methods.	1 (1–4 marks)
0	No relevant response.	No relevant response.	0

Unit 2: Texts and Meanings in Communication. Task 2.

Up to **10** marks are available for AO1 and up to **20** marks are available for AO3.

TEXT TWO

What might a purely semiotic analysis of this text reveal about the way it functions? (30 marks)

Level	AO1	AO3	Level
5 (9–10 marks)	Language use is accurate and fluent and/or confident in its use of a technical vocabulary and register.	An engaged and confident response to the text, demonstrating a clear grasp of the techniques of critical reading. The candidate offers a confident semiotic reading of the text and some evidence of understanding the character and limitations of such an approach.	5 (17–20 marks)
4 (7–8 marks)	Language use shows competence and accuracy although range may be limited, especially in terms of technical vocabulary.	Evidence of semiotic analysis of the text and a recognition of potential ‘issues’.	4 (13–16 marks)
3 (5–6 marks)	Language is clear despite inaccuracies and limitations and/or some evidence of a technical vocabulary or register is offered.	A set of straightforward and relevant statements and an informed commentary will be offered.	3 (9–12 marks)
2 (3–4 marks)	Limited in terms of its linguistic competence and/or its command of the language of the subject. Does not meet the standard expected of AS study.	Responses will tend to be descriptive with little confidence or skill in handling ideas of ‘readings’.	2 (5–8 marks)
1 (1–2 marks)	Confused to the point where communication is impeded.	Little relevant material.	1 (1–4 marks)
0	No relevant response.	No relevant response.	0