



**General Certificate of Secondary Education
June 2012**

Modern Hebrew

46754

(Specification 4675)

Unit 4: Writing

Report on the Examination

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General Comments

In general, the students were well prepared for the exam. The questions were varied and allowed the students to write for a range of purposes within the contexts. The exam was accessible for students and they could complete it within the time allocated.

Question 1

This question was well answered by the majority of students. Some confused names of neighbourhoods with names of cities in Israel and others gave names of cities outside Israel.

Most students were awarded the 2 marks available.

Questions 2(a), 2(b), 3(a), 3(b)

Most students were familiar with the topics covered by these questions and were able to give fully developed answers. Some chose to ignore the bullet points suggested and wrote what they have learned for their speaking exams. Sometimes this led to the absence of opinions and explanations, although otherwise answers were acceptable since the instructions this year permitted any writing that was relevant to the topic.

It is very important that teachers emphasise to students the importance of using different tenses throughout their answers and not only in the opening statement of their essays. Refraining from doing so may result in lower marks.

Questions 2a and 3a (Lifestyle and Leisure) were the most frequently attempted questions, while Questions 2b and 3b (Work and Education and Home and Environment) were the least frequently attempted. Teachers and students are advised to pay more attention to these contexts.

Areas which were well prepared by students included:

- Relationships within the family and with friends
- Vacations: preferred locations, seasons, hotels
- Work: preferred work for young people
- Pollution and its causes.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.

Convert raw or scaled marks into marks on the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) by using the link below

UMS conversion calculator www.aqa.org.uk/umsconversion

Guidance Notes for Examiners

The following guidance, provided to examiners during the marking period, is reproduced below for information.

1. Principles of marking

- 1.1 All marking must be done in accordance with the published criteria for assessment.
- 1.2 The stress is on effective communication. Credit should be given for the language successfully conveying the target message without ambiguity.
- 1.3 In Questions 2 and 3 there is no need to count the number of words used to answer each question. The sole criterion is completion of the two tasks.

2 Mechanics of Marking

2.1 Question 1 Content

Marks	Content
0	No understandable words
1	1-2 words conveyed without ambiguity
2	3-4 words conveyed without ambiguity

- 2.2 Question 2 - Suggested content points are not compulsory. No automatic penalty can be applied if students choose not to address these particular points in their answer.
- 2.3 Question 3 – Suggested points are not compulsory. No automatic penalty can be applied if students choose not to address those particular points in their answer.
- 2.4 Assessment Criteria for Questions 2 and 3

Content	
Marks	Criteria
13-14	Very Good Fully relevant and detailed response to the task. Sound ability to convey information clearly, express and explain ideas and points of view. Well organised structure.
10-12	Good Mostly relevant response to the task and shows ability to convey a lot of information clearly, express and explain ideas and points of view.
7-9	Sufficient Response to the task is generally relevant with quite a lot of information clearly communicated. Points of view are expressed and ideas are developed.
4-6	Limited Limited response to the task with some relevant information conveyed. Simple opinions are expressed and there is some development of basic ideas.
1-3	Poor Very limited response to the task with little relevant information conveyed. No real structure.
0	The answer shows no relevance to the task set. A zero score will automatically result in a zero score for the answer as a whole.

Range of Language	
Mark	Criteria
5	Wide variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures. More complex sentences are handled with confidence and verb tenses are used successfully.
4	Good variety of appropriate vocabulary and structures used. More complex sentences are attempted and are often successful.
3	Some variety of vocabulary and structures used. Including attempts at longer sentences using appropriate linking words which are sometimes successful.
2	Vocabulary is appropriate to the basic needs of the task and structures are mostly simple.
1	Inappropriate vocabulary with little understanding of language structure.
0	No language produced which is worthy of credit.

Accuracy	
Mark	Criteria
5	Largely accurate, although there may still be some errors especially in attempts at more complex sentences. Verbs and tense formations are secure.
4	Generally accurate with errors occurring in attempts at more complex sentences. Verb and tense formations are usually correct.
3	More accurate than inaccurate. Verb forms and tense formations are sometimes unsuccessful. The intended meaning is clear.
2	Many errors which often impede communication. Verb forms are rarely accurate.
1	Limited understanding of the most basic linguistic structures. Frequent errors regularly impede communication.
0	No language produced which is worthy of credit.

- 2.5 The mark awarded for Range of Language must not be more than one band higher than the mark awarded for Content. (See table below)
- 2.6 The mark awarded for Accuracy must not be more than one band higher than the mark awarded for Content. (See table below)
- 2.7 If a mark is awarded for Content, this will inevitably lead to the award of a mark for Range of Language and for Accuracy. (See table below)
- 2.8 If a mark of zero is awarded for Content, this will automatically result in a zero score for Range of Language and for Accuracy. (See table below)

2.9

Content	Marks for each of Range of Language and Accuracy
0	0
1-3	1-2
4-6	1-3
7-9	1-4
10-12	1-5
13-14	1-5

2.10 To score a mark of 5 for Range of Language, the student needs to use successfully a minimum of two verb tenses.