

Marking notes
Remarques pour la notation
Notas para la corrección

November / Novembre / Noviembre 2015

English / Anglais / Inglés
A: literature / littérature / literatura

Higher level
Niveau supérieur
Nivel superior

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1

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These notes to examiners are intended only as guidelines to assist marking and as a supplement to the published external assessment criteria for written paper 1. They are not offered as an exhaustive and fixed set of responses or approaches to which all answers must rigidly adhere. Good ideas or angles not offered here should be acknowledged and rewarded as appropriate. Similarly, answers which do not include all the ideas or approaches suggested here may still be very good answers.

Of course, some of the points listed below will appear in weaker papers, but are unlikely to be developed.

1. ***N.B.*** Examiners should be aware that although this excerpt is from a novel, candidates may refer to it as travel writing and both approaches are valid.

An adequate to good literary commentary will:

- identify the situation and discuss the narrative point of view
- note how changing contexts affect the narrator's senses and feelings or vice versa
- comment on the way the passage develops, including the emotional shifts of the speaker
- comment on the way language is used to convey both the outer and the inner features of the journey.

A very good to excellent literary commentary may also:

- speak in more detail about the writer's presentation of train travel and relate to personal feelings of the speaker
- look more closely and analytically at the speaker's emotional shifts and make some inferences about his state of mind and personality reflected by these shifts
- examine more closely the range and pattern of the various sensory responses of the narrator
- explore tension between melancholy and pleasure
- consider the various critiques (eg, of self, mother, Europe, life) that emerge in some parts of the passage.

2. An adequate to good literary commentary will:

- show an understanding of literal sleepwalking and the metaphorical extension
- offer some discussion on the structure of the poem
- explore the speaker's tone
- comment on the detail and unusual imagery in the poem, such as the darkness, heart, black, etc.

A very good to excellent literary commentary may also:

- offer interpretation of significance of risk, trust, faith or bravery
 - comment on the shift of point of view to the plural
 - explore in greater detail the mixture of ordinary objects and abstract ideas
 - explore the insistence of the voice and the call to action.
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