

**Marking notes  
Remarques pour la notation  
Notas para la corrección**

**November / Novembre / Noviembre 2015**

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

**Standard level  
Niveau moyen  
Nivel medio**

**Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 2**

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**Examiners: please note that the term “comparison”, both in the descriptors and in the marking notes, includes the discussion of relevant “contrasts” as well.**

**The features of the “very good to excellent” answers assume that those for “adequate to good” are included.**

## **Drama**

1. An adequate to good answer will identify examples from the plays where a character’s placement on the stage holds significance. Examples could include such things as movement towards the audience, concealment from other characters, encroaching on another’s “territory”. Examples could also note such things as specific arrangements of space, interior/exterior divisions, private/public space, use of doors, stairs, partitions. Responses will offer some comment on the significance of the use of space/movement, and compare how this adds to the impact of the chosen works.

A very good to excellent answer may extend the discussion of specific episodes into an overview of the works. There may be more detailed comparative discussion of the ways in which other conventions are employed to support the effect of movement (dialogue, monologue, props, lighting, sound).

2. An adequate to good answer will identify examples from each play where the audience is granted access to the private thoughts, hidden emotions and/or the true nature of various characters. The response will compare the techniques used to reveal what was hidden. It may include, for example, soliloquy, gesture, action, or interaction with others, as appropriate to the chosen works, showing understanding of the characters presented and their roles in the drama.

A very good to excellent answer may also offer more detailed analysis and comparison of technique with a more subtle perception of characterization and the writers’ purposes within the overall scheme of the drama. Candidates may draw on a wider range of examples and supporting conventions.

3. An adequate to good answer will identify stories that relate to minor characters, parallel lines of action or anecdotes, in addition to the main plot. Responses will offer some discussion of the main features of the secondary stories, comparing what the various elements contribute to the works as a whole. This might include a range of possibilities as appropriate to the chosen works, for example, light relief, parallel theme, symbolism.

A very good to excellent answer may also develop the comparison in more detail and with greater subtlety, offering a clear overview of the chosen works and drawing on a variety of other dramatic conventions that support the presentation of the additional stories.

## Poetry

4. An adequate to good answer will select appropriate poems and identify the person(s) or object(s) being addressed. There will be some discussion of the significance of the poets' choices and exploration of what the poems gain from this approach. Responses will compare a range of different effects, for example, the impact of direct speech, the use of a personal voice, the development of a description, discussion or confession, as appropriate to the works chosen.

A very good to excellent answer may also compare language choices and use of other poetic conventions with more subtlety and precision, developing a more perceptive reading of the poems.

5. An adequate to good answer will identify particular people, objects or places in the poems studied and compare ways in which a "vivid sense" of a person, object or place can be provided, for example, through imagery, word choice, use of detail, perspective, tone. It will also show understanding of the means through which these elements are used to present material in a "compelling" way for example, to intensify experience, provide a more "realistic" presentation, create atmosphere or stimulate imaginative ways of seeing.

A very good to excellent answer may also provide more detailed and perhaps varied examples of "observation" and "description" in the poems studied, as well as demonstrate more subtle and perceptive comparison of the ways in which readers are encouraged to "see" the material being presented. Candidates are also likely to make more thoughtful connections between the technique and the poems' overall meaning or impact.

6. An adequate to good answer will identify points at which shifts in subject matter or tone occur in the chosen poems. It will compare ways in which such shifts take place, for example, through word choice, structure, change in atmosphere, tone or perspective. Attention will also be given to ways in which these shifts can be described as "subtle" or "abrupt" and there will be an examination of some of the effects these changes create.

A very good to excellent answer may also provide more detailed comparison of the ways in which "subtle" or "abrupt" changes take place in the poems studied and make further, perhaps more sophisticated connection between the changes and the poem's overall meaning or impact.

**Prose: novel and short story**

7. An adequate to good answer will provide examples of events or experiences where the telling is delayed, for example, revelations about character and/or relationships, past events, particular actions. Attention will also be paid to the way in which the notion of delay is made apparent, for example, through subtext and implication, the delivery of new information, the presence or absence of characters, an implied, then realized event. Some comparison of how narrative delay is responsible for the creation of tension will be provided.

A very good to excellent answer may also explore moments of narrative delay in a more detailed, subtle or sophisticated manner and show more precise understanding of the ways in which narrative tension is created. The response may also compare the ways in which this technique supports the presentation of character, relationship, action or theme.

8. An adequate to good answer will provide examples of physical or social settings that play a role in the presentation or definition of character, for example, associated buildings or places, landscape, contrasts between interior or exterior, social scenes and events, or wider social contexts in which particular values or attitudes are realised. Candidates will compare ways in which these settings are used to present characters, for example, in connection with appearance, dialogue, personality and/or development. Answers will also show some understanding of the **extent** to which these settings play a role.

A very good to excellent answer may also provide more detailed examples of particular physical or social settings that contribute to the presentation of character, for example, as a way to explore notions of heredity or environmental influence, choice, freedom and/or constraint *etc.* The response may also provide some exploration of the thematic significance of the relationship between character and setting.

9. An adequate to good answer will identify convincing examples of scenes from novels or short stories that include complex or dramatic action. The candidate will need to give some rationale for choosing the scenes, offering an analysis of what makes them effective. In addition, there will need to be some explanation for how such scenes work to heighten the impact of the fiction and a comparison of the effects.

A very good to excellent answer may also distinguish scenes that make an impact through complexity, as opposed to those that are dramatic. The answer may include more detailed analysis within the comparison. The answer may examine how effectively the scenes operate to enhance other aspects of the writing such as character development, suspense and the like.

**Prose other than fiction**

- 10.** An adequate to good answer will make clear which emotion(s) will be scrutinized and convey a grasp of either or both terms. The response will need to address an aspect(s) of each of the works that the candidate believes will meet her/his definition of the term(s). The response will identify persons or situations in the works that are used by the writer to produce these reactions and there will be some comparison of the instances chosen and their effects.

A very good to excellent answer may also offer a more nuanced analysis of sympathy and/or disdain. There may be an exploration of both obvious and subtle instances where the works might elicit these reactions. The candidate will also compare examples of either or both reactions in terms of how they have been constructed and included in the work(s).

- 11.** An adequate to good answer will make a choice of either kind of temporal structure, or both, making clear that the terms of the question are understood. The answer will explore the choices made, further clarifying the distinctions between the two approaches. Some comparison of the ways in which writers have achieved particular effects through structure is expected.

A very good to excellent answer may also consider more closely the effects that can be or are achieved by these two approaches. The answer may also analyze more effectively the details of the temporal structuring in terms of literary techniques such as prolepsis, retrospective, bricolage and the like.

- 12.** An adequate to good answer will choose either option, offering examples of where these phenomena occur in the texts. It will look closely at the chosen examples and discuss the ways in which the writers have presented change or transformation, comparing the authorial choices.

A very good to excellent answer may also query or explore the very terms themselves. It may also privilege one of the terms over the other in works in which they are identified. It may more closely analyze the ways in which the writer has presented or built up to the change or transformation and compare these strategies.

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