

MARKING NOTES

May 2002

ENGLISH A1

Standard Level

Paper 2

English A1 SL Paper 2 marking notes

These notes to examiners are intended only as guidelines to assist marking. 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 should not be so heavily penalised as to distort appreciation of individuality.

It should be noted that candidates will be penalised under all criteria (see Examiner Manual, Part 5, Language A1 HL/SL paper 2) if, having studied texts in a specific category, they then answer a question from a different category. However, candidates are free to answer any of the **General Questions on Literature**, using the Part III works studied.

With reference to Criterion C, the better answers will contain examples that show an adequate sense of stylistic features with some awareness of their effects, using critical analysis and pertinent detail.

The best answers will show a strong sense of the stylistic and comparable features of the works, as well as the effects of these features.

These apply to all answers below.

Drama

1(a)

A satisfactory answer will discuss two or three plays that have been studied, saying whether (probably the principal) characters represent the views of the playwright or not.

A better answer will distinguish between different kinds of plays (to the extent that reading and choice of plays allows this): good answers will indicate that all characters speak words given to them by the playwright, but that there may be an argument which the playwright wishes to advance. The merit in the good/best answer lies in making this kind of careful response.

1(b)

A satisfactory answer will discuss at least two plays indicating conflicts between characters and going on less or more aptly to discuss the possibility of conflicting responses in the members of the audience.

The more carefully audience response is handled, the better the answer will be.

Poetry

2(a)

A satisfactory answer will identify characteristic features of the work of two poets. The evidence for establishing them as characteristic will be less or more skilfully handled. The last sentence may be ignored or given little emphasis.

Better answers will go on to discuss how the identification of characteristic features in a poet's work (eg use of imagery, handling of verse, vocabulary range of feeling) is, in turn, important in helping the reader to respond.

2(b)

Satisfactory answers will identify images in *three* or *four* poems, and discuss that nature, but the answer may only indirectly or by implication explore the awakening of the reader's feelings, or other effects of the images.

Better answers will give attention to the awakening of the reader's feelings, and to the effects of specific images.

Prose: The Novel and Short Story

3(a)

The prompts are given to indicate different kinds of fiction, with different kinds of endings.

A satisfactory answer will discuss the endings of two or three works. The answer may not be too clear how the responses are to be related to the works.

A better answer will be more specific about the response to the end of each work, and relate this to the reader's view of the nature of the fiction concerned.

3(b)

A barely satisfactory answer will discuss two characters, each from a novel or short story. The development of the characters and the contribution of this to the novels or short stories as a whole will be implied in the discussion.

A better answer will discuss, with coherent reference to the texts, the development of the characters chosen, and the discussion will show something of what, and by what means, the presentation of the characters contributes to each novel or short story as a whole.

Prose: Other than the Novel and Short Story

4(a)

Satisfactory answers will discuss **two** or **three** prose works (other than novels or short stories) and give impressions and judgements of the writer in each case. The basis for such impressions and judgements, and their importance in responding to each work may be present only by implication.

Better answers will include explicit discussion of the basis for the reader's impressions of the writer and the importance of such judgements in responding to each work.

Excellent answers may qualify the terms of the question.

4(b)

The four topics mentioned are indicators only, initiative in broadening the choice should be rewarded.

Satisfactory answers will discuss **two** or **three** prose works in the terms specified, but may leave the specifics of the effectiveness (or its absence) of the writing to implication.

Good answers will explicitly discuss the writing.

General Questions on Literature

5(a)

A satisfactory answer will discuss two or three works from another age (which should be interpreted broadly: 'the previous generation' or earlier, might be acceptable): problems and/or benefits may be left to implication only.

A better answer may see that the things 'done differently there', reading and writing are themselves important, but in any case will explicitly discuss 'problems and benefits' and say something about the writing and reading of earlier texts.

5(b)

A satisfactory answer will discuss works in which power and power-influenced relations feature prominently (eg Shakespeare's plays, *A Street Car Named Desire*, satires). The query is, what questions are raised? These may only be implied.

A better answer will explicitly address 'questions about power' and relate the texts chosen more closely to the discussion.

Keen readers may talk about the power of texts.

5(c)

A satisfactory answer will discuss two works, perhaps from the point of view of what a writer of fictions gleans from, or does to, ‘real life’. The handling of the prompt may be implicit, or absent.

A better answer will explicitly discuss the quotation which is from Iris Murdoch.

This is a difficult (but frequently asked question). Daring should be rewarded.

5(d)

A satisfactory answer will discuss two works showing how the writer thinks biographical information may be useful, eg Dickens, Joyce, Sylvia Plath. Details may be scanty.

A better answer will explicitly include ‘or misleading’ in the discussion, perhaps contributing ‘or both’.

The best answers will include comment on writing.
