

MARKING NOTES
NOTES À PROPOS DE LA NOTATION
ESQUEMA DE CALIFICACIÓN

May / mai / mayo 2003

ENGLISH / ANGLAIS / INGLÉS A2

Standard Level
Niveau Moyen
Nivel Medio

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1

Standard level, Paper 1

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 that do not include all the ideas or approaches suggest here should not be so heavily penalized as to distort appreciation of individuality.

SECTION A

This section invites candidates to comment on and compare two texts, one an excerpt from a book about the impact of computer technology, and the other a magazine advertisement for a computer company.

A barely satisfactory paper will:

- comment on the difference in content, audience and purpose in the two texts;
- make some observations about the differences in structure and style.

A better paper will:

- compare different attitudes toward computer technology in each of the texts;
- comment on the different purpose of each as well as on stylistic devices which reinforce each purpose;
- note that text 1(a) has an author, while text 1(b) does not;
- compare the structures of the two texts, noting the relevance of structure to purpose and audience.

The best papers will also include some or all of the following:

- a detailed discussion of stylistic differences;
- an awareness of a certain ambivalence to computers in text 1(a);
- a recognition that one text could be viewed as a commentary on the other.

SECTION B

This section invites candidates to comment on and compare two literary texts - an excerpt from a short story and a poem - both dealing with the general theme of trying to understand death.

A barely satisfactory comparative commentary will:

- observe that both texts are about how the living understand and cope with death;
- make some observations about the differences of genre;
- comment on the fact that text 2(a) represents one person's thoughts, whereas 2(b) is largely a dialogue;
- identify some stylistic devices used, in text 2(a).

A better comparative commentary will:

- define the different attitudes toward death displayed in the two works;
- comment on the importance of the two generations in 2(b);
- comment on the diction of each text, using specific examples;
- make observations about the importance of the details included in each;
- make observations on the structure of each text.

The best comparative commentaries should include some or all of the following:

- commentary on characterization and how it is developed in 2(b);
 - analysis of which aspects of death are difficult for the speaker in 2(a) and the characters in 2(b);
 - observations on the importance of structure to meaning;
 - observations of the use of contrast in each text;
 - commentary on the relationship between language and meaning in both texts.
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