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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2018

Pearson Edexcel IGCSE
In English Language (4EA0) Paper 02R

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Paper 2 of IGCSE English Language 4EA0 lasts ninety minutes and is equally divided between reading and writing. Question 1 is a reading question, based on a text drawn from the Edexcel Anthology. Candidates would have seen the text previously. This year the text was a poem, "An Unknown Girl". For Question 2, candidates have a choice of three writing questions, of which they choose one. Question 2a was a magazine article about the advantages and disadvantages of social media for young people. Question 2b was a talk on a person who has been an important influence and Question 2c was a story with the title "The Wrong Turn".

This was the last sitting of Paper 4EA0/02R, as the new specification's papers will be sat from now on.

Principal Examiner's Report

All in all, examiners felt this was a good paper in terms of eliciting worthwhile responses at all levels.

Reading

Question 1

This poem and the accompanying question asking how the poet conveyed a sense of place in it provided fertile soil for candidates of all abilities. There was plenty of easily accessible material to write about and the question provided an opportunity to demonstrate different levels of sensitivity and depths of understanding. Even the weakest candidates could comfortably attain the higher reaches of Mark Level 2 and at the top end there were some impressively insightful and comprehensive responses. Examiners reported a sense of the poem having been well-taught and having captured the interest of most candidates.

Writing

There seemed to be a reasonable spread of responses across the three Question 2 options, with Q2c perhaps the least attempted. Some examiners felt that in the June 2018 series on this paper there were more candidates in the higher reaches and fewer really weak responses.

Question 2a

This question clearly lent itself to structure and many candidates appreciated this, offering up balanced responses with clear paragraphing. Most candidates had an obvious interest in the topic with the better candidates showing originality and flair in their treatment of the issues surrounding social media.

Question 2b

This question produced a range of natural responses as candidates drew on their own experience of a person who had influenced them.

Grandparents proved a popular feature, but influences were drawn from a wide area. The personal involvement often resulted in interesting and vivid accounts.

Question 2c

This narrative question produced an impressive number of quality stories with some highly original interpretations of the phrase "The Wrong Turn". The nature of the question encouraged suspense and, because of the need to focus on a clearly visible conclusion, the open-ended rambling nature that can sometimes appear in candidates' stories was generally and refreshingly avoided.