OXFORD
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INTERNATIONAL GCSE

ENGLISH LITERATURE

9275/2A

Paper 2A Poetry and Unseen texts

Mark scheme

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Mark schemes are prepared by the Lead Assessment Writer and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all associates participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the students' responses to questions and that every associate understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each associate analyses a number of students' scripts. Alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, associates encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Lead Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of students' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

Further copies of this mark scheme are available from oxfordaqaexams.org.uk

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Statement of importance

International GCSE English Literature is the study of how writers communicate their ideas about the world, and how readers might respond to these ideas. It aims to develop a critical understanding of the ways in which literary texts are a reflection of, and exploration of, the human condition, the study of which develops empathic understanding of human nature. High-quality English literature is writing which displays recognisable literary qualities and, although shaped by particular contexts, transcends them and speaks about the universality of the human condition. International GCSE English Literature aims to enable students to appreciate these qualities, developing and presenting informed, critical responses to the ideas in literary texts and the ways writers present these ideas. It aims to enable students to make links between a variety of written texts and between the text and the context within which it was shaped.

Principles of mark scheme construction

Each mark scheme is driven by the task and by the statement of importance about International GCSE English Literature. It aims to do two things:

- to describe typical features of response in order to decide on a mark
- to identify typical features of proficiency in order to aid discrimination between levels of performance.

Each mark scheme is constructed using six levels. This is to reflect the ability level of the whole cohort. There are five marks within each level to allow for levels of proficiency and to allow for discrimination between levels of cognitive ability across the whole cohort.

Each mark scheme places assessment objectives AO1 and AO2 as the key skills. This is driven by the statement of importance of the subject, in that the study of great literary texts is the study of the interrelationship between the reader and the writer of the text and that the communication and reception of these ideas is an inherent feature of English literature. It is also driven by the acknowledgement that International GCSE English Literature assesses cognitive levels of ability; the level of response to ideas will have parity with the level of response to the methods of communicating those ideas.

The specification takes a skills-based approach to the study of International English Literature that is consistent across the genres. All three AOs follow the same weighting in each component. This coherent approach to the study of the subject means that AOs support learning rather than dominate it.

Level of response marking instructions

Level of response mark schemes are broken down into levels, each of which has a descriptor. The descriptor for the level shows the average performance for the level. There are marks in each level.

Before you apply the mark scheme to a student's answer read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed) to show the qualities that are being looked for. You can then apply the mark scheme.

The mark scheme is constructed using six levels of attainment that span the whole range of ability at International GCSE. The descriptors of attainment reference the assessment objectives for that particular question. Examiners are required to use the mark scheme to consider the whole response and decide upon the most appropriate level. The mark scheme provides two descriptors: a description of typical features of a response in each level, and a description of the kinds of skills candidates in that level will be proficient in. This is in order to support examiners in making their judgement of the extent to which the qualities and skills being demonstrated merit a particular level of attainment. As each response being marked is a response to a particular task, examiners are assessing the extent to which the candidate has responded to the task, and also the level of skill that the candidate has demonstrated.

Each level has five marks available and five skills descriptors. Fair application of the mark scheme to all candidates is driven by the descriptors in the mark scheme, and therefore examiners are required to make a judgement about the extent to which a candidate achieves every descriptor in that particular level in order to warrant a mark at the top of that level. If a candidate achieves everything in a level, they should be awarded the mark at the top of that level.

Since answers will rarely match a descriptor in all respects, examiners must allow good performance in some aspects to compensate for shortcomings in other respects. Consequently, the level is determined by the 'best fit' rather than requiring every element of the descriptor to be matched. Examiners should aim to use the full range of levels and marks, taking into account the standard that can reasonably be expected of candidates after one or two years of study on the International GCSE course and in the time available in the examination.

If a candidate does not address a particular defining feature of a task, examiners are required to make a judgement about the extent to which other skills can place the response in a particular level, and where the response should be placed.

Step 1 Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptor for that level. The descriptor for the level indicates the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptor and the answer. With practice and familiarity you will find that for better answers you will be able to quickly skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme.

When assigning a level you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed

quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best fit approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level, ie if the response is predominantly level 3 with a small amount of level 4 material it would be placed in level 3 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 4 content.

Step 2 Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark. The descriptors on how to allocate marks can help with this. The exemplar materials used during standardisation will help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials which will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

Indicative content in the mark scheme is provided as a guide for examiners. It is not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points. Students do not have to cover all of the points mentioned in the Indicative content to reach the highest level of the mark scheme.

An answer which contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

Rubric infringements

If a candidate does not address a defining feature of the task, this would be classed as a rubric infringement and the examiner would be required to make a judgement about the extent to which other skills can place the response in a particular level. Examiners will receive guidance on the most appropriate way of dealing with rubric infringements at the time of the examination.

Supporting documentation

Standardising scripts would provide exemplification of attainment in order to guide examiners towards the process of discerning between levels of attainment and to aid judgement about the positioning of each response in terms of a final mark.

Exemplification documents, including indicative content, definitions of key descriptors in the mark scheme and exemplification of these descriptors, provide more detailed guidance to examiners on how to judge the relative qualities and skills being demonstrated by each candidate.

Assessment objectives (AOs)

AO1	Understanding of, and engagement with, themes, ideas and contexts.
AO2	Analysis of how writers create meanings and effects.
AO3	Express informed, personal responses to literary texts, using appropriate terminology, and coherent, accurate writing.

Paper 2 Route A Questions 1–4; Route B Questions 1–3 (30 marks–AO1=12, AO2=12, AO3=6)

AO1: Understanding of, and engagement with, themes, ideas and contexts – 40%
AO2: Analysis of how writers create meanings and effects – 40%
AO3: Express informed, personal responses to literary texts, using appropriate terminology, and coherent, accurate writing – 20%

Mark	AO	Typical features	How to arrive at a mark
Level 6 Convincing, critical analysis and exploration **26–30 marks**	AO1	• Exploration of themes/ideas/perspectives/contextual factors shown by specific, detailed links between context/text/task. • Judicious use of precise references to support interpretation(s).	**At the top of the level,** a candidate's response is likely to be a critical, exploratory, well-structured argument. It takes a conceptualised approach to the full task supported by a range of judicious references. There will be a fine-grained and insightful analysis of language and form and structure. Convincing exploration of one or more theme/idea/perspective/contextual factor/interpretation. **At the bottom of the level**, a candidate will have Level 5 and be starting to demonstrate elements of exploratory thought and/or analysis of writer's methods and /or contexts.
	AO2	• Analysis of writer's methods. • Exploration of effects of writer's methods on reader.	
	AO3	• Critical, exploratory, conceptualised response to task and whole text.	
Level 5 Thoughtful, developed consideration **21–25 marks**	AO1	• Thoughtful consideration of themes/ideas/perspectives/contextual factors shown by examination of detailed links between context/text/task. • Apt references integrated into interpretation(s).	**At the top of the level,** a candidate's response is likely to be thoughtful, detailed and developed. It takes a considered approach to the full task with references integrated into interpretation; there will be a detailed examination of the effects of language and/or structure and/or form. Examination of themes/ideas/perspectives/contextual factors, possibly including alternative interpretations/deeper meanings. **At the bottom of the level,** a candidate will have Level 4 and be starting to demonstrate elements of thoughtful consideration and/or examination of writer's methods and/or contexts.
	AO2	• Examination of writer's methods. • Consideration of effects of writer's methods on reader.	
	AO3	• Thoughtful, developed response to task and whole text.	

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Level 4

Clear understanding

16–20 marks</td><td>AO1</td><td>• Clear understanding of themes/ideas/perspectives/ contextual factors shown by specific links between context/text/task.
• Effective use of references to support explanation.</td><td rowspan="3">At the top of the level, a candidate’s response is likely to be clear, sustained and consistent. It takes a focused response to the full task which demonstrates clear understanding. It uses a range of references effectively to illustrate and justify explanation; there will be clear explanation of the effects of a range of writer’s methods. Clear understanding of themes/ideas/perspectives/contextual factors.

At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have Level 3 and be starting to demonstrate elements of understanding and/or explanation of writer’s methods and/or contexts.</td></tr>
<tr><td>AO2</td><td>• Clear explanation of writer’s methods.
• Understanding of effects of writer’s methods on reader.</td></tr>
<tr><td>AO3</td><td>• Clear, explained response to task and whole text.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Level 3

Explained, structured comments

11–15 marks</td><td>AO1</td><td>• Some understanding of implicit themes/ideas/ perspectives/contextual factors shown by links between context/text/task.
• References used to support a range of relevant comments.</td><td rowspan="3">At the top of the level, a candidate’s response is likely to be explanatory in parts. It focuses on the full task with a range of points exemplified by relevant references from the text; there will be identification of effects of a range of writer’s methods. Explanation of some relevant ideas/contextual factors.

At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have Level 2 and be starting to explain and/or make relevant comments on writer’s methods and/or contexts.</td></tr>
<tr><td>AO2</td><td>• Explained/relevant comments on writer’s methods.
• Identification of effects of writer’s methods on reader.</td></tr>
<tr><td>AO3</td><td>• Some explained response to task and whole text.</td></tr>
</table>

<table>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Level 2

Supported, relevant comments

6–10 marks</td><td>AO1</td><td>• Some awareness of implicit themes/ideas/contextual factors.
• Comments on references.</td><td rowspan="3">At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be relevant and supported by some explanation. It will include some focus on the task with relevant comments and some supporting references from the text. There will be identification of effects of deliberate choices made by writer. Awareness of some contextual factors.

At the bottom of the level, a candidate's response will have Level 1 and be starting to focus on the task and/or starting to show awareness of the writer making choices and/or awareness of contexts.</td></tr>
<tr><td>AO2</td><td>• Identification of writers' methods.
• Comments on effects of methods on reader.</td></tr>
<tr><td>AO3</td><td>• Supported response to task and text.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="3">Level 1

Simple, explicit comments

1–5 marks</td><td>AO1</td><td>• Simple comment on explicit ideas/contextual factors.
• Reference to relevant details.</td><td rowspan="3">At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be narrative and/or descriptive in approach. It may include awareness of the task and provide appropriate reference to text; there will be simple identification of method. Simple comments/responses to context, usually explicit.

At the bottom of the level, a candidate's response will show some familiarity with the text.</td></tr>
<tr><td>AO2</td><td>• Awareness of writer making deliberate choices.
• Simple comment on effect.</td></tr>
<tr><td>AO3</td><td>• Simple comments relevant to task and text.</td></tr>
<tr><td>0 marks</td><td colspan="3">Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written.</td></tr>
</table>

Section A: People and Places

0 1 Write about the ways that poets present places in *London* and **one** other poem from *People and Places*.

[30 marks]

Indicative content

Examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretations. Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1
- unpleasant places, eg in '*London*' or '*In a London Drawing Room*'
- places holding memories, eg in '*At Castle Boterel'* or '*This Morning'*
- places being dangerous, eg '*Storm on the Island'* or '*Wind'*
- places being enriching, eg in '*Below the Green Corrie'.*

AO2
- use of rhyme and verse form, eg in *'London'*
- use of structure, eg in '*Blessing'*
- use of simile and metaphor to convey the power of nature, eg in '*Below the Green Corrie'*
- use of sentence and verse form to create pace and sense of excitement, eg in '*Blessing*'.

AO3
Examiners are looking to award the candidate's proficiency in:
- presenting an argument
- organising their thoughts
- responding to the task
- communicating their ideas.

0 2 Write about **one or more** poems from *People and Places* in which you admire the ways that language and structure are used. Explain why you admire the writing.

[30 marks]

Indicative content

Examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretations. Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1
- ideas about nature being dangerous, eg the power of the wind in '*Wind'*, the mountains in '*Below the Green Corrie'*
- ideas about nature oppressing people, eg in '*In a London Drawing Room'*
- ideas about nature surrounding and enclosing people, eg in '*Wind'* and '*Storm on the Island'*
- ideas about nature being destructive, eg in '*Hurricane Hits England'* or '*The Great Storm'*
- ideas about searching for identity in '*The Road Not Taken*' and '*Hurricane Hits England'*
- ideas about identity in '*Blessing*' and '*Where I come from*'.

AO2
- use of vocabulary, eg in '*London' and 'Homeland'*
- use of structure, eg in '*Storm on the Island'*, '*Hurricane Hits England'* and '*Winter Swans*'
- use of simile and metaphor to convey the power of nature, eg in '*Wind' and 'Below the Green Corrie'*
- use of repetition, eg in '*Hurricane Hits England'* or '*The Door'*
- effects of dying falls in last lines of '*Futility'* and '*Cat Castle Boterel'*
- effects of opening lines of '*Poem at Thirty Nine*' and '*The Great Storm*'.

AO3
Examiners are looking to award the candidate's proficiency in:
- presenting an argument
- organising their thoughts
- responding to the task
- communicating their ideas.

Section B: Unseen Poetry

0 3 How does the poet present Evans?

[30 marks]

Indicative content

Examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretations. Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1
- thoughts about Evans' situation
- thoughts about the house and its surroundings
- thoughts about the speaker of the poem
- thoughts about the neighbours.

AO2
- use of the first person approach in the poem
- use of metaphor, eg 'the dark silting the veins'
- use of melancholy vocabulary to create mood, eg smother, stark, weather-tortured
- use of punctuation, line and stanza breaks.

AO3
Examiners are looking to award the candidate's proficiency in:
- presenting an argument
- organising their thoughts
- responding to the task
- communicating their ideas.

Section C: Unseen Prose

0 4 Describe the atmosphere that Conan Doyle creates in this extract. How does he create this atmosphere by the ways that he writes?

[30 marks]

Indicative content

Examiners are encouraged to reward any valid interpretations. Answers might, however, include some of the following:

AO1
- wildness of the elements
- the strange sounds in the corridor
- the appearance of the sister
- the strange words that she cries.

AO2
- use of verbs to describe the elements
- use of swift movements
- use of list of three phrases to describe the sister's appearance
- use of punctuation to emphasise the sister's terror.

AO3
Examiners are looking to award the candidate's proficiency in:
- presenting an argument
- organising their thoughts
- responding to the task
- communicating their ideas.