



Cambridge IGCSE™

MANDARIN CHINESE

0547/41

Paper 4 Writing

May/June 2020

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 45

Published

Students did not sit exam papers in the June 2020 series due to the Covid-19 global pandemic.

This mark scheme is published to support teachers and students and should be read together with the question paper. It shows the requirements of the exam. The answer column of the mark scheme shows the proposed basis on which Examiners would award marks for this exam. Where appropriate, this column also provides the most likely acceptable alternative responses expected from students. Examiners usually review the mark scheme after they have seen student responses and update the mark scheme if appropriate. In the June series, Examiners were unable to consider the acceptability of alternative responses, as there were no student responses to consider.

Mark schemes should usually be read together with the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers. However, because students did not sit exam papers, there is no Principal Examiner Report for Teachers for the June 2020 series.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the June 2020 series for most Cambridge IGCSE™ and Cambridge International A & AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

This document consists of **20** printed pages.

Generic Marking Principles

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of response required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks, or other fractions).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers, as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:

Rules must be applied consistently e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors.

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

Both traditional and simplified characters are accepted and should be marked in the same way.

Question	Answer	Marks
<p>Question 1</p>	<p>Candidates are required to list 5 items in Chinese. Read all of the items that the candidate has listed and award marks as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select the most correct items up to a maximum of 5. • Award 1 mark for each correct item up to a maximum of 5. • Stop ticking once 5 items have been rewarded. • On Question 1, award marks for items wherever the candidate has written them. • If the candidate offers more than one word per line, award a mark for each acceptable item. <p>Generic mark scheme for Question 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Mark for communication. Tolerate inaccuracies, provided the message is clear.</u> • Do not award marks to words written in pinyin and English. • If you suspect a word is used in another region e.g., please check with the team leader or award BOD • Miswritten characters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Look-alike test: award the mark when the character the candidate has written looks like the correct answer e.g. strokes missing or added, but character still recognisable. However, when the miswritten character creates a new character with a different meaning, the mark cannot be awarded. (b) If a prefix or suffix is missing, or a modifier word is miswritten, award a mark if meaning is still communicated, e.g. 面条: if a candidate has only written 条, it does not mean anything and a mark shouldn't be awarded. If a candidate has written 面 which contains the main meaning of the word <i>noodle</i>, the mark should be awarded. (c) If the mis-formed characters create a different meaning, e.g. 工豆、咖啡, no mark will be awarded 	

Question	Answer	Marks
1	<p>Session specific instructions for Question 1: 请用中文写出你在农场可能看到的五种东西。 Make a list in <u>Chinese</u> of 5 things you might see on a farm.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are five clearly acceptable items, animals, objects, award marks wherever these are in the list. • If candidates list a single item with <i>different descriptive word/adjectives</i>, a maximum of 2 marks can be awarded, e.g. 大狗 (big dog), 小狗 (small dog), 黑狗(black dog) award 2 marks • Ignore measure words and the verb (already in the rubric) • If more than 5 words have been written, award the 5 correct ones even outside of the space provided • If words are directly copied from the question e.g., no mark will be awarded <p>The following are examples. Accept anything a candidate might see on a farm.</p> <p>树, 花, 蔬菜, 水果, 苹果, 土豆, 鸡, 鸭, 牛, 鱼, 机器</p>	5

Question	Answer	Marks
Question 2	Candidates are required to answer the question. Read the whole answer and award marks as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication: award a mark out of 10, according to the instructions in 2.1.• Language: award a mark out of 5, according to the instructions in 2.2.	

Question	Answer	Marks
<p><u>2.1: Award a mark out of 10 for Communication</u></p> <p>(i) Place the appropriate ‘numbered’ tick as close as possible to each relevant communication point.</p> <p>(ii) Award ticks flexibly across the tasks for each piece of relevant information conveyed, up to a maximum of 10 ticks. HOWEVER, each of the 5 tasks must be covered to get the 10 communication marks:</p> <p>(iii) <u>If 1 of the tasks is missing</u>, the maximum communication mark is 9.</p> <p>(iv) <u>If 2 of the tasks are missing</u>, the maximum communication mark is 8 (and so on).</p> <p>(v) Add up the ticks to give a mark out of 10 for Communication.</p> <p>(vi) For COMMUNICATION be tolerant of timeframes and minor character errors, provided the characters written are clear enough to be understood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for language, use ‘rules’ in Question 1: miswritten characters, etc. • incorrect word order will not usually compromise communication. <p>(vii) <u>LISTS</u> = a maximum of 3 marks for communication. LISTS 最多给三分。</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 他的宠物有猫、狗、鱼和鸟。(3 marks)。 • 咖啡馆很大，很好，有很多吃的，我喜欢那里。 <p>(viii) Up to 5 further marks available for additional details</p> <p>(ix) 我喜欢我的邻居为唱歌很好。Award 1 mark since it is one sentence without a comma.</p> <p>(x) Do not penalise factual errors.</p> <p>(xi) What the candidate writes may not follow the order of the tasks on the question paper – this is fine.</p> <p>(xii) Candidates are allowed to use English name in sentences.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total marks for Communication: 10</p>		

Question	Answer	Marks
2	<p>Use of pinyin If a candidate uses pinyin in their answer, you should read the work as if the pinyin words were not there – they do not count towards the Communication mark. If the Communication requirements are still fulfilled, discounting the pinyin, the mark can be awarded. See 2.2 page 12 for language marks.</p> <p>e.g. Question: 你喜欢吃什么</p> <p>Answer 1: 我喜欢吃 jiao子. (pinyin is used for the word ‘jiao’. This is a key word in the sentence, and relates directly to the question. Therefore, no Communication mark can be awarded.) Answer 2: 我喜欢吃面bao. (pinyin is used for the word ‘bao’. Ignoring this word in the sentence would not affect comprehension – it is not a key word in the sentence. The Communication mark can be awarded here.)</p> <p><u>How to award marks for extra details:</u></p> <p>An extra detail is defined as any extra detail which is related in some way to any one of the five tasks.</p> <p>Example: 咖啡馆很大, 很好, 有很多吃的, 我喜欢那里。</p> <p>(4 Communication marks are awarded for this response)</p> <p>In the above example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award 1 tick for 咖啡馆很大 as this is a generic statement which addresses the requirements of task 4 • Award 1 tick for 很好 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task 4 • Award 1 tick for 有很多吃的 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task 4 • Award 1 tick for 我喜欢那里 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task 4 <p>However, if the extra piece of information is not directly answering any of the bullet points, we only award 1 mark even if it is a list, e.g. 我早上八点跟家人去(1 mark), 我的家人有爸爸、妈妈、哥哥、弟弟 (1 mark).</p>	

Question	Answer	Marks												
2	<p>Session specific instructions for Communication marks:</p> <p>你家附近有一个健身房。请写一写： Write about a gym near your home. Say:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="338 416 1921 1262"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="338 416 450 480">Tick</th> <th data-bbox="450 416 1921 480">Accept</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 480 450 655">✓1</td> <td data-bbox="450 480 1921 655"> Task: 你一个星期去健身房几次; How many times do you go to the gym every week? REWARD: any reasonable number REWARD: extra information, e.g. 我一个星期去五次。星期一、三、五和周末去。(3 marks) Present time-frame </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 655 450 831">✓2</td> <td data-bbox="450 655 1921 831"> Task: 你每次健身多长时间; How long do you work out every time? REWARD: any reasonable length of time REWARD: 我每次健身两个小时。 Present time-frame </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 831 450 1007">✓3</td> <td data-bbox="450 831 1921 1007"> Task: 你和谁一起去健身房; Who do you go to the gym with? REWARD: any person you know REWARD: 我和朋友一起去。他叫小明。(2 marks) Present time-frame </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1007 450 1150">✓4</td> <td data-bbox="450 1007 1921 1150"> Task: 健身以后, 你一般会做什么; What do you usually do after a workout? REWARD: any activity, present time frame REWARD: 我一般会去那里的咖啡店吃东西, 喝饮料。(2 marks) </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1150 450 1262">✓5</td> <td data-bbox="450 1150 1921 1262"> Task: 你下次什么时候去健身房; When will you go to the gym next time? REWARD: any future time frame either with specific time 下星期三、放学以后 or future model verb 想、要、会 </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Tick	Accept	✓1	Task: 你一个星期去健身房几次; How many times do you go to the gym every week? REWARD: any reasonable number REWARD: extra information, e.g. 我一个星期去五次。星期一、三、五和周末去。(3 marks) Present time-frame	✓2	Task: 你每次健身多长时间; How long do you work out every time? REWARD: any reasonable length of time REWARD: 我每次健身两个小时。 Present time-frame	✓3	Task: 你和谁一起去健身房; Who do you go to the gym with? REWARD: any person you know REWARD: 我和朋友一起去。他叫小明。(2 marks) Present time-frame	✓4	Task: 健身以后, 你一般会做什么; What do you usually do after a workout? REWARD: any activity, present time frame REWARD: 我一般会去那里的咖啡店吃东西, 喝饮料。(2 marks)	✓5	Task: 你下次什么时候去健身房; When will you go to the gym next time? REWARD: any future time frame either with specific time 下星期三、放学以后 or future model verb 想、要、会	10
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Question	Answer	Marks
2.2: Award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Language		
<p>Generic mark scheme for Language (Question 2): If some characters are written incorrectly without hindering communication, candidates should not be penalised in the Language mark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award a mark out of 5 for Language*, according to the Grade descriptors in the table below (see <i>Note on using mark schemes with Grade descriptors</i> (Appendix 1)). 		
Grade descriptors for Language (Question 2)		
5	Straightforward vocabulary and structure. The style of writing is basic, but reasonably coherent. Use of a limited range of verbs, generally successful. More accuracy than inaccuracy.	
4	Basic vocabulary and structure. Some awareness of verb usage, but inconsistent. The writing is sufficiently accurate for meaning to be conveyed.	
3	Very basic vocabulary and structure. Little awareness of verb usage (e.g. infinitives regularly used instead of finite verbs). Despite regular errors, the writing often conveys some meaning.	
2	A few phrases or short sentences are accurate enough to be comprehensible. Very simple sentence structure.	
1	Disjointed words or short phrases, one or two of them accurate enough to be comprehensible.	
0	One or two disjointed words or short phrases may be recognisable.	
<p>*Consider the whole answer when awarding mark for language</p>		
<p style="text-align: right;">Total for Communication: 10 marks Total for Language: 5 marks Total for Question 2: 15 marks</p>		

Question	Answer	Marks
Question 3	<p>Candidates answer 1 question from a choice of 3. Read the whole answer and award marks as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication: award a mark out of 5, according to the instructions in 3.1. • Language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Characters, according to the instructions in 3.2. – award a mark out of 10 for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures, according to the instructions in 3.3. – award an Impressions mark out of 5 according to the instructions in 3.4 <p><u>3.1: Award a mark out of 5 for Communication</u></p> <p><i>Generic mark scheme for Communication (Question 3):</i></p> <p>(i) There are 5 relevant communication points per question, each worth a maximum of 1 mark.</p> <p>(ii) For each relevant communication point, use the appropriate numbered tick and place 1 of these ticks as close as possible to each relevant communication point</p> <p>(iii) Add up the ticks to give a mark out of 5 for Communication</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total marks for Communication: 5</p>	

Question	Answer	Marks																		
3(a)	<p>Session specific instructions for Communication marks (Question 3):</p> <p>你最近参加了一个生日会。请给笔友写一封电子邮件。邮件里说说：You recently went to a birthday party. Please write an email to your pen-pal, say:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="338 416 1812 1246"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="338 416 439 480">Tick</th> <th data-bbox="439 416 1700 480">Accept</th> <th data-bbox="1700 416 1812 480">Mark</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 480 439 624">✓1</td> <td data-bbox="439 480 1700 624"> Task: 你哪天参加了生日会 ; Which day did you participate in the birthday party? REWARD: any past time frame </td> <td data-bbox="1700 480 1812 624">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 624 439 775">✓2</td> <td data-bbox="439 624 1700 775"> Task: 你参加了谁的生日会 ; Whose birthday party was it? REWARD: any person </td> <td data-bbox="1700 624 1812 775">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 775 439 927">✓3</td> <td data-bbox="439 775 1700 927"> Task: 他/她最喜欢的礼物是什么 ; What was his/her favourite gift? REWARD: any reasonable gift </td> <td data-bbox="1700 775 1812 927">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 927 439 1078">✓4</td> <td data-bbox="439 927 1700 1078"> Task: 你觉得生日会上的食物怎么样 ; What did you think of the food at the party? REWARD: opinion of food </td> <td data-bbox="1700 927 1812 1078">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1078 439 1246">✓5</td> <td data-bbox="439 1078 1700 1246"> Task: 你打算怎么庆祝自己的生日 ; How do you plan to celebrate your own birthday? REWARD: any reasonable plan of how to celebrate your own birthday with a future time frame </td> <td data-bbox="1700 1078 1812 1246">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Tick	Accept	Mark	✓1	Task: 你哪天参加了生日会 ; Which day did you participate in the birthday party? REWARD: any past time frame	1	✓2	Task: 你参加了谁的生日会 ; Whose birthday party was it? REWARD: any person	1	✓3	Task: 他/她最喜欢的礼物是什么 ; What was his/her favourite gift? REWARD: any reasonable gift	1	✓4	Task: 你觉得生日会上的食物怎么样 ; What did you think of the food at the party? REWARD: opinion of food	1	✓5	Task: 你打算怎么庆祝自己的生日 ; How do you plan to celebrate your own birthday? REWARD: any reasonable plan of how to celebrate your own birthday with a future time frame	1	5
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3(b)

Session specific instructions for Communication marks (Question 3):

《中学生杂志》想了解一下学生对住在学校的看法。请给杂志写一篇文章，说一说：
'Middle School Students' Magazine' wants to know the students' views on living in school. Please write an article for them about:

Tick	Accept	Mark
✓1	Task: 你从几年级开始住在学校 ; From which year group did you start living in school? REWARD: any year group detailed.	1
✓2	Task: 你觉得住在学校有什么好处 ; What are the benefits of living in school? REWARD: any opinion(s).	1
✓3	Task: 你觉得住在学校有什么坏处 ; What are the disadvantages of living in school? REWARD: any reasonable opinion.	1
✓4	Task: 你最近跟住校的同学做了什么 ; What did you do with the other boarders recently? REWARD: any activity in past time frame.	1
✓5	Task: 你下次什么时候回家。 When will you next go home? REWARD: any time in the near future- to show future time frame.	1

5

Question	Answer	Marks																		
3(c)	<p>Session specific instructions for Communication marks (Question 3):</p> <p>你在看电视。忽然，你的好朋友出现在节目上。请说说: You were watching TV. Suddenly, your friend appears on the TV programme.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="338 416 1637 1187"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="338 416 439 485">Tick</th> <th data-bbox="439 416 1525 485">Accept</th> <th data-bbox="1525 416 1637 485">Mark</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 485 439 624">✓1</td> <td data-bbox="439 485 1525 624"> Task: 你在看什么节目 ; What programme were you watching? REWARD: any programme </td> <td data-bbox="1525 485 1637 624">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 624 439 767">✓2</td> <td data-bbox="439 624 1525 767"> Task: 他/她为什么出现在节目上 ; Why did he/she appear on the programme? REWARD: anything relevant in a past timeframe. </td> <td data-bbox="1525 624 1637 767">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 767 439 911">✓3</td> <td data-bbox="439 767 1525 911"> Task: 他/她在节目上说了什么 ; What did he/she say on this programme? REWARD: anything relevant in a past timeframe. </td> <td data-bbox="1525 767 1637 911">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 911 439 1054">✓4</td> <td data-bbox="439 911 1525 1054"> Task: 你觉得这个节目怎么样 ; What did you think of this programme? REWARD: Opinion. </td> <td data-bbox="1525 911 1637 1054">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1054 439 1187">✓5</td> <td data-bbox="439 1054 1525 1187"> Task: 后来发生了什么事。 What happened afterwards? REWARD: anything relevant in a past timeframe. </td> <td data-bbox="1525 1054 1637 1187">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Tick	Accept	Mark	✓1	Task: 你在看什么节目 ; What programme were you watching? REWARD: any programme	1	✓2	Task: 他/她为什么出现在节目上 ; Why did he/she appear on the programme? REWARD: anything relevant in a past timeframe.	1	✓3	Task: 他/她在节目上说了什么 ; What did he/she say on this programme? REWARD: anything relevant in a past timeframe.	1	✓4	Task: 你觉得这个节目怎么样 ; What did you think of this programme? REWARD: Opinion.	1	✓5	Task: 后来发生了什么事。 What happened afterwards? REWARD: anything relevant in a past timeframe.	1	5
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✓5	Task: 后来发生了什么事。 What happened afterwards? REWARD: anything relevant in a past timeframe.	1																		

Question	Answer	Marks
3.2 – award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Characters		
Generic mark scheme for Accuracy of Characters (Question 3):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Characters according to the Grade descriptors in the table below: 		
Grade descriptors for Accuracy of Characters (Question 3)		
5	Highly accurate, with a wide range of characters including some more difficult or unusual ones correctly written, with occasional minor slips.	
4	A good range of characters attempted with easy and moderately easy characters correctly written.	
3	Limited range, but with most easy characters correctly written (or a wide range with a lot of errors).	
2	A number of examples of easy characters correctly written.	
1	Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of correctly written characters.	
0	No examples of correctly written characters.	
Total marks for Accuracy of Characters: 5		

Question	Answer	Marks
3.3 – award a mark out of 10 for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures		
Generic mark scheme for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures (Question 3):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award a mark out of 10 for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures according to the Grade descriptors in the table below: 		
Grade descriptors for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures (Question 3)		
10/9	Highly accurate including use of more complex structures, but with occasional minor slips.	
8/7	A little more ambitious than the 5/6 band. Accurate in the use of simple structures, except for occasional more serious errors/more frequent slips.	
6/5	Limited in range, but displays some control of simple structures.	
4/3	Inconsistent, but a number of examples of accurate usage.	
2/1	Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of accurate usage.	
0	No examples of accurate usage.	
Total marks for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures: 10		

Question	Answer	Marks
	<p><u>How to deal with short essays</u></p> <p>If the candidate has written less than half the suggested number of characters (75 or less), a maximum of 3 marks can be awarded for Accuracy of Characters and 5 marks for Grammar/Structures. An essay of 75–100 characters can be awarded a maximum of 4 marks for Accuracy of characters and 7 for Grammar/Structures.</p> <p>For a letter, the addressee and ending greeting are not included in the word count.</p> <p><u>Pinyin</u></p> <p>The volume of pinyin in the answer should be considered when awarding the Language mark. If pinyin is used extensively, it is no longer genuinely a piece of Chinese writing. Occasional use of pinyin will not affect marking for Language, but for essays written predominantly in pinyin (i.e. more pinyin than characters) this must be taken into account in the Language mark.</p>	

Question	Answer	Marks																																		
<u>3.4 – award a mark out of 5 for Impression</u>																																				
Award a mark out of 5 for Impression according to the conversion table below.																																				
<p style="text-align: center;">Conversion Table for Impression (Question 3)</p>																																				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="398 424 1144 512">Mark out of 15 (for Accuracy of Language)</th> <th data-bbox="1144 424 1836 512">Pro rata (General Impression) Max 5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>15</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>5</td></tr> <tr><td>13</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>0</td></tr> <tr><td>0</td><td>0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Mark out of 15 (for Accuracy of Language)	Pro rata (General Impression) Max 5	15	5	14	5	13	4	12	4	11	4	10	3	9	3	8	2	7	2	6	2	5	1	4	1	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
Mark out of 15 (for Accuracy of Language)	Pro rata (General Impression) Max 5																																			
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<p style="text-align: right;">Total mark for Impression: 5 Total for Question 3: 25 marks</p>																																				

Note on using mark schemes with Grade descriptors

It is important that you award marks positively. In order to ensure that you reward achievement rather than penalise failure or omissions, you should start at the bottom of the mark scheme and work upwards through the descriptors when awarding marks.

You should adopt a 'best fit' approach. You must select the set of descriptors provided in the mark scheme that most closely describes the quality of the work being marked. As you work upwards through the mark scheme, you will eventually arrive at a set of descriptors that fits the candidate's performance. When you reach this point, you should always then check the descriptors in the band above to confirm whether or not there is just enough evidence to award a mark in the higher band.

For example, when marking Question 3 you may find that a candidate uses a variety of relevant vocabulary but has varied success with more complex structures. In such cases, you will need to award a mark that takes into account both the strengths and weaknesses of the piece of work.

To select the most appropriate mark within each set of descriptors, use the following guidance:

- If most of the descriptors fit the piece (and after you have considered the band above), award the top mark in the band.
- If there is just enough evidence (and you had perhaps been considering the band below), award the lowest mark in the band.

Note on irrelevant material in Question 3

In the case of a deliberately evasive answer which consists entirely of irrelevant material exploited in defiance of the rubric, a score of 0 is given. These are extremely rare.

A genuine attempt to answer the question which fails due to a misunderstanding of the rubric will normally lose Communication marks but will score for Language. You should consult your Team Leader.

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