

# Cambridge O Level

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE****1123/21**

Paper 2 Writing

**October/November 2024**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 50

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**Published**

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the question paper and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

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

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the October/November 2024 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

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This document consists of **12** 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 descriptions 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.

**English & Media subject specific general marking principles**  
**(To be read in conjunction with the Generic Marking Principles (and requiring further guidance on how to place marks within levels))**

**Components using level descriptors:**

- We use level descriptors as a guide to broad understanding of the qualities normally expected of, or typical of, work in a level.
- Level descriptors are a means of general guidance, and should not be interpreted as hurdle statements.
- Where indicative content notes are supplied for a question, these are *not* a prescription of required content, and must not be treated as such. Alternative correct points and unexpected answers in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the knowledge and skills demonstrated.
- While we may have legitimate expectations as to the ground most answers may occupy, we must at all times be prepared to meet candidates on their chosen ground, provided it is relevant ground (e.g. clearly related to and derived from a relevant passage/text and meeting the mark scheme requirements for the question).

**Components using point-based marking:**

Point marking is often used to reward knowledge, understanding and application of skills. We give credit where the candidate's answer shows relevant knowledge, understanding and application of skills in answering the question. We do not give credit where the answer shows confusion.

From this it follows that we:

- a DO credit answers which are worded differently from the mark scheme if they clearly convey the same meaning (unless the mark scheme requires a specific term).
- b DO credit alternative answers/examples which are not written in the mark scheme if they are correct.
- c DO credit answers where candidates give more than one correct answer in one prompt/numbered/scaffolded space where extended writing is required rather than list-type answers. For example, questions that require *n* reasons (e.g. State two reasons...).
- d DO NOT credit answers simply for using a 'key term' unless that is all that is required. (Check for evidence it is understood and not used wrongly.)
- e DO NOT credit answers which are obviously self-contradicting or trying to cover all possibilities.
- f DO NOT give further credit for what is effectively repetition of a correct point already credited unless the language itself is being tested. This applies equally to 'mirror statements' (i.e. polluted/not polluted).
- g DO NOT require spellings to be correct, unless this is part of the test. However spellings of syllabus terms must allow for clear and unambiguous separation from other syllabus terms with which they may be confused (e.g. Corrasion/Corrosion).

**Section A: Directed Writing****Question 1**

This question tests the following writing assessment objectives (15 marks)

**W1** articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined

**W2** organise and structure ideas and opinions for deliberate effect

**W3** use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures appropriate to context

**W4** use register appropriate to context

**W5** make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

*and* the following reading assessment objectives (10 marks)

**R3** analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinions, using appropriate support from the text

**R5** select and use information for specific purposes.

Question	Answer	Marks
1	<p><b>You have read two texts about the impact of social media on young people. You decide to write an article for your school magazine, giving your own views on the advantages and disadvantages of social media for young people.</b></p> <p><b>Write your <u>article</u>.</b></p> <p><b>In your article you should:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evaluate the ideas and opinions in <u>both</u> texts</li> <li>• give your own views on the advantages and disadvantages of social media for young people, based on what you have read in the texts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Base your article on what you have read in <u>both</u> texts but be careful to use your own words.</b></p> <p><b>Address both of the bullet points.</b></p> <p><b>Begin your article with a suitable headline.</b></p> <p><b>Write about <u>250</u> to <u>350</u> words.</b></p> <p><b>Up to 10 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 15 marks for the quality of your writing.</b></p> <p><b><u>Notes on task:</u></b></p> <p><b>Responses should be based on some or all of the following general ideas:</b></p> <p><b>Text A</b> Viewpoint – against the use of social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• time-consuming – affects performance at school</li> <li>• affects social skills</li> <li>• affects family life</li> <li>• mental health problems</li> <li>• unsuitable content</li> </ul> <p><b>Text B</b> Viewpoint – in favour of the use of social media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• quick and easy way to communicate</li> <li>• improves confidence / combats loneliness</li> <li>• builds skills to be used in real life</li> <li>• increased understanding of other people's lives</li> <li>• spreads positivity</li> </ul>	25

Question	Answer	Marks
1	<p><b>Evaluation</b> is offering judgement of an idea. Anything which suggests prioritization of one idea over another, or dismissal of an idea, is valid as evaluation.</p> <p><b>Development</b> is adding an example or information additional to an idea already in the text, e.g. a viable alternative, personal experience, etc. whereas evaluation is about offering a judgement of the quality or validity of that idea.</p> <p>Candidates may also decide to evaluate the actual texts – as well as, or instead of, the ideas and opinions within them – by considering the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• how <b>sensible/convincing</b> the argument is</li> <li>• evidence of <b>bias</b> in the texts</li> <li>• how well supported the argument is (with <b>evidence</b>)</li> <li>• consideration of <b>others' viewpoints</b></li> <li>• use of <b>language</b></li> </ul>	

**Marking criteria for Section A, Question 1****Table A, Reading**

Use the following table to give a mark out of 10 for reading.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Marks</b>	<b>Description</b>
5	9–10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selects a wide range of relevant facts, ideas and opinions from the text(s). (R5)</li> <li>• Analyses, evaluates and develops the chosen content in a way that clearly fulfils all elements of the task. (R3)</li> </ul>
4	7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selects a range of relevant facts, ideas and opinions from the text(s). (R5)</li> <li>• Some analysis, evaluation and development and a clear focus on the task. (R3)</li> </ul>
3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies sufficient relevant facts, ideas and opinions from the text(s). (R5)</li> <li>• Some development of ideas in a reasonably focused response. (R3)</li> </ul>
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies some relevant points from the text(s). (R5)</li> <li>• Occasional development of ideas in a response that is sometimes focused. (R3)</li> </ul>
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to identify a few relevant points from the text(s). (R5)</li> <li>• Evidence of some focus on the task. (R3)</li> </ul>
0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No creditable content.</li> </ul>

**Table B, Writing**

Use the following table to give a mark out of 15 for writing.

<b>Level</b>	<b>Marks</b>	<b>Description</b>
5	13–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content is complex, well developed and effective. (W1)</li> <li>• Well-organised structure that assimilates ideas from the text(s). (W2)</li> <li>• Uses a wide range of well-constructed sentences accurately, including complex sentences. (W3)</li> <li>• Precise and effective use of a wide range of vocabulary. (W3)</li> <li>• Consistently appropriate tone and register for audience and purpose. (W4)</li> <li>• Highly accurate use of complex spelling, punctuation and grammar. (W5)</li> </ul>
4	10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content is developed and effective. (W1)</li> <li>• Secure organisation that combines ideas from the text(s). (W2)</li> <li>• Uses a range of sentence structures accurately, including some complex ones. (W3)</li> <li>• Effective use of a range of vocabulary. (W3)</li> <li>• Mostly appropriate tone and register for audience and purpose. (W4)</li> <li>• Accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar, including some complex language. (W5)</li> </ul>
3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content is relevant with some development. (W1)</li> <li>• Some attempt to organise and structure ideas from the text(s). (W2)</li> <li>• Uses most sentence structures accurately, sometimes attempting complex ones with success. (W3)</li> <li>• Uses a straightforward range of appropriate vocabulary. (W3)</li> <li>• Some awareness of an appropriate tone and register for audience and purpose. (W4)</li> <li>• Uses a straightforward range of spelling, punctuation and grammar. (W5)</li> </ul>
2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content is straightforward with occasional development. (W1)</li> <li>• Occasional attempt to organise and structure ideas from the text(s). (W2)</li> <li>• Uses simple sentence structures accurately which may be repetitive. (W3)</li> <li>• Uses a range of simple vocabulary which may be repetitive. (W3)</li> <li>• A little awareness of appropriate tone or register. (W4)</li> <li>• Generally accurate use of more simple spelling, punctuation and grammar. (W5)</li> </ul>
1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content is simple with a little development of ideas. (W1)</li> <li>• Organisation and structure rely largely on sequence in original text(s). (W2)</li> <li>• Attempts to use simple sentence structures. (W3)</li> <li>• Uses some simple vocabulary accurately. (W3)</li> <li>• Some accuracy in simple spelling, punctuation and grammar. (W5)</li> </ul>
0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No creditable content.</li> </ul>



**Section B: Composition****Questions 2, 3, 4 or 5**

This question tests the following writing assessment objectives (25 marks)

**W1** articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined

**W2** organise and structure ideas and opinions for deliberate effect

**W3** use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures appropriate to context

**W5** make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Question	Answer	Marks
2	<p><b>EITHER</b></p> <p><b>Descriptive writing</b></p> <p>Describe <u>two</u> people you know of who have very different lifestyles. They could be members of your family, friends, famous people, or anyone else.</p>	25

Question	Answer	Marks
3	<p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Descriptive writing</b></p> <p>Describe the scene at a popular outdoor location in good weather <u>and</u> the same location in bad weather.</p>	25

Question	Answer	Marks
4	<p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Narrative writing</b></p> <p>Write a story in which a small notebook is important.</p>	25

Question	Answer	Marks
5	<p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Narrative writing</b></p> <p>Write a story in which includes the sentence: 'She felt a huge sense of joy as she saw her best friend running towards her.'</p>	25

Use the Section B Composition: Content and Structure Table to give a mark out of 10 for content and structure and the Section B Composition: Style and Accuracy Table to give a mark out of 15 for style and accuracy.

**Marking criteria for Section B****Table A, Composition: Content and Structure**

Level	Marks	Description
5	9–10	<p><b>Consistently effective response to the task</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A wide range of descriptive or narrative features used to create a consistently effective response. (W1)</li> <li>Structure is clear, well balanced and carefully organised for deliberate effect. (W2)</li> </ul>
4	7–8	<p><b>Mostly effective response to the task</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A range of descriptive or narrative features used to create a mostly effective response. (W1)</li> <li>Structure is mostly clear, balanced and well organised, with some choices made for deliberate effect. (W2)</li> </ul>
3	5–6	<p><b>Sometimes effective response to the task</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some use of descriptive or narrative features to create a sometimes effective response. (W1)</li> <li>Structure is reasonably clear, with some organisation and some choices made for deliberate effect. (W2)</li> </ul>
2	3–4	<p><b>Adequate response to the task</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A few ideas and/or experiences are expressed in an attempt to convey what is thought, felt and/or imagined. (W1)</li> <li>Structure is occasionally clear, with some attempt at organisation to achieve effects. (W2)</li> </ul>
1	1–2	<p><b>Task is addressed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An attempt to convey what is thought, felt and/or imagined. (W1)</li> <li>Some attempt to structure ideas. (W2)</li> </ul>
0	0	No creditable content.

**Candidates may use some of the following features:**

**Descriptions:**

- Focus:** e.g. change from close at hand, to in the distance, or very detailed to impressionistic
- Atmosphere:** e.g. welcoming, foreboding, pleasing, either uniform or varying
- Direction:** e.g. opposite views from a high viewpoint
- Senses:** sight, touch, hearing, smell (but weaker candidates do it too mechanically)
- Contrast** (especially beyond any contrast given in the question)
- Setting and people within the setting**
- Reactions of observer**
- Minimal or no narrative framework**
- Figurative language techniques** e.g. simile, metaphor, personification
- Sound devices** e.g. onomatopoeia, alliteration, assonance

And how the response is all linked together to make a cohesive picture.

**Narratives:**

- **Scenario established at beginning**
- **Setting:** sufficient descriptive detail (but not too much)
- **Atmosphere:** e.g. foreboding, mysterious, joyful
- **Senses:** sight, touch, hearing, smell
- **Figurative language techniques** e.g. simile, metaphor, personification
- **Characterisation of protagonists** by, for example, reactions to events/others, direct speech, feelings, 'showing' rather than 'telling'
- **Control of time frame:** e.g. flashback, jumping in the sequence
- **Movement of events**
- **Build-up of tension** (if appropriate)
- **Effective climax**, or at least a definite, clearly signalled ending (or intentional cliff-hanger)

And how the response is all linked together to make a convincing story

**Table B, Composition: Style and accuracy**

<b>Level</b>	<b>Marks</b>	<b>Description</b>
5	13–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a wide range of well-constructed sentences accurately, including complex sentences. (W3)</li> <li>• Precise and effective use of a wide range of vocabulary. (W3)</li> <li>• Highly accurate use of complex spelling, punctuation and grammar. (W5)</li> </ul>
4	10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses a range of sentence structures accurately, including some complex ones. (W3)</li> <li>• Effective use of a range of vocabulary. (W3)</li> <li>• Accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar, including some complex language. (W5)</li> </ul>
3	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses most sentence structures accurately, sometimes attempting complex ones with success. (W3)</li> <li>• Uses a straightforward range of appropriate vocabulary. (W3)</li> <li>• Uses a straightforward range of spelling, punctuation and grammar. (W5)</li> </ul>
2	4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uses simple sentence structures accurately which may be repetitive. (W3)</li> <li>• Uses a range of simple vocabulary which may be repetitive. (W3)</li> <li>• Generally accurate use of more simple spelling, punctuation and grammar. (W5)</li> </ul>
1	1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attempts to use simple sentence structures. (W3)</li> <li>• Uses simple vocabulary accurately. (W3)</li> <li>• Some accuracy in simple spelling, punctuation and grammar. (W5)</li> </ul>
0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No creditable content.</li> </ul>