

Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER**8021/21**

Paper 2 Comprehension

May/June 2025**MARK SCHEME**Maximum Mark: 50

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 May/June 2025 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

This document consists of **11** 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.












Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	One mark
	Two marks
	Used to indicate a creditable point in levels-based marking
	The point is incorrect, perhaps factually, or the wrong word or point has been offered
	Used to indicate development
	Used where the response does not answer the question
	'Narration', usually used in levels-based responses; information is included but no point is made
	Used where there is repetition of the same/an earlier point
	'Too vague', used when the response does not make the required point precisely enough
	'Benefit of the doubt', used to indicate marginal decisions where the point is not totally convincing but where credit is given
	The point is either unclear, illogical, or unconvincing in some way
nfp	No further penalty

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	<p>Explain <u>one</u> of the reasons why 300 years ago Anakii Old Town could <u>not</u> continue to be the capital city.</p> <p>Credit one of the following developed points or any other valid point.</p> <p>It occupied a <u>small mountain plateau</u> (1), so it would have been impossible to expand to accommodate a growing population. (1)</p> <p>OR</p> <p>It was located in the <u>far north</u> (1), so it would have been difficult to govern/communicate with/travel to the rest of country. (1)</p> <p>1 × 2</p>	2
1(b)(i)	<p>With reference to the descriptions of the two attractions and the Additional Information, identify the exaggerated claim made by Mayor Ena Voun.</p> <p>Justify your choice.</p> <p>Credit the following two points.</p> <p>Claim: I can guarantee that <u>no visitor</u> will ever <u>get bored</u> (while staying in Anakii Old Town) (1),</p> <p>Justification: as some online <u>reviews</u> / <u>visitors</u> to Anakii Old Town recommend staying only a <u>couple of days</u> (at most as you could easily see everything of real interest in that time). (1)</p> <p>1 + 1</p>	2
1(b)(ii)	<p>With reference to the descriptions of the two attractions and the Additional Information, identify the exaggerated claim made by Ivo Grix.</p> <p>Justify your choice.</p> <p>Credit the following two points.</p> <p>Claim: I have a (proven) <u>track record</u> over the years of building the kind of <u>luxurious resort</u> / a <u>dream holiday destination</u> (1),</p> <p>Justification: as he <u>closed</u> (down) his previous (construction) <u>company</u>, leaving behind him a <u>half-finished building / site</u>. (1)</p> <p>1 + 1</p>	2
1(c)	<p>Identify the personal reason why Linus Frijmann would probably <u>not</u> give Jorjina permission to review Sottix Marina.</p> <p>Credit the following point.</p> <p>He is an <u>experienced yachtsman</u> / probably <u>keen to review</u> Sottix Marina <u>himself</u>. (1)</p>	1

Question	Answer	Marks
1(d)	<p>Identify the reason why the <i>Neeniot Echo</i> reserves the right to refuse to publish a review not up to its standards.</p> <p>Credit one of the following points.</p> <p>It is a <u>prestigious newspaper</u> / <u>national newspaper</u>. (1)</p>	1
1(e)(i)	<p>Explain why Jorjina would need to declare conflicts of interest (i) if Serge were to accompany her to Anakii Old Town.</p> <p>Credit the following point.</p> <p>Serge is a good <u>friend</u> of <u>the Mayor's son</u> / <u>Ena Voun's son</u>. (1)</p>	1
1(e)(ii)	<p>Explain why Jorjina would need to declare conflicts of interest (ii) if Amalie were to accompany her to Sottiex Marina.</p> <p>Credit the following point.</p> <p>(As a student,) Amalie <u>worked for</u> Grix Property Development (in the holidays and earned enough money to pay for her Master's degree). (1)</p>	1
1(f)	<p>Identify the problem for Jorjina of delivering a review of Sottiex Marina by Friday 1 December.</p> <p>Credit one of the following points.</p> <p>The <u>opening date</u> for guests to stay at Sottiex Marina is (Friday) <u>17th November</u> / Jorjina will only have <u>two weeks</u> / <u>limited time</u> to fit in a stay and/or write and submit her review. (1)</p>	1
1(g)	<p>Explain why it could be important for Jorjina's career that she impresses Linus Frijmann.</p> <p>Credit two of the following points or any other valid points.</p> <p>She is currently <u>unemployed</u> / <u>struggling to find a job</u> (since graduating) (1), and <u>he might offer</u> her <u>an interview</u> / <u>a job</u> (1).</p> <p>2 × 1</p>	2

Question	Answer	Marks
1(h)	<p>Apart from impressing Linus Frijmann, explain why Jorjina would <u>most</u> likely prefer to review Sottiex Marina.</p> <p>Do <u>not</u> refer to Anakii Old Town.</p> <p>Answer in continuous prose.</p> <p>In assessing the answer award marks for a coherent appraisal, clearly expressed, of three or more relevant considerations that make use of analytical skills.</p> <p>Credit three of the following developed points or any other valid points.</p> <p>Jorjina shares a passion for scuba diving with her best friend Amalie, so they would be able to indulge in their hobby together by exploring the coral reef/sea/river at Sottiex Marina.</p> <p>They would likely enjoy learning to do other water-based sporting activities/ improving their current skills levels in other water-based sports, and Sottiex Marina offers tuition at all levels for groups in a wide range of water sports.</p> <p>Jorjina has never travelled further <u>south in Neeniot</u> than Chyme City (where she lives) and is eager to rectify this lack of knowledge, so by staying at Sottiex Marina located next to the <u>Southern</u> Neeniot Sea she would be achieving an ambition.</p> <p>Jorjina has become interested in environmental issues, so she would probably want to visit the aquarium undertaking pioneering conservation work with dolphins.</p> <p>Jorjina became a vegetarian three years ago, so she would appreciate Sottiex Marina having a restaurant offering plant-based dishes.</p> <p>In assessing each answer, use the table below.</p>	8

Levels	Mark(s)	Descriptors
4	7–8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Capacity to interpret evidence and sustained ability to present relevant arguments, analysis and exemplification maintaining a strong focus on the main issues in the question. Comprehensive approach demonstrating ability to identify and select relevant information, data, concepts and opinions and maintain a strong focus on the key issues. Shows the ability to communicate clearly and accurately in a fluent and organised manner.
3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate range of arguments, analysis and exemplification covering some of the main issues in the question. Demonstrating some grasp of the nature of key issues but with a restricted range or a loss of focus leading to the inclusion of some irrelevant material. Shows the ability to communicate clearly and accurately in a fluent and organised manner.
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited analysis shown in a response consisting of mainly undeveloped material. A modest range of selected points, perhaps some of which are irrelevant or incorrect. Ability to convey meaning but with limited powers of expression with some errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar which impede the flow and hinder communication.
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some simple, mainly unexplained or undeveloped points or perhaps a very narrow range – with little interpretation or analysis and little development or exemplification. Limited range, dubious choice showing restricted appreciation of key issues. Ability to convey meaning but with limited powers of expression with some errors in spelling, punctuation or grammar which impede the flow and hinder communication.
0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A mark of zero should be awarded for no creditable content.

Question	Answer	Marks
1(i)	<p>Explain <u>two</u> factors which might make Jorjina choose to review Anakii Old Town.</p> <p>Do <u>not</u> refer to Sottiex Marina.</p> <p>Credit two of the following developed points or any other valid points.</p> <p>As Serge has been paying her rent (1), Jorjina might <u>want</u> to pay him back for his kindness by asking him to accompany her to Anakii Old Town (1), especially as she would know, as his sister, that he would want to visit Anakii Old Town (1) as he is so fascinated by Neeniot's history and culture (that he studied both at university) (1).</p> <p>She would not be a prize-winner if Serge had not entered her into the competition (1), so she might <u>feel obliged to</u> review an attraction that he himself would like to visit (1).</p> <p>She has never had the opportunity to climb a real mountain (only a climbing wall at her local sports centre), (1) but from Anakii Old Town there are mountain trails/climbing routes to explore. (1)</p> <p>2 × 2</p>	4

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	<p>Identify the memory that drives Francisco Elle deep into the dense rainforests day after day.</p> <p>Credit the following point.</p> <p>(He is haunted by) the <u>faces of children</u> he <u>could not save</u>. (1)</p>	1
2(b)(i)	<p>Identify the <u>exact</u> word or phrase <u>in the material</u> that means the following:</p> <p>move in at speed (lines 15–19)</p> <p>Credit the following point.</p> <p>barrel <u>in</u> (1)</p>	1
2(b)(ii)	<p>Identify the <u>exact</u> word or phrase in the material that means the following:</p> <p>a person arranging business deals between other people (lines 30–37)</p> <p>Credit the following point.</p> <p>(a) middleman (1)</p>	1

Question	Answer	Marks
2(b)(iii)	<p>Identify the <u>exact</u> word or phrase in the material that means the following:</p> <p>sticky (lines 44–52)</p> <p>Credit the following point.</p> <p>claggy (1)</p>	1
2(b)(iv)	<p>Identify the <u>exact</u> word or phrase in the material that means the following:</p> <p>not worried (lines 48–58).</p> <p>Credit the following point.</p> <p>unfazed (1)</p>	1
2(c)	<p>State <u>three</u> pieces of evidence that show it is difficult to walk through the rainforest (lines 3–7).</p> <p>Answer in <u>about 30 words</u> in continuous prose.</p> <p>Credit any three of the following points.</p> <p>Francisco has to <u>dip under a thick ceiling of leaves</u>. (1) He must avoid <u>tripping over exposed (tree) roots</u>. (1) The <u>trail</u> they are following is (only) <u>faint</u>. (1) (The journalist/ Laura Bicker says) <u>following Francisco is tough going</u>. (1) <u>Clouds roll down the hillside</u> brushing the <u>branches with rain</u>. (1)</p> <p>Any relevant content well over 30 words will not be credited. Examiners should draw a vertical red line at that point.</p> <p>1 + 1 + 1</p>	3
2(d)	<p>According to Francisco, identify what ‘nature’s revenge’ was.</p> <p>Credit the following point.</p> <p><u>More than 1000 people were killed</u> (when his village, along with several others, was washed away) by a <u>landslide</u> (in 2004). (1)</p>	1
2(e)	<p>State the <u>three</u> reasons given as to why landslides and flash floods are occurring more regularly.</p> <p>Credit any three of the following points.</p> <p><u>90% of the original rainforest is now gone</u>. (1) <u>Illegal logging, mining and quarrying</u> (have taken their toll). (1) There are <u>no tree roots for stability</u>. (1) There are <u>no vast forest canopies to absorb the heavy rains</u>. (1) The <u>frequency and severity</u> of the <u>storms</u> is <u>increasing</u>. (1)</p>	3

Question	Answer	Marks
2(f)	<p>Explain how Marc justifies his illegal logging activities.</p> <p>Credit any three of the following points.</p> <p>He says that <u>God gave</u> all of this to them so that they could <u>use</u> it. (1) It is the <u>only source of income</u> for some of the poorest Filipinos / Marc has <u>no other source of livelihood</u>. (1) They <u>do not</u> actually <u>want to do this</u> / have no choice. (1) He / They can <u>only</u> get money for <u>basic necessities</u> from <u>farming</u>. (1)</p> <p>3 × 1</p>	3
2(g)	<p>Explain how Francisco now regards trees (lines 42–43).</p> <p>Answer <u>using your own words</u> as far as possible.</p> <p>Credit any two of the following points.</p> <p>Cutting off (1) (even) a (single) branch (1) is amongst the <u>worst</u> crimes (a person can commit) (1) in terms of the environment. (1)</p>	2
2(h)	<p>According to the material, suggest why Francisco is a brave individual.</p> <p>Credit any four of the following points.</p> <p><u>He is</u> now a <u>forest ranger</u>. (1) (A Global Witness report identified) <u>the Philippines</u> as <u>one of the most dangerous places</u> to be an <u>environmental activist</u>. (1) He once called out to someone to <u>tell them to stop cutting down trees</u>, (1) (telling them he was not there to pick a fight) but to <u>explain what would happen</u> to everyone <u>if they continued</u>. (1) Such encounters do <u>not always end peacefully</u>; (1) for example, <u>two rangers</u> were <u>attacked and wounded</u> (in 2021). (1)</p> <p>4 × 1</p>	4
2(i)(i)	<p>State the <u>exact</u> meaning of the following <u>four</u> words or phrases <u>as they are used in the material</u>:</p> <p>(have) taken their toll (lines 20–21)</p> <p>(have) caused damage/damaged, harmed, caused destruction/ detriment, had a bad effect, affected negatively, negatively impacted (1)</p>	1
2(i)(ii)	<p>State the <u>exact</u> meaning of the following <u>four</u> words or phrases <u>as they are used in the material</u>:</p> <p>(to) defy (line 28)</p> <p>(to) go against, disobey, disregard, ignore, challenge, flout, fly in the face of, oppose, work / fight against, not follow the law/rule of (1)</p>	1

Question	Answer	Marks
2(i)(iii)	<p>State the <u>exact</u> meaning of the following <u>four</u> words or phrases as they are used in the material:</p> <p>vows (line 48)</p> <p>pledges, promises, commits (to), swears, affirms, undertakes (1)</p>	1
2(i)(iv)	<p>State the <u>exact</u> meaning of the following <u>four</u> words or phrases as they are used in the material:</p> <p>(to) ensure (line 48)</p> <p>(to) make certain, guarantee, check, assure, make sure (of), confirm (1)</p>	1