

Marking notes
Remarques pour la notation
Notas para la corrección

May / Mai / Mayo 2015

English / Anglais / Inglés
A: literature / littérature / literatura

Higher level
Niveau supérieur
Nivel superior

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1

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These notes to examiners are intended only as guidelines to assist marking and as a supplement to the published external assessment criteria for written paper 1. They are not offered as an exhaustive and fixed set of responses or approaches to which all answers must rigidly adhere. Good ideas or angles not offered here should be acknowledged and rewarded as appropriate. Similarly, answers which do not include all the ideas or approaches suggested here may still be very good answers.

Of course, some of the points listed below will appear in weaker papers, but are unlikely to be developed.

1.

An adequate to good literary commentary will:

- demonstrate some understanding of the situation of young working women living in London
- consider the variety of ways the urban setting is presented
- recognize the shift of perspective from broad generalization to focus on the specific characterizations of Caro
- demonstrate some awareness of structure, such as the effect of listing and repetition
- discuss the possible significance of the man on the curb.

A very good to excellent literary commentary may also:

- display a richer appreciation of the presentation of London and its inhabitants
- offer a deeper and more persuasive account of how urban contexts are handled
- develop a more sophisticated sense of what possibly distinguishes Caro from the other “girls” and how this is presented
- offer a more developed reading of the moment of connection between Caro and the man on the curb
- explore in more depth shifts in focus and/or shifts in style.

2.

An adequate to good literary commentary will:

- show an understanding of the central situation of the poem (a scholar meditating on a highly charged inscription)
- comment on some of the formal properties of this poem such as structure, rhyme, figurative language
- comment on the varied emotions in the poem
- comment on the thoughts of the final stanza.

A very good to excellent literary commentary may also:

- show a better understanding of the situation and its relation to the power of the written word or the power of writing over time
 - offer a more developed interpretation of the workings of the poem, such as the way the tightly built structure holds in powerful emotions or the contrasts created by word choice
 - offer a fuller account of how a runic inscription almost a thousand years old speaks to, and is reshaped by, the scholar
 - offer a more persuasive interpretation of the ending of the poem with a willingness to grapple with the identity of the “he” mentioned.
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