

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 2

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Examiners: please note that the term “comparison”, both in the descriptors and in the marking notes, includes the discussion of relevant “contrasts” as well.

The features of the “very good to excellent” answers assume that those for “adequate to good” are included.

Drama

1. An adequate to good answer will discuss appropriate examples of these characters, showing how they are “stock or stereotypical” or broadly representational, either explicitly or implicitly, and the means by which these qualities are made evident to the audience. Answers will compare their dramatic impact on the respective works.

A very good to excellent answer may also discuss the impact of these characters in greater detail, with more persuasive selection and analysis of supporting references. It will reveal a greater awareness and evaluation of how even a brief appearance of a stock character may create a significant development in the drama.

2. An adequate to good answer will manage to identify moments of harmony and will suggest why the term is appropriate. It will achieve focus on the dramatic means by which such moments have been arrived at within the flow of action, and will attempt some effective comparison between the separate plays chosen.

A very good to excellent answer may offer a more detailed and sophisticated analysis of what constitutes a moment of harmony within drama. It may have a more nuanced account of how such moments emerge from less harmonious preceding action. Comparison from the plays selected should evaluate differences between kinds of harmony exemplified.

3. An adequate to good answer will provide examples of moments of interesting character dynamics and suggest how they have been created (by means of dialogue, stage action, use of props or setting *etc*) using a comparative approach.

A very good to excellent answer may also provide more specific and detailed examples of moments of interesting dynamics in relationships and their creation. It will more effectively and persuasively compare the means used by playwrights in their creation, as well as offering an evaluation of their significance/impact.

Poetry

4. An adequate to good answer will establish the nature of the allusions, given the context of the poetry studied, and will show how these allusions work to communicate meaning and create effect. The approach will be comparative.
A very good to excellent answer may also discuss in greater detail, and with more confidence, an interesting range of allusions, perhaps showing a more subtle interpretation of effects created as well as the potential obscurity of allusions from different contexts and cultures. There will be an evaluation of the effectiveness of the uses of allusion.
5. An adequate to good answer will write with clarity about structural aspects of the poems chosen as examples and compare some of the ways in which the impact of form upon content functions.
A very good to excellent answer may discuss form and structure in more sophisticated ways, and evaluate how they can be used either to emphasize or to undermine content. Candidates who tackle the undermining of content by formal means may be rare, and a range of responses to this side of the question can be expected.
6. An adequate to good answer will identify and discuss examples of poems that have created a connection with the candidate and will give examples of literary conventions that have helped to achieve and sustain this connection. There will be some comparison of these means and their effects.
7. A very good to excellent answer may also offer a more convincing case for the establishment of a connection and should include more detailed analysis of relevant conventions. It will thoughtfully compare the examples, evaluating their effectiveness in creating and sustaining a personal connection.

Prose: novel and short story

7. An adequate to good answer will offer a clear definition of the positioning of the chosen narrators and compare the means by which it is made clear. The impact of narrative position on the works will be discussed, using a selection of relevant supporting examples. Shifting positioning may be considered.

A very good to excellent answer may also show a greater understanding of how this positioning is not always immediately apparent. Discussion of the chosen examples will be in greater depth and appreciation of the convention more secure. There will be some evaluation of the effectiveness and impact of the narrators' positioning on the respective works.

8. An adequate to good answer will identify moments that can validly be called epiphanies, revelations, turning points or moments of insight and show why. In comparing such moments by means of well chosen examples, it will focus on conventions in relation to impact in some interesting ways.

A very good to excellent answer may offer more convincing accounts of why individual textual moments can be identified as epiphanies. It will furnish more subtle analyses of stylistic features in the works, by means of which moments of epiphany grasp our attention, and thereby provide a fuller evaluation of their impact.

9. An adequate to good answer will identify works that may be considered beautiful on a wide scale ranging from not beautiful at all to, perhaps, sublime. The answer will have to offer—either explicitly or implicitly—a workable definition of beauty and compare examples of the literary conventions that have been used to create beautiful works or moments within them.

A very good to excellent answer may also provide a more nuanced sense of what makes a work beautiful or not, and the means by which beauty is created. It will more effectively compare the works and offer an evaluation of their “beauty”.

Prose other than fiction

10. An adequate to good answer will establish clearly relevant examples of warnings, reprimands or exhortations from the chosen works. Using a comparative approach, consideration of context may be a feature of the discussion, but it should centre on well-chosen examples and the means by which they are presented.

A very good to excellent answer may make more effective choices of example. Supporting details will be analysed in greater depth and with a more secure appreciation of how the warnings, *etc*, are constructed and presented to the reader. Comparison will be more detailed and there will be some evaluation of the effectiveness of the chosen warnings, *etc*, perhaps giving greater consideration to matters of context.

11. An adequate to good answer will show a grasp of what constitutes reasoned discourse and argument, as well as how it functions. It should identify some of the uses of such writing by comparing well-chosen examples.

A very good to excellent answer may offer a more nuanced account of expository prose. The importance of an ability to deploy this mode of writing—reasoned argument—in the wider world may be evaluated through discussion of the examples chosen.

12. An adequate to good answer will provide examples of how introspection and/or curiosity are communicated in the works (examples could include moments of reflection, diary entries, moments of observation of the world, transcribed dialogue, *etc*) and will compare the purpose or effect of this feature in the works.

A very good to excellent answer may also provide more convincing examples of how curiosity and/or introspection is communicated in a work, as well as a more convincing discussion of their purposes. The answer will persuasively develop a comparison and evaluation.
