



Cambridge International AS Level

ENGLISH GENERAL PAPER

8021/21

Paper 2 Comprehension

October/November 2023

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 October/November 2023 series for most Cambridge IGCSE, Cambridge International A and AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

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.

Information about annotations

For creditworthy content, point-based marking makes use of tick1 and tick2 annotations, the first showing a single mark is to be awarded and the second, where appropriate, that a developed point has been made, worthy of two marks.

In levels-based marking, plain ticks and **DEV** will be the main annotations for valid content points.

Where required **Bal** shows where a (dis)advantage has been noted.

BOD (benefit of doubt) can be useful to show marginal decisions where the point is not totally convincing but where credit is given.

There are various reasons why content considered might not gain credit and the following annotations help us to distinguish these somewhat:

? the point is either unclear, illogical or unconvincing in some other way.



the point is incorrect, perhaps factually, or the wrong word or point has been offered.

NAQ "not answering the question"; perhaps the material relates to a later question, or simply comes from the wrong part of the material

NAR "narration", usually used in levels-based, longer responses; information is included but no real point is made, for example, it might not be clear whether the intended point is an advantage or a disadvantage

REP repetition of the same/an earlier point

TV "too vague" the response is not making the required point clearly or precisely enough

Sometimes the candidate has not followed the instructions fully and this needs to be shown by red highlighting over those words, phrases or sections which have not made sufficient use of own words to convey a point. Also used for highlighting lifted material on own words questions to block out words copied too closely from the text to make marking clearer. Finally, the red highlighter is used for indicating the position of the word count on those questions.

Question	Answer	Marks
1(a)	Considering the advantages and <u>one</u> disadvantage, explain why Leroy might choose to commission The Greatest All-Rounder 2023. Do <u>not</u> refer to The Secret. Answer in continuous prose. Credit four of the following points or any other valid points offered. It offers more shows (10), so it will give Leroy more time to commission its replacement after the shows have aired/it represents the best value for money for Leroy. Jaime gave Leroy a budget of \$5 million, so he could easily afford the \$3 million required to purchase the quiz show. Leroy would have \$2 million left over after purchasing the show, which he could use to commission other programmes/improve existing programmes, all of which could enhance Leroy's image with Jaime as he is brand new to the job and would want to make his mark. It will be on screen in a shorter amount of time, which will please Jaime as he wanted Leroy to commission a programme as soon as possible. The viewer becomes emotionally invested very quickly as the 20 contestants' backgrounds are revealed in the first show. In addition, the viewer has a say in the programme as their vote is taken into account when contestants are eliminated, so it might make QYZ feel more relevant to them. 54% of people stated that they did not watch QYZ because the programmes are predictable. They might like the jeopardy provided by The Greatest All-Rounder. The amount of prize money is life-changing, so it would be likely to bring the programme lots of publicity. QYZ might seem more credible as a channel going places if they work in collaboration with an international production company. Plus, there might be a better chance of selling the programme rights to other territories, raising QYZ's profile as the channel will be mentioned in the credits.	10

Question	Answer	Marks									
1(a)	<u>Overall</u>, according to the people responding to the survey, a quiz show would be the least likely type of programme to turn round the failing station. The proposed dramatic opening sequences of 50 people swimming to the island might be too risky as there is a dangerous sea current there. Anka does not seem to have had any previous television presenting experience, so an untried presenter would be fronting the programme. Anka might still be suffering from unspecified health issues, so she might not be well enough to present 10 shows. Sylvie did not turn up for the meeting/did not let Leroy know she was sending her deputy, which Leroy could take as a snub/Leroy could take as an indication that they might not be so bothered about being commissioned by QYZ. Creatif Zephyr is a foreign company, so Leroy might feel guilty commissioning their programme as he is a proud supporter of all things Xipot/so he and QYZ might have less control over the finished product. In assessing the answer award marks for a coherent appraisal, clearly expressed and with balance, of four or more relevant considerations that make use of analytical skills. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Levels</th><th>Mark(s)</th><th>Descriptors</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4</td><td>9–10</td><td> - 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. </td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>6–8</td><td> - 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. </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Levels	Mark(s)	Descriptors	4	9–10	- 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	6–8	- 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.	
Levels	Mark(s)	Descriptors									
4	9–10	- 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	6–8	- 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.									

Question	Answer			Marks
1(a)	Levels	Mark(s)	Descriptors	
	2	3–5	- 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	- 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	A mark of zero should be awarded for no creditable content.	
1(b)(i)	If Leroy were to choose The Secret, explain how he could afford to commission it. Credit any two of the following points. <u>Nuovo Vision Productions</u> is a <u>local company</u>/Leroy could apply for a <u>government grant</u> (1) of <u>up to</u> \$2 000 000 to add to Jaime's <u>\$5 000 000</u>/of \$1 million (1)			2

Question	Answer	Marks
1(b)(ii)	If Leroy were to choose The Secret, explain <u>three</u> disadvantages, apart from the number of shows and when it would be ready for screening. Do <u>not</u> refer to The Greatest All-Rounder 2023. Credit any of the following points or any other valid points offered. This is Xandro's first time in a leading role after years in supporting roles (1), yet his previous directors did not think him up to such a challenge/talented enough to cast him as the lead. (1) Emilia might be an established theatre actress (1), but that is not the same as acting in front of a TV camera/there is no mention of her having any TV experience. (1) Emilia has been offered a part on Broadway (1), which would be more prestigious than working for QYZ/so she is not fully on board as Felix claimed. (1) The television award that the screenwriter won recently was for a <u>children's daytime</u> programme (1) and this is for a prime-time evening slot/is an adult drama, (1) so the quality might not be 'guaranteed'. (1) MAX 2	6
1(b)(iii)	If Leroy were to choose The Secret, in your opinion, explain why his friendship with Felix might be a problem in business terms. Credit two of the following points or any other valid point. If Creatif Zephyr found out that they were old friends (1), they could accuse Leroy of picking The Secret only because he is friends with Felix. (1) Creatif Zephyr might consider contesting the decision (1) as it was not a level playing field/unfair competition/poor business practices. (1) Leroy might be biased in favour of Felix because they are old friends (1), which could mean that he did not grill Felix on in the same way as Albie during the pitches. (1)	2
1(c)	State the <u>one</u> point in the Additional Information which would have been the <u>least</u> relevant when Leroy Aduja was choosing which programme to commission. Point 7/The previous owner of QYZ was called M Pietsien. (1)	1

Question	Answer	Marks
1(d)	With reference to the Additional Information, explain why the results of this survey might not be as informative as QYZ would have hoped. Credit any two of the following points or any other valid points. It was only delivered to people taking the local newspaper/in a certain area (1), so it was not sent to a representative cross section of Xipot. (1) People might have been put off completing the survey (1), because they had to make the effort to post it back to QYZ/they might not have wanted to pay the postage/Xipot's postal service might be unreliable, (1)	2
1(e)	In your opinion, explain why advertisers are so keen to target young adults. Credit any two of the following points or any other valid points If a company can get a young adult attached to their product (1), they could be a potential customer for the rest of their lives. (1) Young adults do not tend to have so many responsibilities/drains on their income (1), so they have more disposable income to spend as they like. (1) There are a lot of social media influencers in this age group (1) who can make a product /brand go viral worldwide (1) and 'pester power' is hard for parents to ignore. (1) MAX 2	2

Question	Answer	Marks
2(a)	Identify <u>two</u> of the reasons why Annemiek Leclair normally never reads a novel unless she is on vacation. Credit any two of the following points. (She thinks) a novel is something less serious. (1) (Reading fiction,) she feels guilty. (1) (She sees fiction as) something you can allow yourself when all the other <u>Important/more important</u> things have been <u>done</u>. (1)	2
2(b)(i)	According to Gerrit Breeuwsma, state <u>two</u> different benefits of fantasising for us. (Novels and movies) bring us into contact with what we <u>cannot/dare not do</u> ourselves/things not in our reach. (1) This way we can participate in something from a <u>safe</u> distance/like a <u>testing ground</u>. (1) (When dreaming/daydreaming,) your <u>consciousness recedes</u> and <u>space in your mind</u> for <u>forming connections</u> you would <u>never have discovered</u> in a <u>rational state/new arrangements</u> are <u>created</u> in your head. (1)	2
2(b)(ii)	According to Gerrit Breeuwsma, state the disadvantage of <u>not</u> taking fantasy seriously. (because) the ability to imagine things is the <u>key</u> to <u>human progress</u>. (1)	1
2(b)(iii)	According to Gerrit Breeuwsma, state the benefit of daydreaming for society. (It lies at the basis of) <u>many</u> scientific inventions. (1)	1
2(c)	According to Roman Krznaric, explain what we learn when we escape from everyday reality and use our imagination. Credit any five of the following points. We develop <u>a way to experience empathy</u>. (1) We can <u>sympathise with people we don't know</u> and <u>put ourselves in their position</u>. (1) We can imagine their <u>perspectives, wishes, hopes and beliefs</u>. (1) Exercising the <u>power of imagination</u> makes us <u>better</u> people (1) as we can <u>allow other people's interests to feature in our actions</u>. (1)	5

Question	Answer	Marks
2(d)	According to Anthony Storr, explain why our imagination is more important than we realise (lines 20 to 34). Answer <u>in about 50 words</u>. Credit any five of the following points. Our <u>success</u> (as a species) <u>depends</u> on it. (1) We would <u>not</u> have <u>religion, music, literature or painting</u>. (1) <u>Humankind</u> would <u>not</u> have taken each next step in <u>evolution</u>. (1) Our <u>fantasies</u> arise from the <u>discrepancy between inside and outside</u>. (1) <u>Discontent and desire</u> fuel our <u>creative</u> imagination. (1) We imagine things we <u>want</u>: <u>children</u>, a <u>home</u>, travel <u>money</u>. (1) Things we <u>miss</u> appear to us as <u>visions</u>. (1) thus becoming (a kind of) <u>reality</u>. (1) Any relevant content above 50 words should not be considered as part of the answer.	5
2(e)	According to Koert van Mensvoort, identify the reason why our imagination is important for the creation of a better future. (It's the) <u>birthplace</u> of all new <u>technology</u>. (1)	1
2(f)(i)	According to Srini Pillay, explain how you can exercise your imagination (lines 44 to 46). Answer <u>using your own words</u> as far as possible. Credit any three of the following points. You <u>must begin</u> by (1) <u>ridding yourself</u> of the <u>attitude</u> (1) (that) things ought to <u>provide functionality</u>. (1) (In addition), it is of <u>no consequence</u> (1) that it might be <u>unrealistic</u>. (1) Following <u>rules leads</u> to (1) inflexibility (1) <u>rather</u> than <u>inventiveness</u>. (1)	3

Question	Answer	Marks
2(f)(ii)	According to Srini Pillay, explain what happens if you do let go (lines 46 to 49) Answer <u>using your own words</u> as far as possible. Credit any two of the following points. You <u>allow</u> your <u>mind</u> (the chance)/Your <u>mind</u> has the <u>chance</u> (1) to make <u>fresh links</u> (1) across <u>disparate concepts</u>. (1) (However), in order for <u>thoughts to come to you</u>, (1) it is <u>beneficial</u> to use your <u>imagination/beneficial</u> to <u>not</u> think <u>rationally</u>. (1)	2
2(g)(i)	Identify the <u>exact</u> word or phrase in the material that means the following (lines 50 to 68): let them do as they wish without supervision. leave (children) to their own devices (1)	1
2(g)(ii)	Identify the <u>exact</u> word or phrase in the material that means the following (lines 50 to 68): scribble. jot (them down) (1)	1
2(g)(iii)	Identify the <u>exact</u> word or phrase in the material that means the following (lines 50 to 68): dip into. dabble (in) (1)	1