

Cambridge International AS Level

LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE IN ENGLISH**8695/23**

Paper 2 Drama, Poetry and Prose

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 **14** 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).

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
	Knowledge
	Understanding
	Personal response
	Communication
	Analysis
	Question
	Context
	Narrative
	Question mark
	Blank Page
	Seen
	Tick

Literature in English specific marking instructions**Using the mark levels**

Use the generic mark scheme levels to find the mark. Place the answer in a level first. Look for the 'best fit' of the answer into a level. An answer needs to show evidence of most but not necessarily ALL of the qualities described in a level, in order to be placed in that level. Then award a mark for the relative position of the answer within the level.

Candidates may address the question in many different ways. There is no one required answer or approach and do not penalise answers for leaving out a particular focus. Reward what is there, showing what you are rewarding in your comments.

Consider all strands and weigh up the performance as a whole in placing the answer in a level, then show that you have done so in the summative comment.

Each answer is marked out of 25, in accordance with the general marking criteria.

Assessment objectives

All assessment objectives are equally weighted, and all are considered in assessing each essay.

Each level in the marking criteria is divided into strands corresponding to the assessment objectives – AO1: Knowledge and understanding (K/U), AO2: Analysis (AN), AO3: Personal response (P), AO4: Communication (C).

AO1 Knowledge and understanding

Respond with understanding to literary texts in a variety of forms, from different cultures; with an appreciation of relevant contexts that illuminate readings of the texts.

AO2 Analysis

Analyse ways in which writers' choices of language, form and structure shape meanings and effects.

AO3 Personal response

Produce informed independent opinions and interpretations of literary texts.

AO4 Communication

Communicate a relevant, structured and supported response appropriate to literary study.

Level	Level descriptor	Mark
6	Perceptive and assured	22–25
AO1 (K/U)	- Evidence of a detailed, assured knowledge and perceptive understanding; ability to select and use relevant knowledge to address the question with a developed use of references to the text and supporting quotations. - Evidence of a perceptive appreciation of context(s) relevant to the question.	
AO2 (AN)	- Evidence of a perceptive analysis of ways in which writers' choices shape meaning and create effects. - Evidence of an assured appreciation of literary methods such as language, form and structure and literary genres and conventions.	
AO3 (P)	- Evidence of personal response to texts will be perceptive and interpretations will be well informed and fully supported with assured use of quotations. - Evidence of a perceptive independence of response which may show originality in the approach to and treatment of questions.	
AO4 (C)	- Answers will express complex literary ideas and arguments with clarity, fluency and perception. - Answers will be relevant and assured with an accomplished structure shown through logical progression and effectively linked paragraphs.	
5	Confident and thorough	18–21
AO1 (K/U)	- Evidence of a thorough knowledge and confident understanding; ability to select and use relevant knowledge to address the question with a secure use of references to the text and supporting quotations. - Evidence of a confident appreciation of context(s) relevant to the question.	
AO2 (AN)	- Evidence of a thorough analysis of ways in which writers' choices shape meaning and create effects. - Evidence of a confident appreciation of literary methods such as language, form and structure and literary genres and conventions.	
AO3 (P)	- Evidence of personal response to texts will be confident and interpretations will be informed and supported with secure use of quotations. - Evidence of independence of response which may show originality in the approach to and treatment of questions.	
AO4 (C)	- Answers will express some complex literary ideas and arguments with clarity, fluency and confidence. - Answers will be relevant and thorough with an appropriate structure which shows a progression of ideas through linked paragraphs.	

Level	Level descriptor	Mark
4	Sound and competent	14–17
AO1 (K/U)	- Evidence of a sound knowledge and a clear understanding; ability to select and use relevant knowledge to address the question with a competent use of references to the text and supporting quotations. - Evidence of a sound appreciation of context(s) relevant to the question.	
AO2 (AN)	- Evidence of a competent analysis of ways in which writers' choices shape meaning and create effects. - Evidence of a sound appreciation of literary methods such as language, form and structure and literary genres and conventions.	
AO3 (P)	- Evidence of personal response to texts will be sound and interpretations may be informed and supported with competent use of quotations. - Evidence of some independence of response and insight in the approach to and treatment of questions.	
AO4 (C)	- Answers will express literary ideas and arguments with some clarity, fluency and competence. - Answers will be relevant and sound with a structure which shows a progression of ideas through paragraphs which may not always be clearly linked.	
3	Straightforward and partial	10–13
AO1 (K/U)	- Evidence of straightforward knowledge and a partial understanding; some ability to select and use relevant knowledge to address the question with some use of references to the text and supporting quotations. - Evidence of some awareness of context(s) relevant to the question.	
AO2 (AN)	- Evidence of a straightforward analysis of ways in which writers' choices shape meaning and create effects. - Evidence of a partial appreciation of literary methods such as language, form and structure and literary genres and conventions.	
AO3 (P)	- Evidence of a straightforward personal response to texts; interpretations may be partial and sometimes supported with quotations. - Some evidence of the beginnings of an independent response and approach to and treatment of questions.	
AO4 (C)	- Answers will express straightforward literary ideas and arguments with occasional reliance on narrative summary or paraphrase; some loss of clarity and fluency. - Answers will be straightforward and mostly relevant with a structure which shows some progression of simple ideas through paragraphs which may not always be linked.	

Level	Level descriptor	Mark
2	Basic and limited	6–9
AO1 (K/U)	- Evidence of basic knowledge and a limited understanding; basic ability to select and use relevant knowledge to address the question with limited use of references to the text and supporting quotations. - Evidence of a limited awareness of context(s) relevant to the question.	
AO2 (AN)	- Evidence of a basic analysis of ways in which writers' choices shape meaning and create effects. - Evidence of a limited appreciation of literary methods such as language, form and structure and literary genres and conventions.	
AO3 (P)	- Evidence of a limited personal response to texts; interpretations may be basic and rarely supported with quotations. - Limited evidence of any independent response and the approach to and treatment of questions will be basic.	
AO4 (C)	- Answers will express basic ideas and arguments with some reliance on narrative summary or paraphrase; there may be some loss of clarity and fluency. - Answers will be basic, mostly relevant with some repetition and a limited structure; paragraphs may not always be clearly linked.	
1	Generalised and restricted	1–5
AO1 (K/U)	- Evidence of a restricted, generalised knowledge of the text which may be narrative-based. - Evidence of a restricted ability to select and use relevant knowledge to address the question with little or no reference to the text. - Little or no awareness of context(s) relevant to the question.	
AO2 (AN)	- Little or no evidence of analysis of ways in which writers' choices shape meaning and create effects. - Little or no appreciation of literary methods such as language, form and structure and literary genres and conventions.	
AO3 (P)	- Evidence of a restricted personal response to texts; interpretations may be generalised and rarely supported with quotations. - Little or no evidence of any independent response and the approach to and treatment of questions will be insecure.	
AO4 (C)	- Answers will express ideas generally with some attempt at narrative summary or paraphrase; clarity and fluency will be restricted. - Answers will be generalised with little to no relevance or structure; asserting simple points rather than building lines of argument.	
0		
	Work shows no relevant ideas or evidence in response to the question.	0

Candidates answer **two** questions; each from a different section.

Section A: Drama

ERROL JOHN: *Moon on a Rainbow Shawl*

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
1(a)	Discuss some of the effects created by John's exploration of family relationships in <i>Moon on a Rainbow Shawl</i>. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
1(b)	Discuss the significance of the following extract from <i>Moon on a Rainbow Shawl</i>. In your answer, you should pay close attention to John's dramatic methods. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: *Measure for Measure*

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
2(a)	What, in your view, does Shakespeare's presentation of the relationship between the Duke and Isabella add to the play's meaning and effects? Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
2(b)	Paying close attention to Shakespeare's dramatic methods, discuss the presentation of Claudio in the following extract. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

JOHN WEBSTER: *The Duchess of Malfi*

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
3(a)	Cariola says of the Duchess: ‘Whether the spirit of greatness or of woman Reign most in her, I know not’. Discuss Webster’s presentation of the Duchess in the light of Cariola’s comment. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
3(b)	Discuss the significance of the following extract from <i>The Duchess of Malfi</i>. In your answer, you should pay close attention to Webster’s dramatic methods. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

TENNESSEE WILLIAMS: *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
4(a)	Discuss Williams’s presentation of different attitudes to children in <i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i>. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
4(b)	Comment closely on Williams’s exploration of Maggie’s relationship with Brick in the following extract. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

Section B: PoetryMAYA ANGELOU: *And Still I Rise*

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
5(a)	In what ways and with what effects does Angelou explore powerful emotions? In your answer, you should refer to <u>two</u> poems from the selection. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
5(b)	Analyse Angelou's presentation of Willie in the following poem. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

SIMON ARMITAGE: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
6(a)	Discuss the uses and effects of Armitage's presentation of religious faith in <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i>. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
6(b)	Analyse ways in which Armitage presents the relationship between Sir Gawain and the lady in the following extract. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

WILLIAM BLAKE: Selected Poems from *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
7(a)	In what ways and with what effects does Blake present poverty? In your answer, you should refer to <u>two</u> poems from the selection. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
7(b)	Comment closely on the following poem, analysing ways in which Blake presents the divine image. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

Songs of Ourselves, Volume 2

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
8(a)	Discuss some of the ways in which <u>two</u> poems from the selection use symbols. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
8(b)	Comment closely on the following poem, analysing ways in which Elizabeth Tollet presents the speaker. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

Section C: ProseKIRAN DESAI: *The Inheritance of Loss*

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
9(a)	Discuss Desai's presentation of poverty and its significance in the novel. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
9(b)	Comment closely on Desai's presentation of Jemubhai's exam success in the following passage. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

Stories of Ourselves, Volume 1

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
10(a)	Discuss the presentation and significance of settings in <u>two</u> stories. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
10(b)	Comment closely on the following passage from <i>Of White Hairs and Cricket</i>, considering ways in which Rohinton Mistry presents the friendship between the narrator and Viraf. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

EVELYN WAUGH: *A Handful of Dust*

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
11(a)	Discuss ways in which Waugh presents ideas about love in the novel. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
11(b)	Comment closely on the following passage, considering Waugh's presentation of John Beaver and his mother. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25

COLSON WHITEHEAD: *The Underground Railroad*

Question	Answer	Marks
EITHER		
12(a)	Discuss some of the ways in which Whitehead presents the attitudes of white people towards black people in <i>The Underground Railroad</i>. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25
OR		
12(b)	Comment closely on the following passage, considering ways in which Whitehead presents the women's treatment of Cora. Mark according to the levels of response marking criteria.	25