



Cambridge IGCSE™

MANDARIN CHINESE

0547/42

Paper 4 Writing

May/June 2020

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 45

Published

Students did not sit exam papers in the June 2020 series due to the Covid-19 global pandemic.

This mark scheme is published to support teachers and students and should be read together with the question paper. It shows the requirements of the exam. The answer column of the mark scheme shows the proposed basis on which Examiners would award marks for this exam. Where appropriate, this column also provides the most likely acceptable alternative responses expected from students. Examiners usually review the mark scheme after they have seen student responses and update the mark scheme if appropriate. In the June series, Examiners were unable to consider the acceptability of alternative responses, as there were no student responses to consider.

Mark schemes should usually be read together with the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers. However, because students did not sit exam papers, there is no Principal Examiner Report for Teachers for the June 2020 series.

Cambridge International will not enter into discussions about these mark schemes.

Cambridge International is publishing the mark schemes for the June 2020 series for most Cambridge IGCSE™ and Cambridge International A & AS Level components, and some Cambridge O Level components.

This document consists of **19** 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 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.

Both traditional and simplified characters are accepted and should be marked in the same way.

Question	Answer	Marks
<p>Question 1</p>	<p>Candidates are required to list 5 items in Chinese. Read all of the items that the candidate has listed and award marks as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select the most correct items up to a maximum of 5. • Award 1 mark for each correct item up to a maximum of 5. • Stop ticking once 5 items have been rewarded. • On Question 1, award marks for items wherever the candidate has written them. • If the candidate offers more than one word per line, award a mark for each acceptable item. <p>Generic mark scheme for Question 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Mark for communication. Tolerate inaccuracies, provided the message is clear.</u> • Do not award marks to words written in pinyin and English. • If you suspect a word is used in another region e.g., please check with the team leader or award BOD • Miswritten characters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Look-alike test: award the mark when the character the candidate has written looks like the correct answer e.g. strokes missing or added, but character still recognisable. However, when the miswritten character creates a new character with a different meaning, the mark cannot be awarded. (b) If a prefix or suffix is missing, or a modifier word is miswritten, award a mark if meaning is still communicated, e.g. 面条: if a candidate has only written 条, it does not mean anything and a mark shouldn't be awarded. If a candidate has written 面 which contains the main meaning of the word <i>noodle</i>, the mark should be awarded. (c) If the mis-formed characters create a different meaning, e.g. 工豆、咖啡, no mark will be awarded 	

Question	Answer	Marks
1	<p>Session specific instructions for Question 1: 你在旅游景点可能看到的五种东西。 Make a list in Chinese of 5 things you might see at a tourist attraction.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If there are five clearly acceptable items, food and drink, clothes, daily used items. award marks wherever these are in the list. • If candidates list a single item with <i>different descriptive word/adjectives</i>, a maximum of 2 marks can be awarded, e.g. 大船 (big boat)、小船 (small boat)、白船 (black boat) award 2 marks • Ignore measure words and the verb (already in the rubric) • If more than 5 words have been written, award the 5 correct ones even outside of the space provided • If words are directly copied from the question e.g. 东西, 纪念品, no mark will be awarded <p>The following are examples. Accept anything a candidate might see at a tourist attraction.</p> <p>food & drink, clothes, daily used items 树, 花, 船, 车, 食物, 饮料, 衣服, 毛巾, 帽子</p>	5

Question	Answer	Marks
Question 2	<p>Candidates are required to answer the question. Read the whole answer and award marks as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication: award a mark out of 10, according to the instructions in 2.1.• Language: award a mark out of 5, according to the instructions in 2.2.	

Question	Answer	Marks
<u>2.1: Award a mark out of 10 for Communication</u>		
<p>(i) Place the appropriate ‘numbered’ tick as close as possible to each relevant communication point.</p> <p>(ii) Award ticks flexibly across the tasks for each piece of relevant information conveyed, up to a maximum of 10 ticks. HOWEVER, each of the 5 tasks must be covered to get the 10 communication marks:</p> <p>(iii) <u>If 1 of the tasks is missing</u>, the maximum communication mark is 9.</p> <p>(iv) <u>If 2 of the tasks are missing</u>, the maximum communication mark is 8 (and so on).</p> <p>(v) Add up the ticks to give a mark out of 10 for Communication.</p> <p>(vi) For COMMUNICATION be tolerant of timeframes and minor character errors, provided the characters written are clear enough to be understood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for language, use ‘rules’ in Question 1: miswritten characters, etc. • incorrect word order will not usually compromise communication. <p>(vii) <u>LISTS</u> = a maximum of 3 marks for communication. LISTS 最多给三分。</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 他的宠物有猫、狗、鱼和鸟。(3 marks)。 • 咖啡馆很大，很好，有很多吃的，我喜欢那里。 <p>(viii) Up to 5 further marks available for additional details</p> <p>(ix) 我喜欢我的邻居为唱歌很好。 Award 1 mark since it is one sentence without a comma.</p> <p>(x) Do not penalise factual errors.</p> <p>(xi) What the candidate writes may not follow the order of the tasks on the question paper – this is fine.</p> <p>(xii) Candidates are allowed to use English name in sentences.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total marks for Communication: 10</p>		

Question	Answer	Marks
2	<p>Use of pinyin If a candidate uses pinyin in their answer, you should read the work as if the pinyin words were not there – they do not count towards the Communication mark. If the Communication requirements are still fulfilled, discounting the pinyin, the mark can be awarded. See 2.2 page 12 for language marks.</p> <p>e.g. Question: 你喜欢吃什么</p> <p>Answer 1: 我喜欢吃 jiao子. (pinyin is used for the word ‘jiao’. This is a key word in the sentence, and relates directly to the question. Therefore, no Communication mark can be awarded.) Answer 2: 我喜欢吃面bao. (pinyin is used for the word ‘bao’. Ignoring this word in the sentence would not affect comprehension – it is not a key word in the sentence. The Communication mark can be awarded here.)</p> <p><u>How to award marks for extra details:</u></p> <p>An extra detail is defined as any extra detail which is related in some way to any one of the five tasks.</p> <p>Example: 咖啡馆很大, 很好, 有很多吃的, 我喜欢那里。</p> <p>(4 Communication marks are awarded for this response)</p> <p>In the above example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Award 1 tick for 咖啡馆很大 as this is a generic statement which addresses the requirements of task 4 • Award 1 tick for 很好 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task 4 • Award 1 tick for 有很多吃的 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task 4 • Award 1 tick for 我喜欢那里 as this is an extra detail which is relevant to task 4 <p>However, if the extra piece of information is not directly answering any of the bullet points, we only award 1 mark even if it is a list, e.g. 我早上八点跟家人去(1 mark), 我的家人有爸爸、妈妈、哥哥、弟弟 (1 mark).</p>	

2	<p>Session specific instructions for Communication marks:</p> <p>你正在参观一所大学。 Write about a university you are visiting</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Tick</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Accept</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓1</td> <td> <p>Task: 学生们几点上课 ; What time do lectures start? REWARD: Any time, present time frame REWARD: extra information, e.g. 学生们一般九点上课, 但是星期五九点半上课。 (2 marks)</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓2</td> <td> <p>Task: 学生们怎么去上课 ; How do students go to lectures? REWARD: any mode of transport, present time frame 有的学生走路去上课, 有的学生坐公共汽车去上课, 还有的学生骑自行车去上课。 (3 marks)</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓3</td> <td> <p>Task: 那里有什么课程 ; What courses are there? REWARD: any subjects 那里有数学、物理和经济学等课程。 (3 marks)</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓4</td> <td> <p>Task: 那里的校园怎么样 ; What is the campus like? REWARD: any opinion 那里的校园很大, 有很多花草树木。 (2 marks)</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">✓5</td> <td> <p>Task: 下次你想参观什么地方。 What place would you like to visit next time? REWARD: future time frame Candidates must refer to a future modal verb 想、要、会 etc. Try to avoid using English name for places or cities</p> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Tick	Accept	✓1	<p>Task: 学生们几点上课 ; What time do lectures start? REWARD: Any time, present time frame REWARD: extra information, e.g. 学生们一般九点上课, 但是星期五九点半上课。 (2 marks)</p>	✓2	<p>Task: 学生们怎么去上课 ; How do students go to lectures? REWARD: any mode of transport, present time frame 有的学生走路去上课, 有的学生坐公共汽车去上课, 还有的学生骑自行车去上课。 (3 marks)</p>	✓3	<p>Task: 那里有什么课程 ; What courses are there? REWARD: any subjects 那里有数学、物理和经济学等课程。 (3 marks)</p>	✓4	<p>Task: 那里的校园怎么样 ; What is the campus like? REWARD: any opinion 那里的校园很大, 有很多花草树木。 (2 marks)</p>	✓5	<p>Task: 下次你想参观什么地方。 What place would you like to visit next time? REWARD: future time frame Candidates must refer to a future modal verb 想、要、会 etc. Try to avoid using English name for places or cities</p>	10
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Question	Answer	Marks
2.2: Award a mark out of 5 for Language		
<p>Generic mark scheme for Language (Question 2): If some characters are written incorrectly without hindering communication, candidates should not be penalised in the Language mark.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award a mark out of 5 for Language*, according to the Grade descriptors in the table below (see <i>Note on using mark schemes with Grade descriptors</i> (Appendix 1)). <p>Grade descriptors for Language (Question 2)</p>		
5	Straightforward vocabulary and structure. The style of writing is basic, but reasonably coherent. Use of a limited range of verbs, generally successful. More accuracy than inaccuracy.	
4	Basic vocabulary and structure. Some awareness of verb usage, but inconsistent. The writing is sufficiently accurate for meaning to be conveyed.	
3	Very basic vocabulary and structure. Little awareness of verb usage (e.g. infinitives regularly used instead of finite verbs). Despite regular errors, the writing often conveys some meaning.	
2	A few phrases or short sentences are accurate enough to be comprehensible. Very simple sentence structure.	
1	Disjointed words or short phrases, one or two of them accurate enough to be comprehensible.	
0	One or two disjointed words or short phrases may be recognisable.	
<p>*Consider the whole answer when awarding mark for language</p>		
<p style="text-align: right;">Total for Communication: 10 marks Total for Language: 5 marks Total for Question 2: 15 marks</p>		

Question	Answer	Marks
Question 3	<p>Candidates answer 1 question from a choice of 3. Read the whole answer and award marks as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication: award a mark out of 5, according to the instructions in 3.1.• Language:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Characters, according to the instructions in 3.2.– award a mark out of 10 for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures, according to the instructions in 3.3.– award an Impressions mark out of 5 according to the instructions in 3.4 <p><u>3.1: Award a mark out of 5 for Communication</u></p> <p><i>Generic mark scheme for Communication (Question 3):</i></p> <p>(i) There are 5 relevant communication points per question, each worth a maximum of 1 mark.</p> <p>(ii) For each relevant communication point, use the appropriate numbered tick and place 1 of these ticks as close as possible to each relevant communication point</p> <p>(iii) Add up the ticks to give a mark out of 5 for Communication</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total marks for Communication: 5</p>	

Question	Answer	Marks																		
3(a)	<p>Session specific instructions for Communication marks (Question 3):</p> <p>你最近去了农村。 You went to countryside recently. 请给笔友写一封信。 信里说说:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="338 416 1503 1410"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="338 416 439 480">Tick</th> <th data-bbox="439 416 1391 480">Accept</th> <th data-bbox="1391 416 1503 480">Mark</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 480 439 671">✓1</td> <td data-bbox="439 480 1391 671"> Task: 你跟谁一起去的 ; Who did you go with? REWARD: any person, past time frame </td> <td data-bbox="1391 480 1503 671">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 671 439 863">✓2</td> <td data-bbox="439 671 1391 863"> Task: 你看见了什么 ; What did you see? REWARD: anything you would see in the countryside, past timeframe. </td> <td data-bbox="1391 671 1503 863">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 863 439 1054">✓3</td> <td data-bbox="439 863 1391 1054"> Task: 那儿的环境怎么样 ; How was the environment there? REWARD: any past time frame, justification, opinion </td> <td data-bbox="1391 863 1503 1054">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1054 439 1246">✓4</td> <td data-bbox="439 1054 1391 1246"> Task: 你觉得什么活动最好玩儿 ; What activities you found most fun? REWARD: opinion </td> <td data-bbox="1391 1054 1503 1246">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1246 439 1410">✓5</td> <td data-bbox="439 1246 1391 1410"> Task: 下次你想再去吗; 为什么. Do you want to go again next time and why? REWARD: future time frame and opinion </td> <td data-bbox="1391 1246 1503 1410">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Tick	Accept	Mark	✓1	Task: 你跟谁一起去的 ; Who did you go with? REWARD: any person, past time frame	1	✓2	Task: 你看见了什么 ; What did you see? REWARD: anything you would see in the countryside, past timeframe.	1	✓3	Task: 那儿的环境怎么样 ; How was the environment there? REWARD: any past time frame, justification, opinion	1	✓4	Task: 你觉得什么活动最好玩儿 ; What activities you found most fun? REWARD: opinion	1	✓5	Task: 下次你想再去吗; 为什么. Do you want to go again next time and why? REWARD: future time frame and opinion	1	5
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✓5	Task: 下次你想再去吗; 为什么. Do you want to go again next time and why? REWARD: future time frame and opinion	1																		

3(b)

Session specific instructions for Communication marks (Question 3):**5**

《中学生杂志》想了解一下学生对笔友的看法. 请给杂志写一篇文章, 说一说:
'Middle School Students Magazine' wants to know the students' views on pen-pals. Please write an article for them about:

Tick	Accept	Mark
✓1	Task: 你的笔友是哪国人 ; What nationality is your pen-pal? REWARD: allow any nationality, present tense time frame	1
✓2	Task: 你们是怎么认识的 ; How did you meet? REWARD: allow any person, past tense timeframe	1
✓3	Task: 你们上次写信说了什么 ; What did you and your pen-pal talk about in your last letter? REWARD: any topic and past time-frame	1
✓4	Task: 有笔友的好处是什么 ; What advantages are there of having a pen-pal? REWARD: any opinion	1
✓5	Task: 你会见你的笔友吗 ; 为什么 Are you going to meet your pen-pal, why? REWARD: any future timeframe and justification	1

Question	Answer	Marks																		
3(c)	<p>Session specific instructions for Communication marks (Question 3):</p> <p>你在一个商店工作的时候，突然听到有人大声说话。请说说：While working in a shop, you suddenly heard someone talking loudly.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="338 451 1420 1222"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="338 451 439 515">Tick</th> <th data-bbox="439 451 1308 515">Accept</th> <th data-bbox="1308 451 1420 515">Mark</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 515 439 655">✓1</td> <td data-bbox="439 515 1308 655"> Task: 商店里卖什么； What did the shop sell? REWARD: any item, past tense time frame </td> <td data-bbox="1308 515 1420 655">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 655 439 798">✓2</td> <td data-bbox="439 655 1308 798"> Task: 谁在大声说话； Who was talking loudly? REWARD: any person, past tense timeframe </td> <td data-bbox="1308 655 1420 798">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 798 439 940">✓3</td> <td data-bbox="439 798 1308 940"> Task: 他/她为什么大声说话； Why was he/she talking loudly? REWARD: any justification </td> <td data-bbox="1308 798 1420 940">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 940 439 1082">✓4</td> <td data-bbox="439 940 1308 1082"> Task: 你觉得他/她怎么样； What did you think about him/her? REWARD: any opinion </td> <td data-bbox="1308 940 1420 1082">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="338 1082 439 1222">✓5</td> <td data-bbox="439 1082 1308 1222"> Task: 后来发生了什么事。 What happened afterwards? REWARD: any action </td> <td data-bbox="1308 1082 1420 1222">1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Tick	Accept	Mark	✓1	Task: 商店里卖什么； What did the shop sell? REWARD: any item, past tense time frame	1	✓2	Task: 谁在大声说话； Who was talking loudly? REWARD: any person, past tense timeframe	1	✓3	Task: 他/她为什么大声说话； Why was he/she talking loudly? REWARD: any justification	1	✓4	Task: 你觉得他/她怎么样； What did you think about him/her? REWARD: any opinion	1	✓5	Task: 后来发生了什么事。 What happened afterwards? REWARD: any action	1	5
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Question	Answer	Marks
3.2 – award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Characters		
Generic mark scheme for Accuracy of Characters (Question 3):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award a mark out of 5 for Accuracy of Characters according to the Grade descriptors in the table below: 		
Grade descriptors for Accuracy of Characters (Question 3)		
5	Highly accurate, with a wide range of characters including some more difficult or unusual ones correctly written, with occasional minor slips.	
4	A good range of characters attempted with easy and moderately easy characters correctly written.	
3	Limited range, but with most easy characters correctly written (or a wide range with a lot of errors).	
2	A number of examples of easy characters correctly written.	
1	Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of correctly written characters.	
0	No examples of correctly written characters.	
Total marks for Accuracy of Characters: 5		

Question	Answer	Marks
3.3 – award a mark out of 10 for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures		
Generic mark scheme for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures (Question 3):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Award a mark out of 10 for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures according to the Grade descriptors in the table below: 		
Grade descriptors for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures (Question 3)		
10/9	Highly accurate including use of more complex structures, but with occasional minor slips.	
8/7	A little more ambitious than the 5/6 band. Accurate in the use of simple structures, except for occasional more serious errors/more frequent slips.	
6/5	Limited in range, but displays some control of simple structures.	
4/3	Inconsistent, but a number of examples of accurate usage.	
2/1	Substantially inaccurate, with only isolated examples of accurate usage.	
0	No examples of accurate usage.	
Total marks for Accuracy of Grammar and Structures: 10		

Question	Answer	Marks
	<p><u>How to deal with short essays</u></p> <p>If the candidate has written less than half the suggested number of characters (75 or less), a maximum of 3 marks can be awarded for Accuracy of Characters and 5 marks for Grammar/Structures. An essay of 75–100 characters can be awarded a maximum of 4 marks for Accuracy of characters and 7 for Grammar/Structures.</p> <p>For a letter, the addressee and ending greeting are not included in the word count.</p> <p><u>Pinyin</u></p> <p>The volume of pinyin in the answer should be considered when awarding the Language mark. If pinyin is used extensively, it is no longer genuinely a piece of Chinese writing. Occasional use of pinyin will not affect marking for Language, but for essays written predominantly in pinyin (i.e. more pinyin than characters) this must be taken into account in the Language mark.</p>	

Question	Answer	Marks																																		
3.4 – award a mark out of 5 for Impression																																				
Award a mark out of 5 for Impression according to the conversion table below.																																				
Conversion Table for Impression (Question 3)																																				
<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="398 422 1142 512" style="text-align: center;">Mark out of 15 (for Accuracy of Language)</th> <th data-bbox="1142 422 1836 512" style="text-align: center;">Pro rata (General Impression) Max 5</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">15</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">14</td><td style="text-align: center;">5</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">13</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">12</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">11</td><td style="text-align: center;">4</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">10</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">9</td><td style="text-align: center;">3</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">8</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">7</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">6</td><td style="text-align: center;">2</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">5</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">4</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">3</td><td style="text-align: center;">1</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">2</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">1</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> <tr><td style="text-align: center;">0</td><td style="text-align: center;">0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			Mark out of 15 (for Accuracy of Language)	Pro rata (General Impression) Max 5	15	5	14	5	13	4	12	4	11	4	10	3	9	3	8	2	7	2	6	2	5	1	4	1	3	1	2	0	1	0	0	0
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Total mark for Impression: 5 Total for Question 3: 25 marks																																				

Note on using mark schemes with Grade descriptors

It is important that you award marks positively. In order to ensure that you reward achievement rather than penalise failure or omissions, you should start at the bottom of the mark scheme and work upwards through the descriptors when awarding marks.

You should adopt a ‘best fit’ approach. You must select the set of descriptors provided in the mark scheme that most closely describes the quality of the work being marked. As you work upwards through the mark scheme, you will eventually arrive at a set of descriptors that fits the candidate’s performance. When you reach this point, you should always then check the descriptors in the band above to confirm whether or not there is just enough evidence to award a mark in the higher band.

For example, when marking Question 3 you may find that a candidate uses a variety of relevant vocabulary but has varied success with more complex structures. In such cases, you will need to award a mark that takes into account both the strengths and weaknesses of the piece of work.

To select the most appropriate mark within each set of descriptors, use the following guidance:

- If most of the descriptors fit the piece (and after you have considered the band above), award the top mark in the band.
- If there is just enough evidence (and you had perhaps been considering the band below), award the lowest mark in the band.

Note on irrelevant material in Question 3

In the case of a deliberately evasive answer which consists entirely of irrelevant material exploited in defiance of the rubric, a score of 0 is given. These are extremely rare.

A genuine attempt to answer the question which fails due to a misunderstanding of the rubric will normally lose Communication marks but will score for Language. You should consult your Team Leader.