



General Certificate of Education (A-level)
June 2011

English Language and Literature ELLB1
B

(Specification 2725)

Unit 1: Introduction to Language and Literature
Study

Mark Scheme

Mark schemes are prepared by the Principal Examiner and considered, together with the relevant questions, by a panel of subject teachers. This mark scheme includes any amendments made at the standardisation events which all examiners participate in and is the scheme which was used by them in this examination. The standardisation process ensures that the mark scheme covers the candidates' responses to questions and that every examiner understands and applies it in the same correct way. As preparation for standardisation each examiner analyses a number of candidates' scripts: alternative answers not already covered by the mark scheme are discussed and legislated for. If, after the standardisation process, examiners encounter unusual answers which have not been raised they are required to refer these to the Principal Examiner.

It must be stressed that a mark scheme is a working document, in many cases further developed and expanded on the basis of candidates' reactions to a particular paper. Assumptions about future mark schemes on the basis of one year's document should be avoided; whilst the guiding principles of assessment remain constant, details will change, depending on the content of a particular examination paper.

Further copies of this Mark Scheme are available from: aqa.org.uk

Copyright © 2011 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

Copyright

AQA retains the copyright on all its publications. However, registered centres for AQA are permitted to copy material from this booklet for their own internal use, with the following important exception: AQA cannot give permission to centres to photocopy any material that is acknowledged to a third party even for internal use within the centre.

Set and published by the Assessment and Qualifications Alliance.

GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Assessment Unit 1 asks candidates to answer two questions: the first based on an unseen pair of texts; the second based on a thematic Anthology of texts. Candidates will take a clean copy of the Anthology into the examination room. Both questions will require candidates to compare:

- how the writers structure and present their material
- how the purpose and context of each text influence language choices
- the attitudes and ideas of the writers and/or speakers

Examiners should first be aware of the relevant Assessment Objectives, as described in the specification and printed in this Mark Scheme. Candidates will be assessed on their success in attaining these Assessment Objectives in their answers.

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate appropriate expertise in the following areas:

- the application of linguistic and literary approaches to texts
- the understanding and identification of how language, form, structure and presentation create and shape the meaning of texts
- the understanding and evaluation of the importance of context in creating and shaping the meaning of texts both in their production and their reception
- the comparison of attitudes and ideas expressed in texts.

The question tests Assessment Objectives **AO1, AO2, AO3**

- AO1** select and apply relevant concepts and approaches from integrated linguistic and literary study using appropriate terminology and accurate, coherent written expression
- AO2** demonstrate detailed critical understanding in analysing the ways in which structure, form and language shape meanings in a range of spoken and written texts
- AO3** use integrated approaches to explore relationships between texts, analysing and evaluating the significance of contextual factors in their production and reception

The focus for each question is shown by some indicative content. It is, of course, possible that some candidates may respond in ways different than those listed, yet whose answers contain appropriate and valid insights. If examiners believe that such scripts satisfy criteria for high achievement, then those scripts should be rewarded accordingly. Examiners are encouraged to mark positively, rewarding strengths and achievements.

01 **Text A** is the first episode of *Dan Dare*, a space adventure strip cartoon aimed at boys. It was published in 1950 in the comic, *Eagle*.

Text B is from the website of the United States space organisation, NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). It is about the launch in 2008 of a Soyuz rocket travelling to the International Space Station.

Compare the ways in which the texts achieve their purposes.

You should compare:

- how the texts are structured and how they present their material
- how the purposes and contexts of the texts influence language choices.

INDICATIVE CONTENT

Examiners should remember that it is essential that candidates *compare* the texts.

NB The following list of ideas is not exhaustive. Examiners should always be ready to reward any *valid* points made by candidates, even if they are not covered by this indicative content. Points should always be supported by relevant textual reference.

	Text A	Text B
Audience	readers of comics	general public interested in space travel and exploration
Purpose(s)	to entertain	to inform, raise status of joint space programmes
Structure and presentation	setting the scene (launch pad, control room); narrative of launch; cliff-hanger (<i>until this time next week</i>); colourful and differently-sized artwork, pictures linked to text; varied capitalised fonts and pointage	mainly chronological structure of information; some brief biographical information about the crew; photograph of launch with caption; some emboldening of headings
Language	minor declaratives establishing setting; names of characters and roles established immediately; use of notices (<i>Auxiliary Rocket Boost</i>); spaceship is feminine (<i>she</i>); use of 'technical' lexis (<i>launching control room, Fleet Controller</i> etc) likely to appeal to audience; pseudo-military register (<i>ready to go, best of luck, danger zone</i>)	technical, specialised lexis (<i>antennas, solar arrays, STS 124</i>) assumes degree of shared knowledge of readership; frequent use of proper names (<i>Baikonur Cosmodrome, Russian Federal Space Agency</i>) emphasis on rank and status of crew; precise details of times and dates; frequent pre-modification of nouns with some post modification; a mix of sentence types some American usage (<i>launched to, increment?</i>)

MAIN CRITERIA FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTION 1

To be placed in a particular mark band, it is not necessary for a candidate to demonstrate achievement under every bullet point. Examiners should therefore assess a candidate's work under the 'best-fit' principle.

Band 6 **28 – 32** *Very good answers: the best that can be expected of AS candidates under examination conditions*

- clear, detailed and undivided focus on the question with consistent, focused comparison throughout of significant aspects **(AO1)**
- consistently accurate use of language and appropriate terminology **(AO1)**
- shows good and detailed understanding of the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
- shows good, detailed and thorough understanding and analysis of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
- shows good and detailed understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
- shows good and detailed understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts together with clear and sustained comparison **(AO3)**
- supports and develops points consistently with examples from or reference to the texts **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

Band 5 **22 – 27** *Good answers that display many of the qualities of the top band, but with some lack of consistency or thoroughness. Many more strengths than weaknesses*

- maintains consistent focus on the question with focus on comparison of significant aspects **(AO1)**
- accurate use of language and appropriate terminology **(AO1)**
- shows sound and clear understanding of the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
- shows sound and clear understanding of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
- shows sound and clear understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
- shows sound and clear understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts together with clear comparison **(AO3)**
- develops most important points through examples from or reference to the texts **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

Band 4 **17 – 21** *Answers in which there is a balance of strengths and weaknesses*

- maintains focus on the question to a large extent usually, comparing the texts in some significant ways at times **(AO1)**
- generally accurate use of language and appropriate terminology **(AO1)**
- understands the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
- shows understanding of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
- shows understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
- understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts together with comparison of some points **(AO3)**
- develops some important points through examples from or reference to the texts **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

Band 3 **11 – 16** *Answers that address the question, but with a number of weaknesses*

- some focus on the question with a little comparison of significant aspects **(AO1)**
- some accurate use of language and appropriate terminology **(AO1)**
- shows some general understanding of the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
- includes some general discussion and understanding of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
- shows some general understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
- some understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts together with some comparison attempted **(AO3)**
- develops a number of points through examples from or reference to the texts; some feature spotting; more description than analysis **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

Band 2 **6 – 10** *Answers that may contain a significant number of weaknesses; may contain irrelevance or misunderstanding*

- occasional focus on the question; comparison mainly of superficial aspects **(AO1)**
- some inaccurate use of language and inappropriate terminology **(AO1)**
- includes some thin or sketchy discussion of the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
- includes some thin or sketchy discussion of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
- demonstrates some thin or sketchy understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
- some limited comment on and understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts together with limited comparison of a few points **(AO3)**
- includes little support from examples in or reference to the texts; reliant on feature spotting and/or description of content **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

Band 1 **1 – 5** *Answers that are little more than rudimentary and fail to address the question in any relevant manner. Fragmentary*

- little or no focus on the question; ignores requirement to compare **(AO1)**
- very inaccurate use of language and terminology **(AO1)**
- shows very little or a rudimentary understanding of the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
- includes very little or a rudimentary discussion of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
- shows very little or a rudimentary understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
- very rudimentary comment on and understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts; little or no comparison **(AO3)**
- includes no or very little support from examples in or reference to the texts **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

02 Travel can either be relaxing or nerve-racking.

Compare **two** texts from the *Anthology* which show **either** or **both** of the relaxing or nerve-racking aspects of travel.

In your answer, write about some of the following **where appropriate**:

- contexts of production and reception
- form and structure
- figurative language
- sound patterning
- word choice
- grammar
- layout and presentation

INDICATIVE CONTENT

Examiners should remember that it is essential that candidates *compare* their chosen texts.

NB The following list of ideas is not exhaustive. Examiners should always be ready to reward any *valid* points made by candidates, even if they are not covered by this indicative content. Points should always be supported by relevant textual reference.

Not every text in the *Anthology* is suitable for answering this question.

Examiners should credit candidates who choose to compare:

- two 'nerve-racking' texts
- two 'relaxing' texts
- one 'nerve-racking' text and one 'relaxing' text
- texts which present 'nerve-racking' and 'relaxing' aspects within the text

However, examiners must be prepared to accept the candidate's choice of text on its merits, if the candidate has attempted to justify the choices sensibly.

Candidates may identify methods such as:

- atmospheric description of people, situations and places
- creation of a sense of danger/stress/calmness/the (un)familiar etc
- impact of visual and verbal illustrations
- use of layout and presentation
- emotive language
- use of adjectives
- intertextuality
- use of contrast
- informal language and contractions
- repeated structures
- short, direct simple sentences
- minor sentences

Examiners must be prepared to credit other methods identified by candidates that contribute convincingly to the depiction of stress or relaxation.

MAIN CRITERIA FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTION 2

To be placed in a particular mark band, it is not necessary for a candidate to demonstrate achievement under every bullet point. Examiners should therefore assess a candidate's work under the 'best-fit' principle.

Band 6 **55 – 64** *Very good answers: the best that can be expected of AS candidates under examination conditions*

- clear, detailed and undivided focus on the question with consistent, focused comparison throughout of significant aspects **(AO1)**
- consistently accurate use of language and appropriate terminology **(AO1)**
- shows good and detailed understanding of the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
- shows good, detailed and thorough understanding and analysis of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
- shows good and detailed understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
- shows good and detailed understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts together with clear and sustained comparison **(AO3)**
- supports and develops points consistently with examples from or reference to the texts **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

Band 5 **44 – 54** *Good answers that display many of the qualities of the top band, but with some lack of consistency or thoroughness. Many more strengths than weaknesses*

- maintains consistent focus on the question with focus on comparison of significant aspects **(AO1)**
- accurate use of language and appropriate terminology **(AO1)**
- shows sound and clear understanding of the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
- shows sound and clear understanding of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
- shows sound and clear understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
- shows sound and clear understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts together with clear comparison **(AO3)**
- develops most important points through examples from or reference to the texts **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

Band 4 **33 – 43** *Answers in which there is a balance of strengths and weaknesses*

- maintains focus on the question to a large extent usually, comparing the texts in some significant ways at times **(AO1)**
- generally accurate use of language and appropriate terminology **(AO1)**
- understands the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
- shows understanding of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
- shows understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
- understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts together with comparison of some points **(AO3)**
- develops some important points through examples from or reference to the texts **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

- Band 3** **22 – 32** *Answers that address the question, but with a number of weaknesses*
- some focus on the question with a little comparison of significant aspects **(AO1)**
 - some accurate use of language and appropriate terminology **(AO1)**
 - shows some general understanding of the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
 - includes some general discussion and understanding of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
 - shows some general understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
 - some understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts together with some comparison attempted **(AO3)**
 - develops a number of points through examples from or reference to the texts; some feature spotting; more description than analysis **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

- Band 2** **11 – 21** *Answers that may contain a significant number of weaknesses; may contain irrelevance or misunderstanding*
- occasional focus on the question; comparison mainly of superficial aspects **(AO1)**
 - some inaccurate use of language and inappropriate terminology **(AO1)**
 - includes some thin or sketchy discussion of the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
 - includes some thin or sketchy discussion of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
 - demonstrates some thin or sketchy understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
 - some limited comment on and understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts together with limited comparison of a few points **(AO3)**
 - includes little support from examples in or reference to the texts; reliant on feature spotting and/or description of content **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

- Band 1** **1 – 10** *Answers that are little more than rudimentary and fail to address the question in any relevant manner. Fragmentary*
- little or no focus on the question; ignores requirement to compare **(AO1)**
 - very inaccurate use of language and terminology **(AO1)**
 - shows very little or a rudimentary understanding of the content of and ideas in the texts **(AO2)**
 - includes very little or a rudimentary discussion of how language, structure and form create and shape meaning **(AO2)**
 - shows very little or a rudimentary understanding of the importance of contextual factors **(AO3)**
 - very rudimentary comment on and understanding of attitudes and ideas conveyed in the texts; little or no comparison **(AO3)**
 - includes no or very little support from examples in or reference to the texts **(AO1, AO2, AO3)**.

Converting marks into UMS marks

Convert raw marks into marks on the Uniform Mark Scale (UMS) by visiting the link below:

UMS Conversion Calculator www.aga.org.uk/umsconversion