

# Example Candidate Responses

Cambridge  
International  
AS & A Level

## Cambridge International AS & A Level General Paper

8001/8004

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Version 2.0  
Updated: 16.02.16

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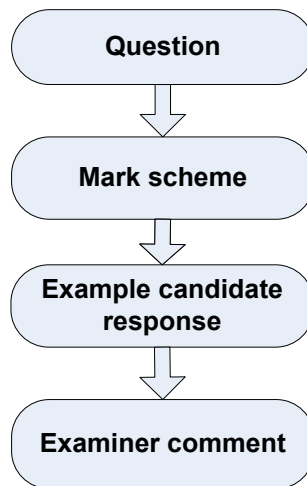
## Introduction

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The main aim of this booklet is to exemplify standards for those teaching Cambridge International AS Level General Paper (8001 and 8004), and to show how different levels of candidates' performance relate to the subject's curriculum and assessment objectives.

In this booklet candidate responses have been chosen as far as possible to exemplify a range of different grades. Each response is accompanied by a brief commentary explaining the strengths and weaknesses of the answers.

For ease of reference the following format for each paper of the subject has been adopted:



Each question is followed by an extract of the mark scheme used by Examiners. This, in turn, is followed by an example of a candidate response with an examiner comment on performance. Comments are given to indicate where and why marks were awarded, and how additional marks could have been obtained. In this way, it is possible to understand what candidates have done to gain their marks and what they still have to do to improve their grades.

## Assessment at a glance

### Cambridge International AS Level General Paper

#### Syllabus code 8001

All candidates take	
Paper 1 Written examination. Twelve questions [NB. ten questions from 2014]. Candidates must answer <b>one</b> . Essays should be between 500 and 800 words in length. <b>Total marks: 50</b> <b>Weighting: 50%</b>	1 hour 15 minutes
and	
Paper 2 Written examination. Three questions. Candidates must answer <b>one</b> . <b>Total marks: 50</b> <b>Weighting: 50%</b>	1 hour 30 minutes

Candidates are tested on their understanding and use of English, and the extent to which they are able to think maturely as appropriate for this level. They are not primarily tested on their general knowledge.

The examination time takes into account the need for candidates to study the questions and think before starting to write.

This syllabus is examined in the October/November examination session.

### Cambridge International AS Level General Paper

#### Syllabus code 8004

Written examination	2 hours
The exam paper is divided into three sections, each section comprising five questions [NB. four questions from 2014].  Candidates must choose <b>two</b> questions, <b>each</b> from a <b>different</b> section.  Each essay should be about 500 to 600 words in length.  Per question, up to 30 marks are awarded for content and up to 20 marks for English.  Each question is weighted at 50% of the final mark.	

Candidates are tested on their understanding and use of English, and the extent to which they are able to think maturely as appropriate for this level. They are not primarily tested on their general knowledge.

The examination time takes into account the need for candidates to study the questions and think before starting to write.

This syllabus is examined in the May/June and the October/November examination sessions.

## General comment (8001 and 8004)

The General Paper assesses the proficiency of candidates in writing fluent, accurate and clearly expressed English.

There is no defined syllabus content. Rather the examination is cross-curricular in nature, with subject matter drawn from a variety of subject disciplines. Questions are rooted in a wide range of themes from social, cultural, economic, philosophical, scientific and technological domains.

This booklet contains selected student responses from recent papers, chosen to illustrate a range of ability and achievement. Each essay is discussed in some detail, with guidelines explaining expectations, creditable points and any aspects that were addressed less successfully. It is thus designed to be a useful guide for both teachers and candidates in preparation for future sessions of the General Paper.

An Advanced Subsidiary syllabus is graded over six grades, a to u. At AS, grades a to e should be seen as pass grades.

## Paper 1 (8001 and 8004)

Paper 1 will contain essays from a very wide range of subjects, including: historical, social, economic, political and philosophical topics; science, including its history, philosophy, general principles and applications; environmental and mathematical topics; literature and language, arts and crafts.

Paper 1 tests the ability of a candidate to construct an essay as an argument and within that to analyse and evaluate the issues with appropriate insight and maturity. Candidates select from a wide choice of questions. A strong essay will demonstrate awareness and understanding of local, regional and global issues. Good answers will keep their focus firmly on the question as set. Their arguments will be well supported with relevant examples. They will be neither assertive nor irrelevant.

Questions will be general in nature, demanding discussion and evaluation, and will not be set on every topic. For 8001, candidates answer one question. For 8004, they answer two questions. Answers to questions should normally be between 500 and 800 words in length (8001); between 500 and 600 words (8004). There will be 30 marks for Content and 20 marks for Use of English.

### Generic mark scheme

**USE OF ENGLISH CRITERIA TABLE**

	Marks	
Band 1 'excellent': fully operational command	18–20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very few slips / errors.</li> <li>• Highly fluent.</li> <li>• Very effective use of expressions and idioms.</li> <li>• Excellent use of vocabulary; (near) faultless grammar.</li> <li>• Excellent sentence structure and organisation of paragraphs.</li> <li>• Excellent spelling / punctuation.</li> </ul>
Band 2 'good – very good': effective command	14–17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Few slips / errors.</li> <li>• Fluent.</li> <li>• Effective use of expressions / idioms.</li> <li>• Good use of vocabulary; sound grammar.</li> <li>• Good sentence structure / well-organised paragraphs.</li> <li>• Good spelling / punctuation.</li> </ul>
Band 3 'average': reasonable command	10–13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some slips / basic errors but acceptable standard overall.</li> <li>• Reasonably fluent / not difficult to read.</li> <li>• Generally appropriate use of expressions / idioms.</li> <li>• Fair range and apt use of basic vocabulary.</li> <li>• Acceptable grammar.</li> <li>• Simple / unambitious sentence structure.</li> <li>• Reasonable spelling / punctuation.</li> </ul>
Band 4 'flawed but not weak': inconsistent command	6–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular and frequent slips / errors.</li> <li>• Hesitant fluency / not easy to follow at times.</li> <li>• Some inappropriate expressions/idioms.</li> <li>• Limited range of vocabulary; faulty grammar.</li> <li>• Some flawed sentence structure / paragraphing regular spelling / punctuation errors.</li> </ul>
Band 5 'weak – very weak': little/(no) effective communication	0–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost every line contains (many) errors of all kinds.</li> <li>• Little / (no) fluency/difficult (almost impossible) to follow.</li> <li>• (Very) poor use of expression/idiom.</li> <li>• (Very) poor range of vocabulary; (very) poor grammar.</li> <li>• (Very) poor sentence structure.</li> <li>• (Very) poor spelling and vocabulary.</li> </ul> <p><b>Bracketed descriptors</b> denote 0–2 range of marks.</p>

## CONTENT CRITERIA TABLE

Band 1  'excellent': very good and comprehensive knowledge / understanding of topic	26–30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comprehensive coverage, totally relevant material, interesting, perceptive, analytical.</li> <li>Thoughtful, enlightening illustration using local, national and international examples where applicable.</li> <li>Coherent and engaging discussion, displaying sensitivity, sophistication, awareness and maturity.</li> <li>(Very) well structured.</li> </ul>
Band 2  'good – very good': good knowledge / understanding of topic	20–25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Totally (near totally) relevant, well focused but less analytical and perceptive than Band 1.</li> <li>Major points well developed.</li> <li>(Very) good range of examples / illustration</li> <li>logical and systematic discussion</li> <li>Effectively structured.</li> </ul>
Band 3 UPPER  'average': sound knowledge / understanding of topic	16–19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Competent: major points adequately developed.</li> <li>Largely relevant and remains focused on the question.</li> <li>Reasonable range of examples / illustration to support key points.</li> <li>Reasonably structured.</li> </ul>
Band 3 LOWER  fair knowledge / understanding of topic	13–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More obvious points mentioned rather than adequately developed.</li> <li>Some digression, but generally sticks to the question.</li> <li>Does not always support major points with apt illustration.</li> <li>Tendency to assert / generalise rather than argue / discuss in detail.</li> <li>May lack focus.</li> </ul>
Band 4  'flawed but not weak': limited knowledge / understanding of topic'	7–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restricted material / scope: rather pedestrian</li> <li>Some relevance but may be implicit / tangential at times.</li> <li>Prone to unsubstantiated, sweeping statements; ideas vague and / or lacking sustained development: can be digressive and wander off topic.</li> <li>Limited illustration and / or factual inaccuracy</li> <li>Insufficient focus; essay offloads everything known about the particular topic with inadequate reference to the key words in the question.</li> </ul>
Band 5  'weak – very weak': poor / very poor knowledge / understanding of topic	0–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(Totally) inadequate content with little / no substance: (very) vague and confused ideas</li> <li>Question largely (completely) misinterpreted / misunderstood</li> <li>Very limited (total) irrelevance</li> <li>Very limited / (no) appropriate illustration</li> </ul> <p><b>Bracketed descriptors denote 0–2 range</b></p>



## Question

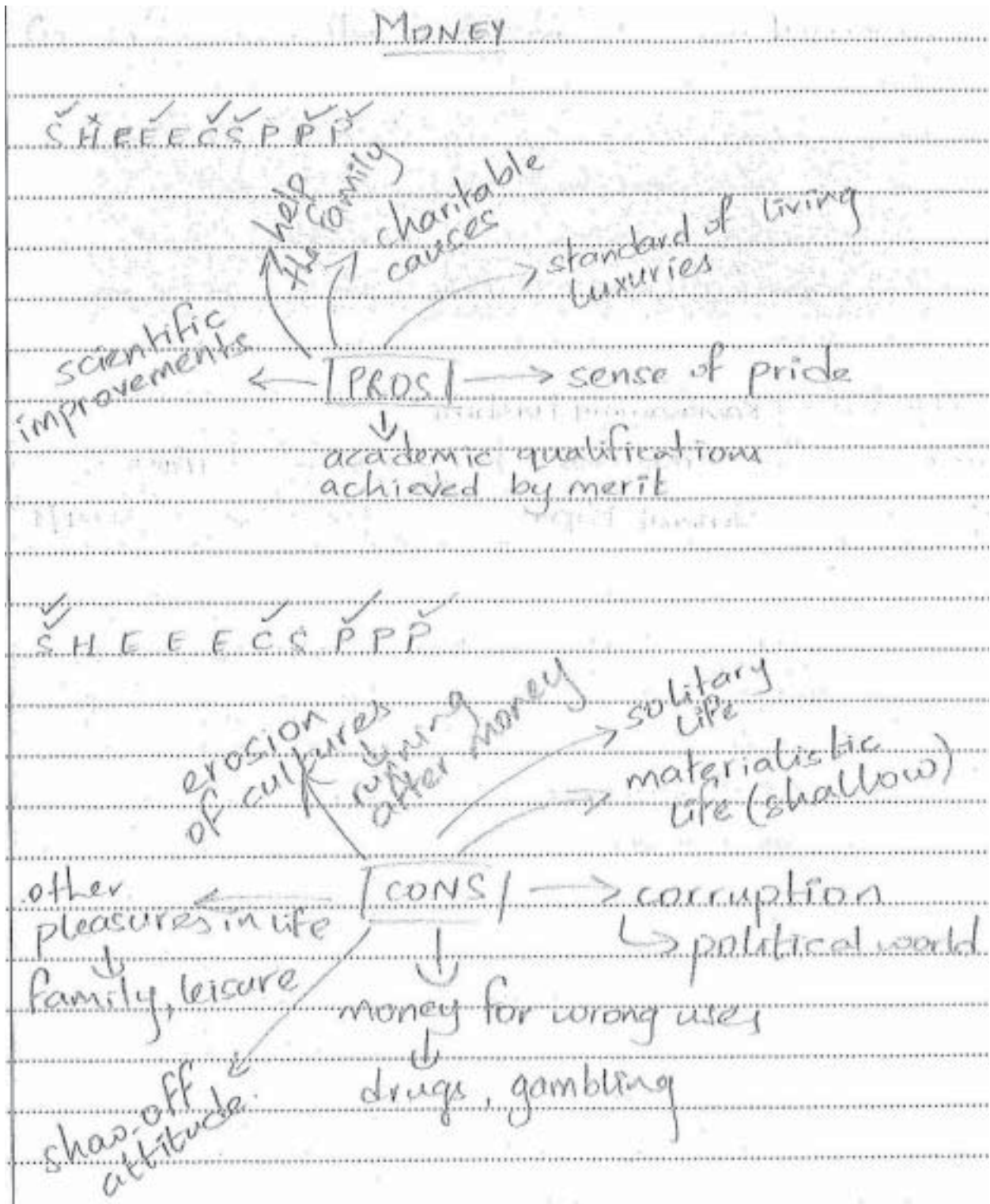
Consider the idea that money can never buy happiness.

## Mark scheme

Key words are 'Consider' and 'money' and 'buy happiness'.

- Is this old adage true or is it a kind of consolation for those with little money?
- A definition of happiness in this context is required.
- Factors other than money which may lead to happiness include personal contentment, a loving relationship and/or family, a successful and fulfilling career, good health, interesting and stimulating leisure pursuits, no major worries.
- Money may not be able to restore failing health, nor mend a broken relationship. It can not make good the loss of a loved one nor provide an instant answer to loneliness. The responsibility for managing and taking good care of large sums of money is not necessarily an easy task and can be a source of indecision and worry.
- There is a saying in German which, roughly translated says, 'Money does not make you happy, but it can be soothing'. Perhaps that is the nearest point to happiness.

Example candidate response – grade a



No. be with this m

(5) <sup>Justify</sup> Consider the <sup>belief</sup> idea that <sup>medium of</sup> money can <sup>absolutely not</sup> (never) buy <sup>joy, smile</sup> happiness. <sup>analyse</sup> <sup>vision</sup> <sup>exchange</sup> <sup>happy life</sup>

Today's fast-developing world is witnessing a rise in ambitious people, all with the view of being successful and leading a luxurious life. For those people, money is the key to happiness. However, there are others who claim that money is not everything in life. There are other pleasures which people overlook in their pursuit for money. Can money, therefore, really buy happiness? Or, is it a deviation from real happiness?

Money can be a real asset in bringing happiness to a person's life. For instance, a perfect yodstick for an individual's success in life can be his standard of living. Spa treatments, holidays abroad, eating in the most renowned restaurants are all such luxuries which can be available with money only. And almost everyone would want to live such a luxurious life. Leading such a life can indeed bring happiness. Moreover, the nations where people have relatively high standard of living are definitely the developed countries like USA or Japan because of their availability of financial resources, whereas countries like Botswana or Kenya where people do not have the basic needs, happiness is not present.

Moreover, nowadays, a lot of emphasis is placed on education. As from a young age itself, children are directed towards the a highly competitive educational world. After going to the university and achieving

great academic qualifications, it is obvious that the adult would look for elite jobs. The elite job is in fact a sense of pride for the individual. He earns a high salary and is proud of his achievements. In many Indian families especially, children use their salary to look after their parents and give them a lot of happiness. In such cases, it is money which leads to a happy family life.

Also, our era is witnessing a lot of advances in the scientific and technological world. For instance, science improvements in the form of the insulin for diabetics, genetic engineering, space exploration and technological progress like computers, mobile phones, have all been possible with the basic availability of money. Money is needed to undertake any research. We are therefore forced to believe that money is of utmost importance for the continuing of the evolutionary process of human kind. Money is helping to finance all the numerous advances around the globe.

Without doubt, money has numerous ways of leading to happiness, especially when it is used not for our personal satisfaction but also to make other people happy. For instance, money has been used by many celebrities to fund laudable causes. Examples of such celebrities would be Bano-singer of 42, who has given concerts to fight against poverty. Or, even the G8 concert with the participation

of many affluent people to again fight against poverty and racism. The recent 'Haiti earthquake' has brought celebrities like Celine Dion, Justin Bieber, to help the poor. Michael Jackson is also well known for his songs like 'We are the world', all with the view of using his money for charitable causes. Hence money can be used to make even the poor happy.

However, money instead of buying happiness can directly lead to a ruinous life. For instance, too much money can make us lead a materialistic life which is shallow and unfulfilling. After gaining a lot of wealth, individuals tend to demonstrate a 'show off' attitude. Too much money can lead to a rather solitary life since individuals think that money is the only way of buying happiness. But can we really be happy if we are lonely? Many people prefer to lead a rather modest life, with a middle standard of living but still have a happy family. The family is a luxury which many wealthy people do not have, and cannot buy.

Furthermore, money is not always used with a noble thought. For instance, in the political world, there is a lot of corruption. This corruption is due to an excess of money. The rich think that they can buy anything with the mere use of their money. At the approach of the elections, many politicians give money to the laymen and in return they expect to be voted. This is a flagrant

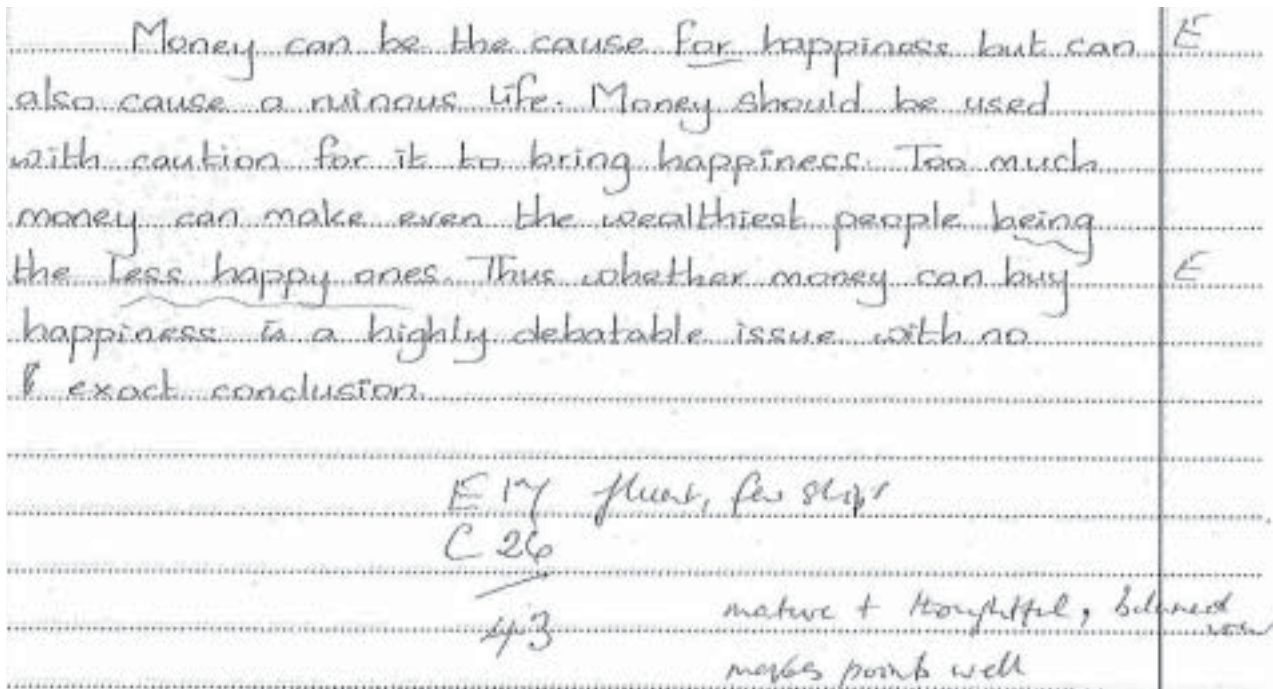
wrong use of money. Can corrupted people ever be happy? The answer tends to be on the negative since money should be earned by merit and such money cannot buy happiness.

As we are all aware, there are many scourges in our society such as drug-taking, gambling, smoking, and these practices are financed by money. For instance, the Foxwoods, one of the biggest casinos of the world witnesses many people, each day, losing their money through gambling. Gambling can also be a psychological lure especially for the poor which can lead to depression and high indebtedness which can in turn lead to suicide. Money, instead of buying happiness can ruin a person's life.

Key point

Thus, money is definitely not a way of buying happiness.

Sadly, in the pursuit for money, many people tend to overlook the other pleasures in life like the family or leisure time. Happiness does not necessarily mean being wealthy, having a brand new car or owning a big house. Happiness can be synonymous to living in a rural area, enjoying the green pastures, having a small house and leading a stress-free life. In many countries like USA or Japan, people are moving in urban areas with a view to acquire more money but instead end up being indebted and not being happy at all.



### Examiner comment – grade a

A promising introductory paragraph makes a clear statement of contrasting views on this topic which the candidate will seek to examine. The next paragraph outlines a popular perspective of the close link between happiness and the standard of living in the developed countries and gives appropriate examples of readily available and affordable luxuries. The last sentence referring to countries 'like Botswana and Kenya' rather spoils the standard set so far by being too much of a sweeping statement.

The candidate then establishes the link between higher education and 'elite' jobs and provides an interesting example of how academic success and consequent high earning power can benefit the whole family in Indian society. The following paragraph makes the valid point of how money is fundamental to successful research and the ensuing emergence of various advances in science and technology. The next valid and well illustrated point refers to the generosity of internationally renowned singers who give freely of their time by appearing in concerts, thus raising huge sums for charitable causes.

The essay then points out the danger of how money can lead to a shallow and unfulfilled life caused by a narrow focus on materialistic values which can lead to loneliness and the absence of being able to enjoy a happy family life. The candidate then deals briefly with the corrupting power of money in politics and the prominent role played by money in such social evils as illegal drugs and gambling. The discussion then illustrates successfully that valuable leisure time can be lost in the relentless pursuit of money. Similarly the movement from rural to urban areas in the search for higher wages can lead to unaccustomed stress levels.

The final paragraph adequately reflects the main points in the body of the essay and rightly acknowledges that there is no clear definitive answer to the question as people have different priorities in life.

The script indicates a high level of fluency and contains only a few grammatical errors, usually incorrect use of the definite article, e.g. 'where people have high standard of living' and 'improvements in the form of the insulin.' Occasionally there is the odd clumsy expression, e.g. 'the middle standard of living' and 'politicians give money to the laymen and in return they expect to be voted.'

### General conclusion

This is a mature and thoughtful response with appropriate balance and some relevant illustration which is clearly focused on the question as set. It reveals a number of positive and negative aspects of money. Major points are quite well developed. The essay is well written, demonstrating an ability to write at length with real fluency and commendable accuracy.

## Question

How far do you agree that internet shopping will eventually replace traditional shops and markets?

## Mark scheme

Key words are 'How far do you agree ...?' and 'internet shopping' and 'eventually replace' and 'traditional shops and markets'.

- Recently, internet shopping in the UK has grown substantially from year to year.
- This increase is largely due to web prices undercutting shop prices substantially.
- Large UK companies such as Comet send emails urging customers to buy from their website and save money although they have large stores in most towns.
- Many consumers enjoy shopping (retail therapy) and many enjoy 'window shopping' as a leisure pursuit.
- For many, seeing and handling the goods is preferable to pictures on a website.
- Markets appeal to many as shoppers can barter and enjoy the sight and appetising smells of a food market.
- Internet shopping will probably gain a bigger market share if prices remain considerably lower for branded products but it is doubtful if it will ever replace traditional shops and markets.



## Example candidate response – grade a

6. How far do you agree that internet shopping will eventually replace traditional shops and markets?

How far: to which extent.

internet shopping: e-commerce.

eventually: in the long run.

Rough Works

Introduction: Past decade: Internet revolution.

1: Cheaper prices (no showroom fees, employees, bulk).

2: Less time consuming (no commute time, checkout time etc)

3: Wider choice (goods from anywhere, customizable).

4: No human help/advice. No personal look at goods.

5: Security: Internet fraud, Credit card scans etc.

Conclusion: Not in the short term.

During the past decade, the internet has truly been revealed like a real revolution for the modern world.

Even though the internet itself, as a technology and network, has been here & present for quite some

Good observation time, it is the cheap lowering of personal computer prices and broadband ~~internet~~ fees that have brought

the internet and all its potential in a new light. With the internet becoming more and more

accessible, tons of new web-based services have emerged, with each of them trying to make our

lives better and easier. One of those, is, of course,

internet shopping, which allows people to ~~have~~ purchase goods online, and have them delivered to their doorstep.

link to D.

low price of same goods  
reason  
well explained

One of the most important advantages of such a service would be the price it offers. Indeed, goods on sale over the internet have a much lower price compared to their equivalents in traditional shops. This is mainly due to the fact that online stores do not have to pay for showrooms and retail employees. They just need a warehouse to store their products, a few people to dispatch the goods, and a website. The law of the market dictates that people will always prefer the cheapest prices for goods of the same quality, and internet shopping clearly wins here.

time issue clearly explained

Another great advantage of internet shopping is that it is much less time consuming, compared to traditional shopping. One does not have to waste time in congested traffic, or in long checkout queues. Everything can be done while remaining at home, and performing a few clicks on the computer. In today's world, where time is considered to be very precious, internet shopping offers a great way to save a few hours each month, and allows us busy people to do more activities.

range  
world wide choice

Adding to the cheap prices and quick service, there is also the wide range of products that internet shopping offers. Since the internet comprises of websites from all around the world, one is presented with a huge amount of choices. In the globalized world of today, some e-shopping websites even offer worldwide delivery under 48 hours. With such an

efficient service, one can really get whatever one desires. Further more, each many products are even customizable online. For example, a Football jersey shirt can have a personalized name written on the back, and you can even have a preview of the product online, before you click 'purchase.'

However, even with all the above-mentioned advantages, internet shopping is not really better than traditional shopping in every aspect. One of the qualities that online shops lacks is that of the human touch. One will not be able to get on-the-spot purchasing advice from knowledgeable salespersons, nor customers with no are not able to have a personal look at the goods either. They are not able to hold it in their hands, and see the quality with their own eyes. For purchasing vegetables for example, this can be quite a problem.

Another great disadvantage of internet shopping is the security issues related to it.

Even though much technological improvements have been made to the internet in terms of speed and digital content, very little progress has been made towards preventing internet frauds.

Business transactions, even if mostly safe on popular websites, are often prone to vulnerabilities on the lesser-known ones. Many people even get tricked into buying products on false websites, or get their credit card details stolen by hackers.

home class.	<p>Even though internet shopping is an undeniably a very efficient way of doing purchases, it remains for the time being constrained by its few, but still very important flaws. It is quite sure that internet online shopping websites will replace most traditional shops one day, but this will occur on the very long term, with additional technologies such as virtual reality, which may give users a more realistic <del>step</del> online shopping experience.</p>	E 9
good P7.	<p>However, there will always remain little town markets or very luxurious shops, as <del>rather</del> online shopping will never be able to beat tailor made customer service offered by devoted and concerned retailers.</p>	
	E 19	Virtually error-free. Highly fluent concise expression.
	C 23	Very well-explained and makes some cogent observations.

### Examiner comment grade a

The introduction is very useful because it sets the scene for the main body of the essay. The topic of internet shopping is introduced by a brief overview of the rapid advances in the availability and affordability of computers and internet services for home use. A clear and well reasoned account then demonstrates convincingly how lower personnel and favourable warehousing costs can lower prices to the consumer, which is one of the main reasons for the success of internet shopping. The fact that ordering goods and services by computer has distinct time-saving advantages over sitting in traffic jams and standing in long checkout queues is highly relevant and well explained. The desirability of enjoying a wide range of choice from all over the world then follows the first two main points already mentioned. This point is strengthened by the appropriate example of being able to customise and personalise an online purchase.

The candidate then balances the analysis by admitting the absence of the 'personal touch' and the lack of 'purchasing advice' from knowledgeable sales staff which is available in traditional retailing. The short illustration regarding the selection of vegetables is valid but could be enhanced by including further products where 'feel', together with personal assessment of quality is important to the buyer. The question of various types of cyber fraud is quite rightly raised and fairly handled showing how some websites are better protected than others.

The conclusion offers a realistic appraisal of how far online shopping has changed traditional shopping habits and gives a well reasoned estimate of the market share of online/traditional retailing in the future.

This answer never wanders from the set question.

This script is very fluent and very accurate with good, clear expression. It contains just a few minor slips, e.g. 'frauds' and 'vulnerabilities' and 'on the long term'. There is just one grammatical error of subject/verb agreement which, given the high standard of the script, is probably due to a moment of carelessness rather than a lack of knowledge.

### **General conclusion**

The essay shows very good topic knowledge. The main points are well explained with some convincing detail. This essay is very well written. The script is highly fluent with a good range of vocabulary and contains very few errors.

### Question

How far would you agree that tourism is harmful to both natural and historical attractions.

### Mark scheme

Key words are 'How far...?' and 'harmful' and 'natural and historical attractions'.

- Natural and historical attractions can be damaged/spoiled/destroyed by thoughtless tourism.
- Nowadays, particularly in developed countries, natural/historic attractions are protected, conserved and effectively managed so that no damage can ensue from a controlled number of supervised/guided visitors.
- Fragile wildlife, fragile vegetation and physical landscapes and areas are all duly safeguarded.
- This is now also the case in developing countries where national parks and other tourist areas are supervised and well maintained by rangers.
- Tourism in the past has had a detrimental effect on such things as coral reefs and fragile areas have been polluted. This problem is now clearly recognised everywhere and measures are in place to prevent this from re-occurring.

## Example candidate response – grade a

10) How far would you agree that tourism is harmful to both natural and historical attractions?

harmful	not harmful
irresponsible tourist	provide funds for research
who damage historical site.	provide funds to repair buildings.
pollution due to	make the world aware of
gases.	natural problems.
hunting, etc.	
fires	

$\frac{100}{100} = \frac{100}{100}$   
 $\frac{100}{100} = \frac{100}{100}$   
 $\frac{100}{100} = \frac{100}{100}$

16) How far would you agree that tourism is harmful to both natural and historical attractions?

Due to an increase in the standard of living in many western countries in the 20th century, tourism was made more and more available to the common people. Keeping the leisure factor, tourism gradually was gradually subdivided into various branches ranging from ecotourism to historical tourism. However, we should ask ourselves: to what extent are these new-age tourism favorable or rather in disfavor of the world's natural and historical attractions?

Question  
No. 10

10) How far would you agree that tourism is harmful to both natural and historical attractions?

Due to an increase in the standard of living in many western countries in the ~~20th~~ <sup>20th</sup> century, tourism was made more and more available to the common people. Apart from the leisure factor, tourists gradually came to be interested in the different aspects of tourism like eco-tourism or historical tourism. However, this was not to be made without any deterioration to the environment or to historical sites. Then we should ask ourselves, how does tourism harm natural and historical sites while at the same time, it can benefit them?

Eventually, tourism can be harmful to natural attraction especially when it is caused by irresponsible tourists. Indeed many are those who throw litter while ~~walking~~ <sup>trekking</sup> in the forest or unintentionally damage some plants which may be vital to the survival of certain species. Also, very frequently, are small fire forest caused by tourists who throw their cigarettes, hence burning acres of forest, destroying natural habitats of animals and causing the loss of thousands of species.

Moreover, pollution is also a major threat to the environment. In Australia, the government has ~~issued~~ <sup>passed</sup> voted laws to restrict the speed limit of boats visiting the coral barrier as they were

Write on both sides of the paper

Number  
the units  
themselvesQuestion  
No.

es. for

damaging the coral reefs with the leakage of ~~petrol~~ hydrocarbons and toxic fumes. Also, in the forest of Amazonia which is famous for its trekking activities; is being deteriorated due to the clear-off of trees to make paths for ~~tees~~ pick ups who apart from releasing toxic polluting gas, damage ~~some~~ plants on their passage.

es. of  
damp

Our historical sites are also being harmed. Indeed, due to the dense pollution in the area, the Taj Mahal in India is being darkened. Also, due to its high popularity among tourists, the Machu Picchu in South <sup>America</sup> has seen its access restricted to a limited amount of tourists per day due to the deterioration of the site. Furthermore in the 1980's, an American tourist pushed by some fanatical thoughts burnt a major part of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem.

Furthermore, tourism has also led to the proliferation of hunters and "bracconiers": ~~that is~~ Many species are killed each year and their products ~~set~~ sold to tourists. In Africa, elephants are being killed for their tusks which are sold at high prices. Certain restaurants offer the meat of certain <sup>protected</sup> species. This also concerns historical sites as in South America, certain relics of the Aztecs are being robbed from their ~~to~~ and sold in ~~the market~~ to tourists.

However, tourism can also be beneficial to the



Environment and some historical sites. Indeed, in Alaska, the money collected from tourism is being used for the preservation of natural sites, to feed animals and the protection of their natural ~~habitat~~ ~~habitats~~. ~~There is an increase in the standard of living in many western countries & habits~~ ~~against~~ hunters. ~~Also~~, this also benefits historical sites like the "Hagia Sophia" in Turkey where Byzantine's mosaics are being discovered on its walls.

Tourism also enables to fund certain scientists in their research of finding or achieving favourable conditions for the reproduction of certain species. For instance in 2016, scientists were able to make two <sup>Pandas</sup> ~~Pandae~~ in China to reproduce. It may also help in the cloning of certain endangered species like the Tasmanian wolf.

Finally, tourism ~~is~~ maybe the most effective way to touch people concerning the safeguard of our natural and historical sites. It is only after ~~a~~ having seen the impact of ~~pollution~~ human activities on nature and historical attractions that people start to realise that all those wonders may one day disappear. This will encourage others to ~~do~~ ~~not~~ rethink twice before doing something that may harm historical or both historical and natural sites.

We may conclude that it is inevitable that ~~tourism~~ natural sites and historical attractions suffer

2
Regulation
No.

damage from tourism. However, we cannot put the blame on the activity but rather on the tourists themselves as like we have seen tourism not only help to preserve species and ~~protected~~ historical monuments but also make the world aware of them in the hope that it may change their attitude concerning conservation of our world's heritage.

E14    *think that with some steps*  
 C19    *a reasonable effort with*  
 33    *decent points + some illustration*  
       *could add the risk of legislation + governmental efforts at preservation*

**Examiner comment – grade a**

The introduction probably quite rightly considers the damage done by tourists to natural and historical attractions as an inevitable consequence of the twentieth century growth and development of mass tourism. It also signals the arrival of eco-tourism as an indication of a recent awareness of harm already caused. The candidate points out damage to vegetation, problems caused by litter and devastating fires as a result of visitors' carelessness. The negative aspects of certain types of pollution are then examined carefully and well illustrated with relevant examples from Australia, South America and India. The essay then moves to examine threatened species of animals, again with appropriate examples from various countries, but does not make a convincing case for significant tourist involvement/blame in this case. The candidate then quite justifiably looks at the benefits derived from tourist money, supported and illustrated by examples of preservation in Africa and in Turkey, and at how this income from tourists helps to fund many important research projects on animal welfare. The conclusion is a brief summing up of the points already made.

The English is fairly fluent but does contain a number of errors. There is some faulty spelling, e.g. 'leisure', 'access', 'disappear' and 'cloning.' Expression can be awkward at times, such as 'throw their cigarettes', 'the lost of thousands of species' 'is being deteriorated' and 'clear-off of trees' and there are also several obvious grammatical mistakes caused by careless checking. It is not recommended to insert a foreign word, for example, 'braconnier' when the English equivalent is not known. Such words should either be omitted or explained with known words or phrases.

**General conclusion**

The content shows good knowledge and awareness of the topic and its points are often well illustrated using appropriate examples. The impact of some points is occasionally lessened by some loose expression. The English is reasonably fluent, but at times is spoilt by errors, some of which are surprising given the overall standard.

## Question

'Practical skills and academic learning are of equal value.' Discuss.

## Mark scheme

Key words are 'Practical skills' and 'academic learning' and 'equal value'.

- Most will compare skilled tradesmen with professions filled by graduates from HE.
- In many developing countries university courses are prized for their potential earnings and status in society.
- Skilled tradesmen are vitally important in developing countries as the infrastructure is improved and urbanisation progresses.
- In developed countries a university degree is no longer a guarantee of a prized job and well qualified tradesmen are sometimes in short supply and therefore able to secure a good living. In cases of extreme shortage, tradesmen/trained hotel staff are brought in from less affluent countries to fill the vacuum (e.g. Eastern Europeans in various EU countries such as France, Germany and the UK).
- Both practical skills and academic learning are vital constituent parts of any successful society but academic learning still probably enjoys more kudos but not necessarily more income.

## Example candidate response – grade a

13 'Practical skills and academic learning are of equal value.'

Discuss.

To be able to live in the society today, it is necessary that one gets an education. Education is the process by which we acquire not only ethical knowledge, but also skills, good habits, values and attitudes. However, when we talk of becoming educated today, we often tend to refer only to academic learning. According to Mahatma Gandhi, education should aim at the all-round-development of an individual, that is he must not only be academically good but <sup>good opening</sup> must also be able to use his hands.

Being academically well qualified is more important today than ever before. This is indeed one of the very first aim of education. Having been to school not only equips one with a good certificate on which the employer would base himself for qualifications but also <sup>acquired</sup> <sup>skills</sup> <sup>from</sup> <sup>education</sup> makes the individual acquire certain values such as responsibility, team spirit and steadfastness in work. Moreover, the more one is academically qualified, the more job opportunities he will have and the better it would be for his own success in life. For instance, 'brain drain' may cause engineers and doctors to move to <sup>well</sup> developed countries where they may make more money. G  
E  
S

Yet another reason why academic learning may be so important is because it helps people acquire <sup>life</sup> <sup>skills</sup> such skills for <sup>such</sup> daily activities as managing one's money and reading newspapers. A person who has

academic knowledge is a numerate one, meaning that he is at ease with numbers and can count. This implies that he can very well manage his money. Moreover, a literate person can inform himself through reading. Academic learning in fact eliminates credulity.

Academic learning makes people get more out of life. It helps make life much more enjoyable and pleasant as it makes people more autonomous, that is they are able to make their own decisions. In this way, they are not easily fooled. As stated earlier, academic learning teaches students certain values. Values, then, are not only required to obtain a job. They are important for the emotional and psychological development of an individual. A person who is academically good is often one who is socially well-integrated and in this way may achieve self-confidence by building himself esteem from others.

However, sitting in a classroom and learning theories by heart does not make an accomplished individual. In fact, the process of education may be summed up in the three Hs: heart, that is emotional development, head the meaning intellectual abilities and as important as the two others, the hand. What is the use of being academically good if one is unable to use his hands? A child must also acquire practical skills by playing <sup>creative</sup> games.

In prehistoric times, parents taught their children how to hunt for food. Nowadays, practical skills are as important to survive. For instance, practical skills such as handicraft may help people to even start their

own enterprises if they are unable to acquire academic knowledge. In fact, these skills may be used as a weapon to reduce poverty if not completely eradicate it. Students in schools may learn subjects such as 'food and nutrition' and opt for a job in this particular field.

Education may be considered as a lifelong process which starts in the womb and ends in the tomb. It involves not only academic learning but also acquiring certain practical skills for the complete development of individual. For one must be able to use both his head and his hands.

~~10/11~~  
 E14 ~~shows the~~ few errors, clear + very easy to follow  
 C15 Los the right idea but development  
 32 not always understood. Needs to contrast/compar professionals (non academic) + trades (manual skills). Needs to show the need for both. It's all about recognizing + developing talent, irrespective of what kind

### Examiner comment – grade a

The introduction is clear and to the point, with a particularly apt reference to the words of Gandhi regarding education and training. The candidate then gives the traditional view of the desirability of good academic qualifications. This view is currently being challenged in some developed countries because of the ever-rising costs and the growing number of unemployed graduates. The level of academic learning is not clear in the next paragraph as even a good primary education can achieve a satisfactory standard in 'counting' and 'reading'. The next paragraph referring to informed decision making and social esteem is clearer but could be improved by supportive examples. The point on acquiring manual skills is valid but should also be extended to include those who are not gifted academically. The issue of practical or manual skills appears late in the essay with a valid comment about how a manual skill or trade can lead to self sufficiency and ultimate survival in society. However, the example of 'food and nutrition' does not seem to be appropriate to a skilled trade. The short conclusion focuses on academic learning and practical skills in an individual. It does not adequately deal with the essential complementary role of both professionals and tradesmen, which is vital for economic success in present-day societies.

The English is fluent and very accurate and contains very few grammatical errors. These mistakes could have been spotted during a final check before the examination ended, e.g. 'one of the very first aim'. There

are also a few examples of incorrect expression, for example, 'on which the employer would base himself' and 'building himself esteem from others'.

### General conclusion

This essay is very much on the right track with some relevant material. Points are not, however, always fully developed. To be more successful, the essay should also have examined how both professions and trades are of great importance in a successful economy. The English demonstrates a high standard of fluency and accuracy.

### Question

To what extent is sport being damaged by money?

### Mark scheme

Key words are 'To what extent...?' and 'sport' and 'being damaged by money'.

- Sport is becoming more and more of a business. This is particularly the case where huge transfer fees are commonplace and huge salaries are earned by the leading players.
- This means that no 'poor' club can compete with 'rich' clubs (usually bought as an investment by foreigners) and the nurturing of young, local talent takes a back seat to the purchase of 'ready-made' stars from all over the world.
- The high investment demands virtually instant success and an attitude of 'the end justifies the means' even if they are morally questionable and do not reflect the true spirit of fair play.
- Cases of match-fixing, bribery, horse-doping, using performance enhancing drugs, illegal betting syndicates and dishonesty/cheating of all kinds are common undesirable occurrences which should have no place in sport.
- Top tennis players and professional golfers are also very high earners although many at the start of their careers struggle financially if they can not attract sponsorship.
- Sport is now a world-wide industry and provides a very good living for the successful participants but also for the army of agents/coaches/trainers/manufacturers of sports gear/equipment, not to mention all the media jobs, from technicians and engineers to commentators and presenters.
- The Olympic ideal that participation is more important than winning is not clearly evident these days.

## Example candidate response – grade b

14.	<del>Since the</del>	
Question	<p>Since the primitive times, sport has been subject to several debates. Before engaging into such debates we must firstly identify sports as a means to shape ones character through either mental or physical activities that we perform. Sport, be it an amateur to a professional one, has impacted upon several spheres of human society. The recently organized commonwealth and world cup in july bear testimony to the fact that sport still occupy an important part in society. However most recently with the various developments sport is said to have been deviated from its original objective.</p>	E E G E E B
A Evaluative Transition	<p>Today <del>with</del> the concept of globalisation, has penetrated almost all aspects of human life. Sport also has not been spared. Views are sharply divided upon whether sports is being affected by commercialisation. It can be rightly said that sport has to some extent turned into a lucrative business. Millions are spent whenever a world sport issue is organised. Entrepreneurs who are mainly guided by profit motives normally inject their money where they find it profitable. The poor people find it difficult to pay for subscriptions that are now demanded by clubs before performing any kind of sporting activities. In this sense, sport has definitely been damaged <sup>with</sup> by the colour of money.</p>	G E E E E E
	<p>Sport is omnipresent and has even not spared the field of politics. Leaders usually finance large projects in order to gain votes. The media which is considered to be the fourth state work hand in hand</p>	E E



with these politicians. It is therefore pertinent to state that sport has been highly mediatised mainly for the vested interests of distinct groups. This political issue has even gave rise to the Tibetals war who tried to extinguish the torch relay in Paris in 2007. The main reason was because of their lack of financial positions and their political instability. Here sports have clearly been damaged by the endeavour for popularity hence money.

In addition, we are leaving in a technology-driven and materialistic society. People are living in a rat-race competition where the sole purpose is to make money. Behind their quest of achieving success, they have definitely altered the true meaning of sport. While some do not have time to do sport, others have been blinded by the competition that sport now exhibit. For example, Mike Tyson even bit the ears of his opponents since during a boxing match. People nowadays are said to be couch-potatoes and spend their money lavishly on things they could do by themselves. For example walking to the supermarket instead of going by car. The use of excessive technology has not only created pollution but, also <sup>has</sup> blinded people upon the true meaning of sports. Others are so much blinded by money that they can have recourse to illegal means such as doping. For example Armstrong in Tour de France 2007.

However there is the unshakable truth that sport might not have been damaged only by money. At this juncture, it would be relevant to point out that sport has also been affected by racism. The act of being racist is

purely a subjective emotion. Adolf Hitler refused to shake hands with Jess Owens, the time when Africa was cleared out from the Olympic games. Even today, there are still substantial evidence showing that racism is still an ongoing battle.

But has sport really been damaged? It depends upon the type of sport we are talking about. There exists sports such as volleyball where team spirit is still present. Not guided with the aim of making money, the team develops a sense of patriotism and learn to cope with the moods and temperaments of the other persons in the team. With intelligence a team can win a game but with team spirit they can win a game. From this point of view sport has deviated from its nature and not been damaged by money.

Closely connected to the above, despite the presence of money, <sup>sports</sup> has definitely change but towards progression. Nations exchange cultural values through their exchange tournaments. Virtues such as ping-pong diplomacies <sup>thus</sup> came into force. <sup>This</sup> diplomacy generated when china and United states exchanged their tennis-players. During international sporting competitions, fraternality has gained momentum. Athletes have fans all around the world showing that sport is losing its grip upon borders and distances which are now becoming irrelevant. Even a small island, <sup>like Mauritius,</sup> has been recognised internationally and has got the chance to participate in the recently organized Commonwealth.

In a nutshell, sport has definitely been affected by the changing world. International competitions mainly organised through large funds have to some extent impacted upon the real meaning of sport. However it is also true that sport has served as a unifying factor during these sporting competitions. It has englobed several religions and irrelevant of the status. Therefore as every medal sport has its reverse, that ~~it~~ it was damaged by money. But still once said by Pierre de Coubertin « The importance is to participate and not to play » and this has <sup>still</sup> not changed.

( 820 words )

E13 error mainly in expression

C14 'patchy' quality - poor concluding

29 surface - some debatable illustrations - with excessive paragraphs to 'start' - depends on what needs to be more precise

### Examiner comment – grade b

The opening paragraph confirms that sport still plays an identifiable and important role in modern society and provides the relevant examples of the recent Commonwealth Games and World Cup in football. The 'fact' of sport attracting more and more money is then considered but no examples are offered to support this claim. The next issue relates to politics and sports with claims that politicians 'buy' votes by financing sport. The paragraph on technology drifts on and off the question of money damaging sport and the example of Mike Tyson's 'bite' is not really appropriate. The section on racism in sport is at best tangentially relevant to the question. A better paragraph is the one dealing with more positive aspects in a sport, such as volleyball, where team spirit is all important and money does not play a significant role. This theme is then developed to include cultural exchanges and fraternisation with the 'enemy', leading to improved diplomatic relations with money not being an issue in this case. This point was underlined by the example of 'ping-pong' diplomacy when China and the USA confronted each other at table tennis. The conclusion does pick up on some of the threads in the essay. It is a shame that the final quoted sentence is not accurate as it confuses 'play' and 'win'.

The English contains a number of avoidable slips, mainly in expression. It is reasonably ambitious, but would have scored higher had there not been a series of errors. For example, the introductory paragraph contains typical slips such as 'engaging into' 'sport still occupy' and 'to have been deviated'. 'In a nutshell' is acceptable in everyday spoken English but should not be used in formal writing. This error in tone was noted in many essays.

### General conclusion

The essay contains some appropriate points and relevant material, but it does drift on and off the subject. Some points should have been enhanced by more precise detailing. The vocabulary is good. The essay is reasonably fluent, but is spoiled by some slips.

### Question

Is Mauritius too dependent culturally and economically on the wider world?

### Mark scheme

Key words are 'Is...?' and 'dependent culturally and economically' and 'wider world'.

- How far is it possible for an island the size of Mauritius to prosper in a globalised world?
- How strong are the cultural roots in Mauritius and to what extent are they being 'diluted' by the wider world?
- The role of government/people in promoting and safeguarding Mauritian culture.
- The role of the government/people in welcoming inward investment and foreign companies without endangering local industries and local companies.
- What progress has been made in keeping Mauritius up to date with new technologies such as IT?
- The contribution made by tourism in Mauritius to the economy and its influence, if any, on Mauritius.

## Example candidate response – grade b

3. Is Mauritius too dependent culturally and economically on the wider world?

Plan

Intro:- Mts - mixed economy.

- aims of the govt.
- dependency → debatable.

① culture - own culture

- Mauritian
  - ↳ festivals
  - ↳ historic dates.

x westernisation

x culture erosion - adopt western culture, style

x flow towards the american culture.

② economy - trade (much imports)

- local consumption
- tourism.
- affected by financial, euro, food, energy crisis.

Nevertheless, sustainable developments → autonomy

→ self-sufficient.

→ hydro-electric station (recently)  
(La Nicollière)

Solution → parental guidance

→ cultural activities.

→ govt give step

} culture.

} economy.

3. Mauritius has a mixed economic system whereby both the government and private individuals have the right to voice out their opinions. The prior aim of the Mauritian government has always been to maximise the welfare of the population. Despite the fact that the Mauritian culture exists, nowadays, in our modernised society, most Mauritians willingly integrate the western culture in their lives. Additionally, being a small island with limited resources endowment, Mauritius is rather dependent on the international ~~trade~~ <sup>market</sup> for its local consumption. Nevertheless, it still remains a debatable issue whether Mauritius is too dependent or moving towards autonomy.

E

ES

E

E

It is undeniable that Mauritius is a ~~multi-racial~~ <sup>multi-cultural</sup> country.

multi-cultural

Each religion has its own norms, traditions and cultures which when combined together represent the diversified and colourful Mauritian culture. Each and every traditional festival is celebrated with the same joy and enthusiasm whether it is an Islamic festival or a Hindu festival.

P

The sharing of knowledge and culture exists among each social group around the island and this results into a rainbow of cultural knowledge and Mauritius need not to dependent on the wider world for any cultural event.

GE

The Mauritian government occasionally organise events through which the whole Mauritian society revive their culture and traditions with all the communities that exist around the island. Therefore, Mauritius is independent due to its multi-racial society.

G

MSQ

It is a sad truth that nowadays, ~~most~~ <sup>most</sup> youngsters prefer the new trend of westernisation to the traditional cultural norms. The western culture has ~~spread~~ <sup>spread</sup> so much around the globe that even Mauritius is not left out in this ~~new~~ <sup>new</sup> era of westernisation. The ~~young~~ <sup>young</sup> generation are more keen to adopt and learn about the foreign cultures which has become the trend of the twenty-first century instead of keeping the Mauritian culture ~~in~~ <sup>in</sup> alive. This adoption of western styles, clothing, music and even lifestyle has led to great culture erosion in

E

E

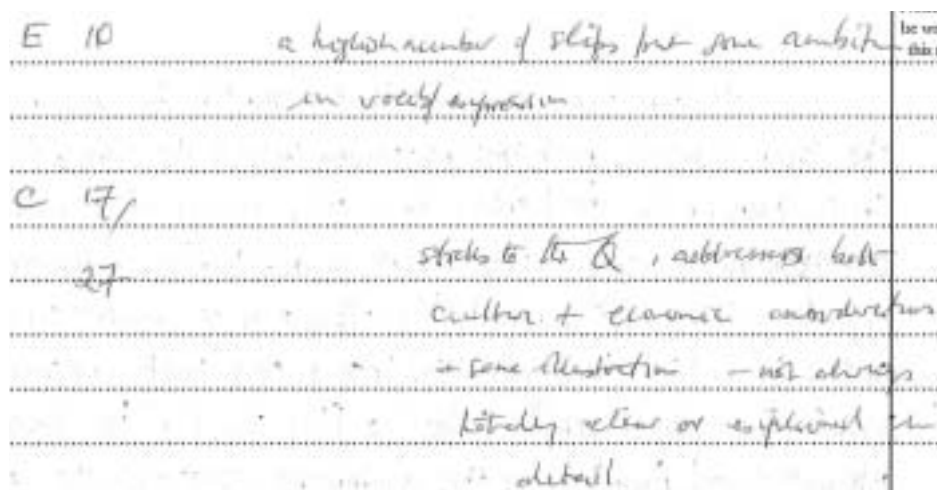
	Mauritius. In this case, the Mauritian population <del>is</del> seems to be much dependent on the wider world's culture despite having its own. This flow of western culture in each and every house through the youth is growing day by day. A <del>be fitting</del> <sup>be fitting</sup> example would be the adoption of the 'emo' style which is very <del>extre</del> current in Mauritius nowadays.	p E
Use 10?	This type of <del>clothing</del> dressing style comes from the western background itself. Culture erosion has turn most part of Mauritius into a uniform western <del>society</del> <sup>society</sup> rather than being a multi- <del>sected</del> <sup>cultural</sup> one.	E E
It clearly shows the point	Mauritius forms part of <del>third</del> <sup>third</sup> -world countries. The lack of resources forces the Mauritian government to dependent on foreign trade in order to supply <del>that</del> <sup>these</sup> consumer products on the local market.	E E
Examples	Since the foreign products are <del>more</del> better in terms of price and quality, even the Mauritian population prefer the imported products rather than the locally made ones. The use of foreign <del>cosmetic</del> <sup>preferential</sup> items among young girls in Mauritius illustrate the dependency on the foreign market for consumption. Closely connected to the above is the fact that Mauritius depend on the export of its sugar and textiles to ensure its foreign currency revenue. Hence it can be seen that for consumption and trade, Mauritius needs the foreign world.	G G
one example only	<del>Additionally</del> Furthermore, the main economic sector in Mauritius is tourism. Our island depends much on the rate of tourist arrival every year for its economic progress. The arrival of tourist boost the tourism sector, travel agency companies, hotels and accommodations <del>too</del> .	G G E
Lead?	When tourists come to our country, even the artisanal and craft industry earn a living as the foreigners buy our local and unique man-made products. As such, the local employment and trade depend on the wider <del>market</del> <sup>world</sup> in order to <del>re-tain</del> <del>the</del> keep our economy operating smoothly. In case there is a decrease in the arrival of foreigners, the economy might face a downfall in terms of financial gains.	G E E
Challenges		E

It has been observed that Mauritius becomes vulnerable due to the socio-economic problems happening around the globe. The financial crisis, Euro crisis, food crisis and even energy crisis had adverse effects on our economy in the recent years. This was a consequence of dependency itself. As a result, the Mauritian government took deliberate actions in order to turn Mauritius into a self-sufficient and sustainable island. The project ~~about~~ 'Maurice, l'île durable' has already been integrated and financed by the government. The objectives are mainly to use ~~renewable~~ renewable sources of energy to produce for our own consumption as well as using unlimited resources to produce energy. The main tools are the solar, ~~and~~ the wind energy and the sugarcane residuals. Hence, it can be noted that Mauritius is moving away from dependency, gradually.

Our government is investing hugely in education of the population. New experiments and research by skilled and talented individuals are helping to make our small island, a sustainable and autonomous one. The new hydro-electric power station at La Nicolère, <sup>where</sup> ~~which~~ the reservoir is not only to store water but also to <sup>produce</sup> ~~provide~~ electricity exemplify the ~~development~~ advent of research and development. Another example would be the use of bagasse from sugarcane to produce ethanol and fuel. Mauritius is trying to make out the best ~~out~~ from its limited resources which it has. This is a positive step forward in order to reduce dependency on the wider world.

In the light of the arguments above, it can be concluded that Mauritius is a dependent country for its survival. Nevertheless, the move towards economic independence is a positive step. The problem of culture erosion might be solved through interesting activities to encourage youngsters to adopt the Mauritian culture mainly as well as parental guidance. As such, in the long term, Mauritius's dependency on the wider world would significantly reduce.





### Examiner comment – grade b

A sensible and measured start to the essay places the island of Mauritius in a global context. The point is then well made of how Mauritius is a multi-cultural nation in which differences in norms, religions and cultural practices are acknowledged, accepted and even celebrated. Further development of this theme however shows that the younger generation is strongly attracted to Western fashion, music and lifestyles which will probably cause a decline in the influence of Mauritian culture in the near future. Some illustration of this valid point is reflected in the example of recent Western fashion fads, but the last sentence in this paragraph seems to exaggerate the current situation when contrasted with the opening sections of the essay.

The candidate then considers the economic aspect of the topic explaining competently that Mauritius is not blessed with natural resources and is therefore very reliant on its exports of sugar and textiles to pay for its necessary imports. Similarly, the tourist industry is well identified as a major source of much needed foreign exchange. This point is supported by the valid reference to local crafts in particular and employment in general. The essay then describes and explains the concept of *Maurice l'île durable* which was introduced by the government to gain maximum benefit from limited resources. Some illustrations are offered but it is not clear how much has so far been achieved and how significant the benefits are. The exact meaning of the first sentence of the conclusion is impeded by loose expression but the rest of the last paragraph expresses an acknowledgement and a wish based on valid material discussed earlier in the essay.

The English is reasonably fluent and a range of vocabulary is evident. There are also, however, far too many basic errors in this essay. The candidate is erratic in the use of capital letters. There are numerous examples of faulty subject/verb agreement, e.g. 'foreign cultures has ...', 'the use ... illustrate' and 'the arrival of ... boost the economy'. Frequently the 's' is omitted on plural nouns and/or the plural form is incorrect, for example, 'lives', 'most part of' and 'the arrival of tourist'. The use of definite and indefinite articles is also problematic at times. Expression can be inaccurate, e.g. 'with limited resources endowment', 'to make out the best from its limited resources' and 'Mauritius is a dependent country for its survival'. 'Out' is not needed after 'to voice' and 'together' is not required after 'combined'.

Many of these mistakes clearly do not arise out of insufficient knowledge and could have been corrected with a careful check before the end of the examination.

### General conclusion

This essay is solid. It shows knowledge of the topic and sticks to the question as set, focusing on both parts of the question. The overall impact is, however, lessened by the English which, although reasonably fluent, contains many errors.

Question

'Television has little to offer teenagers in Mauritius these days.' To what extent do you agree?

Mark scheme

Key words are 'Television' and 'little to offer teenagers' and 'Mauritius today'.

- Expect a variety of answers dependent on personal opinion.
- Any opinion is acceptable but must be supported by credible examples.

Example candidate response – grade b

15. "Television has little to offer teenagers in Mauritius today." To what extent do you agree?

4. increases awareness through documentaries e.g. volcanic, news, worldwide and sensitisation, e.g. seeing Pakistan people suffering in June 2010 due to flooding.

5. news

6. cultural programs e.g. "Infizen" and "Nowak for one bakab dan village"

7.4. Relaxation time -> concentration constructive -> do better in exams especially during holidays, exams limited time of TV watching.

History of television in Mauritius -> in 1968 (after independence)

1. Topic sentence  
2. Illustration, Examples  
3. Examples  
4. Topic sentence

1. Watch film/movies/ + non-educative documentaries do not do well in exam

2. Violence in films and movies crime. e.g. Police Officer

3. Smoking in movies. many Mauritian teenagers start smoking below the age of 18. Smoking rate = 23.9 per 1000. Rules?

15 "Television has little to offer teenagers in Mauritius today." To what extent do you agree?

The history of television in Mauritius began in 1968, when the father of the <sup>nation,</sup> ~~Albion,~~ Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, introduced black and <sup>(screen)</sup> white television. It was during the year Mauritius obtained its independence. At the time, Mauritians were amazed by it and were also interested in having one set. Of course, with the coming of ~~screen~~ <sup>screen</sup> coloured in the island, life today is different, especially for teenagers. Although news and cultural programmes do help these youngsters, it is said that television has little to offer them in Mauritius. To what extent can this statement be agreed on?

To start with, teenagers in Mauritius tend to overwatch non-educative films or serials and overlook educative documentaries and other various related programmes. This is especially the result of parents not restricting the amount of time spent in front of the television. Therefore, teenagers of the country are vulnerable to poorly concentrate on their studies and obtain poor examination results. An example of a non-educative serial watched by many youths in Mauritius is "Tulsi". A survey conducted in 2005 revealed that 35% of students are negatively affected by ~~te~~ too much television watching. Hence, it can be pointed out that ~~te~~ television

Is this the  
 cause of  
 Question  
 TV or the  
 No  
 Teens for not  
 managing the  
 popularity of  
 this little to offer teenagers in Mauritius to due  
 poor performance in examinations.

Note  
 for  
 (16-1)

is little to offer teenagers in Mauritius to due  
 poor performance in examinations.

9

Sweep  
 gangs  
 a little  
 impressive

New violence in films and diffused on the  
 normal MBC channels and in movies selected by  
 parents, has a tendency to force teenagers to commit  
 crimes. Even if films are rated eighteen years or  
 fifteen years old, many youngsters break the  
 regulation, out of curiosity. They follow bad role models,  
 whereby actors themselves resort to fighting most  
 of the time. Influenced, teenagers from poor  
 families join groups to commit offences. For them,  
 it is a way of being integrated in such a  
 "social" group. In Beau Bassin, a group of people  
 legal between fifteen to eighteen years, raped and killed  
 a woman in February 2010. As a result, it can  
 be deduced that television does not offer  
 much to teenagers because they tend to be involved  
 in crimes.

15

9

smoking

Actors smoking in various movies provide a  
 sort of inspiration to teenagers in Mauritius. In  
 such types of pictures displayed on the television,  
 the negative impacts of smoking are never explained  
 for the majority of the time. Students aged thirteen,  
 which means that they are still in lower  
 secondary classes, start smoking due to peer  
 pressure; but after being encouraged by through  
 watching smoking actions on television. Although the  
 Mauritian law has a section stating that smoking

15

15

<sup>at least some</sup> below the age of 18 is strictly prohibited, many people start doing so below the permitted age. Today, the smoking rate in Mauritius is 23.9 per 1000 people. Therefore, it is clear that television has little to offer ~~write on~~ in this content.

<sup>done</sup> However, since the introduction of televisions until today, the awareness of teenagers has greatly been increased through documentaries. Examples of such documentaries are "C'est pas Sorcier" and "Prove it". The <sup>television</sup> watchers are able to understand <sup>the</sup> functions of various mechanisms and the reasons behind. In a way, to do that <sup>is</sup> ~~is~~ have to go to various sites to know what is going. Also, a student cannot know what is happening ~~is~~ inside a volcano by <sup>being</sup> ~~going~~ there. It is of course too dangerous. These ~~pro~~ programmes help them by providing three-dimensional coloured images, thus approaching reality and simulating experience. Here, it is clear that television has ~~as little~~ very much to offer in educative ~~the~~ programmes.

Everyday, during ~~news~~ broadcast, teenagers obtain both national and international news. Having an awareness of global affairs, they can sensitise and learn the various difficulties experienced by developing and poor countries, including the African region. In a way, there is a mental preparation and tolerance development. They also ~~to~~ learn to help after watching.

news. This means that television brings much more in the development of an individual. For instance, after watching clips, in which half of the Pakistan land in June 2010 was under water, killing hundreds of thousand people, teenagers at school were ready to make ~~generous~~ generous donations to the country. It should be noted that epidemic diseases ~~starting~~ started rising in Pakistan and if help had not been provided on time, the situation would have worsen. From this piece of evidence, which involves sensitisation and increase in global awareness, Mauritian teenagers ~~have~~ do obtain much from what television has to offer.

Television helps teenagers to learn more about culture. It should be noted that Mauritius is a multicultural country. During slavery times in Mauritius, people from Africa, Mozambique, India, France and England came to ~~Mauritius~~ the island. Those who stayed, that is, Mauritians' ~~people~~ ancestors, got part and innate is cultivated everyone's cultures. Cultural programmes such as "Paste!" help teenagers to know more about their history and learn lessons from them. Moreover, these teenagers can be helped ~~through~~ <sup>by</sup> these facts during examinations. Therefore, it can be pointed out that television broadcast help offer teenagers education on their culture and how to preserve it.

Finally, various newly added channels in ~~Attention~~ Mauritius allow teenagers to relax while at the same time developing <sup>their</sup> ~~the~~ creativity. As a result of relaxation, they are able to better ~~focus~~ <sup>focus</sup> of on examinations and everyday activities. They are able to constructively and creatively think. During holidays, competitions are also diffused on live so that those who did <sup>not</sup> get access to them, participate indirectly. Therefore, these students are more able to demonstrate their abilities through speeches, art/crafts and music, having developed a critical and lateral way of thinking. From the advantage that Mauritian ~~teenage~~ teenagers are provided with, it is clear that television offers much more to them today.

While considering the pros and cons critically brought forward, after much analysis, it can be deduced that the fact that "television <sup>has</sup> offers has little to offer to teenagers in Mauritius today" is partly irrelevant. While taking into account the positive impact of television in the case for <sup>educative</sup> programmes, sensitisation, global awareness, culture preservation and creativity development, this statement ~~is~~ proves to be the contrary. Therefore television ~~is~~ has much more to offer teenagers of the country ~~today~~ today.

E 12

Although grammar is mostly sound, the expression is quite clumsy at points.

26

C 14

An essay of two halves! Much assertion & sweeping statements about negative moral influence followed by glowing praise of TV in m.

Does provide esp of programmes so just about a fair knowledge of one side of discussion.

### Examiner comment – grade b

The introduction gives a brief but interesting historical overview of the arrival and subsequent technological development of television in Mauritius. The first half of the essay claims that youngsters spend too much time watching TV and consequently do not achieve good examination results. There is no judgement, however, of whether television, inadequate parental supervision or poor time management is responsible for poor academic performance; nor is there any evidence put forward to support this view. The next paragraph makes a series of sweeping and exaggerated assertions about the bad influence of violence seen on television on attitudes and behaviour of young people.

Evidence for this is offered in one particularly nasty example of sexual assault in Mauritius with the rather simplistic conclusion that this clearly proves that violence on television ‘forces’ teenagers into a life of crime. It is also claimed that actors smoking on TV is causing a widespread increase in the number of people addicted to smoking in Mauritius, but this is not reflected in the quoted figure of ‘23.5% per 1000’ inhabitants, addicted to nicotine.

The second half of the essay then proceeds to list a number of advantages which television documentaries and educational programmes can offer the young people. For example, news programmes can help to create a global awareness and an understanding of problems in other countries. Reports of devastating natural disasters are broadcast instantly across national frontiers. This point was well illustrated by teenagers sending generous donations to aid the victims of the disastrous floods in Pakistan but the data used as illustration, e.g. the death toll of ‘hundreds of thousand people’ is exaggerated and also grammatically inaccurate. The following section on cultural awareness is valid but is not well detailed and illustrated. The paragraph on how students can become ‘creative’ by relaxing in front of the television set is not totally convincing.

The conclusion is not completely clear as it contains some loose expression, and the case for claiming that television has ‘much more’ to offer ‘teenagers of the country today’ is not convincingly made.

The way in which this essay is structured is not recommended because it is an essay of ‘two contradictory halves’ and so lacks a continuous argument. The balance of positives and negatives should be struck within



each point as the discussion/analysis progresses. The way this essay has been structured also means that any weighting which the candidate gives to each positive/negative aspect is missing.

When any form of data/quotation/example is used to support/illustrate points, candidates need to ensure that it is accurate; otherwise, the point may be weakened or even doubted.

The English is not difficult to follow but expression can be faulty, e.g. 'are vulnerable to poorly concentrate', 'tend to overwatch', 'films are rated eighteen years or fifteen years old', 'through watching smoking actions', and 'television watchers.' The grammar is fairly sound and the mistakes that are present seem to be the result of carelessness.

### General conclusion

The candidate demonstrates knowledge of the subject, but the structure of the essay makes it difficult to assess the gravity of the issues raised. Supporting examples should have had more clarity and accuracy. Sweeping assertions and generalisation also spoil the essay. Although the grammar is generally sound, the expression is sometimes quite awkward.

### Question

Consider the idea that money can never buy happiness.

### Mark scheme

Key words are 'Consider' and 'money' and 'buy happiness'.

- Is this old adage true or is it a kind of consolation for those with little money?
- A definition of happiness in this context is required.
- Factors other than money which may lead to happiness include personal contentment, a loving relationship and/or family, a successful and fulfilling career, good health, interesting and stimulating leisure pursuits, no major worries.
- Money may not be able to restore failing health, nor mend a broken relationship. It can not make good the loss of a loved one nor provide an instant answer to loneliness. The responsibility for managing and taking good care of large sums of money is not necessarily an easy task and can be a source of indecision and worry.
- There is a saying in German which, roughly translated says, 'Money does not make you happy, but it can be soothing'. Perhaps that is the nearest point to happiness.

## Example candidate response – grade c

5. Consider the idea that happiness money can never buy happiness.

It is a true as well as a undeniable fact that money can never buy happiness. E

in most societies there are two kinds of families, and for both of them the rich ones and the poor ones. For both of them, happiness does in no way hold the same meaning. For some, happiness lies in being wealthy while others do not find happiness with all their fortune. E

In most societies of the world, the poor ones often keep struggling in the way to be wealthy thinking it as the sole way to happiness. In many cases, these people try whether by hook or by crook to become wealthy overnight. Emile Durkheim, a sociologist, brought down the fact that idea of the "Homo Duplex Nature of Men." That is men has two facets; the egoistical side and the ability to believe in a better world. Thus, it is the egoistical side that reigns among the poor ones. Men is the sole master of his destiny and therefore, keeps on struggling to achieve happiness. E

Additionally, money is the only way to happiness was believed by the masses in the past. Karl Marx, another sociologist came forward with the idea that there was always the clash between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. As a matter of fact, it is clearly shown that not only the poor

richly share the same idea. E

fact, it is clearly shown that not only the poor

No. believe that happiness lies in being wealthy but even the owners. They exploited the labour party and the surplus was enjoyed merely by them ~~owners~~. Therefore, it is also a true affirmation that happiness can be bought as believe some people.

be written  
this way

EE

EE

E

E

E

However, it is as well undeniable that money can never buy happiness. For many wealthy persons around the globe, there is no tranquility and peace in both their hearts and minds. Thus, it does money bring happiness? Many wealthy persons always live with fear in their hearts - the fear of being attacked somewhere, the fear of losing their dear ones through kidnapping and even the fear of becoming a pauper. They spend a lot of money in putting bodyguards and alarms for their security and safety. Hence, with money one cannot afford happiness.

rich &amp; fearful

E

rich &amp; fearful

Moreover, there are also wealthy persons who are never satisfied with all their fortune they have. They are never happy and at ease although their wealth. They always keep on thinking ways to acquire more and more. As stated by the holy Prophet Muhammad (pbuh): 'if the sons of Adam, received a valley of gold, they will not be satisfied and want another one.' It is true as nowadays most of the rich persons do not find happiness and keep on struggling for more and more.

E

GE

E

rich &amp; fearful

Furthermore, there are also those who are born wealthy. Older generations left colossal sums

for younger ones in heritage. Unfortunately, since birth the younger ones do not find the necessity to work in the future and spend lavishly, gamblers and sometimes becomes alcoholics. As stated in a saying: 'No pain no gain'. Those who toiled hard know the value of wealth but those who acquired it since birth know only spending and sometimes ~~feels~~ finish up like paupers and thus causing grief to their dear ones.

Hence, money can never buy happiness when for some persons it can. Happiness is when someone has a good health, a happy family and these persons do not require huge sums of money to be happy. Happiness is felt from within when the heart is at ease and the mind has no worry. In order to be happy in life, it is not necessary to be wealthy.

E 11 a fair amount of poor expression

C 13 better comment in conclusion which <sup>2/3</sup> does not really appear in the body of the essay. Poorly structured + unrelated to generalisation, Lacks illustration + examples, Not convincing

### Examiner comment – grade c

The opening sentence is unclear. It is presumed that the candidate meant 'an undeniable fact' or did it mean that money can indeed buy happiness? The presence of a 'comfortable' middle class in most societies is also overlooked. It is also disputable whether the 'poor ones' seek instant wealth, the wishes of most poor people are usually completely focused on having sufficient food for the family. The candidate then turns to the sociologists, Durkheim and Marx, as sources of further ideas on the topic but the conclusions drawn from their work are not clearly made although the underlying ideas are detectable. The next paragraph is stronger showing quite justifiably the worries and fears often felt by the rich and powerful about personal security for themselves and their families.

The last sentence 'with money one cannot afford happiness' does however require improvement. The next point regarding greed is also valid and is enhanced when contrasted with the teaching of the holy prophet Muhammad. The inference that those who inherit wealth will all become gamblers and drinkers is too generalised and overstated but the accompanying claim that 'those who toil' know the value of wealth

is quite acceptable. The concluding paragraph is generally sound although the first sentence could be rephrased to make it really meaningful.

The English expression is frequently flawed, for example, 'it is a true', 'Durkheim brought down the idea', 'the surplus was enjoyed merely by them', 'they spend lot of money putting bodyguards ...' and 'never happy and at ease although their wealth'. Grammar and spelling are sound.

### **General conclusion**

The essay is inclined to generalisation and lack of precision on certain points, but it does contain some valid material. The standard of grammar and spelling is quite good, but is let down by loose and faulty expression, which in turn makes the meaning more difficult to follow.

### **Question 4**

Assess the ways technology is changing how, when, and where people work.

### **Mark scheme**

Key words are 'Assess' and 'technology' and 'changing how, when and where' and 'work'.

- Examples of the new technology which is changing traditional working practices are video conferencing, multi-purpose smart phones and e-mails.
- This new technology enables instant communication irrespective of distance and national frontiers.
- The office is becoming less and less of a focal point for some white collar workers.
- The benefits of working from home include no waste of time and stress while travelling, the opportunity to work outside the traditional pattern and the chance to focus, without the usual office distractions, on the tasks to be accomplished.
- The disadvantages for some may include over-reliance on machines rather than sharing ideas and strategies with people informally, the lack of face to face social and professional interaction and not feeling part of a coherent team and the possible distractions in the comfort of home.

## Example candidate response – grade e

	4. Assess the ways in which technology is changing how, when, and where people work.	
	<p>The beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century has marked by the ultimate evolution of technology. This century is also known as the computer-<u>aged</u> century. Various types of specimens have been designed and constructed to enable modern man to live a better comfortable life. Research are still on in improving the betterment of life nowadays.</p>	E E E EE
state skill	In the following paragraphs, more light will be shed on the evolutionary process of technology at people workplace.	E
eg	<p>The growing advances in technology causes many alteration in the way, time and place where people earn a living. This starts from the agricultural sector to the more highly proliferated office jobs. Hydroponics, computers, internet, teleconferencing, teleworking, and many others are examples of new technologies nowadays incorporated at the workplace giving works a new dimension.</p>	GG S E
at century? how!	<p>During the last decade, estate owners used to employ a lot of agricultural workers to work in the field. This by the way increase the cost of production, <sup>including</sup> resulting in lowering the yield of production. Thus decreasing the rate of profitability. Nowadays the workers were also tortured to work in the striking sun for a whole day in the field and were sometimes not paid. Nowadays, agricultural tasks like plowing, irrigating, harvesting and so on are done by specific</p>	EG EE

machines: The machines do work at a much higher rate than the workers. This the rate increase rate of production levelling up the yield of production. Thus increase rate of profitability. In Mauritius, sugarcane cultivation is done mostly by machines since 2005. The few estate workers is used to work on odd hours also like at night for harvesting. During the day, plowing and irrigating and so on.

With the invention of computers, all public offices are incorporated with computers. All the <sup>analogue</sup> ~~analogous~~ works are converted into digital ones. The use of computers in places like hospitals, banks, airport and so on help in carrying task rapidly and accurately. In hospital, computers are used to record patient information into a database and in controlling medical appliances. In banks, it is used to record bank transactions and so on. All that facilitate the work of people and allow people to be more free and rendered to work less stressful.

Nowadays, with computers and high powered internet connection, people are allowed to work from home & via <sup>the internet</sup> teleconferencing. This method of working is known as teleworking. It allow the person to be free from work pressure and is less time consuming as it does not involve travelling. Many <sup>worldwide</sup> ~~global~~ companies attend conferences in their office <sup>itself</sup> in different places around the world via the internet or webcam. This method of working is known as teleconferencing and <sup>it</sup> ~~allow~~ relieve <sup>the person</sup> travelling stress and money-saving for the company on travelling cost.

To conclude, I would like to say that modern technology has been advantageous for workers and employee also. Research are still on improving workplace conditions.	P 6 6E
E6 poor standard of English	
C12 takes some time to get going	
18 OK on working from home, other valid points need assessment + development	

### Examiner comment – grade e

The introduction is rather vague and requires more precision. For example, the evolution of computer technology was also a hallmark of the last few decades of the twentieth century. The reader has little idea of what is meant by 'specimens have been designed and constructed' but the last statement provides the link to the question. The candidate then provides a list of jobs and occupations where technology has added 'a new dimension' as regards various work practices.

The changes in the agricultural sector provide an apt illustration of hard labour in the fields being replaced by highly efficient machinery, but the candidate writes 'During the last decade' when surely these changes have been going on for considerably longer. A further example mentioned is the sugar cane industry in Mauritius which has become increasingly mechanised. The next point outlines the advent of computers in various professions and industries which enables employees to work more accurately and more efficiently. In addition, it is asserted that 'working from home' means 'to be free from work pressure' but no evidence is provided to support this view. The saving of travelling/commuter is clearly valid and certainly a benefit for many employees.

This essay contains valid material and does, to some extent, cover 'how' 'when' and 'where' but points need further analysis and development. For instance, the candidate is entirely positive throughout about the changes brought about by computer technology and is obviously a believer in the improvements it can offer. However, to enhance the discussion and to put the advantages in perspective, an acknowledgement of possible drawbacks such as the distractions of working at home, employees being replaced by machines and reduced social contact should be included.

There are many mistakes of all kinds in the English in this script. Expression is often uncertain, e.g. 'the twentieth century has marked by the ultimate evolution of technology', 'the more highly proliferated office jobs', 'the workers were also tortured to work in the striking sun' and 'all public offices are incorporated with computers.' This candidate possesses a reasonable vocabulary but needs to know how to use these words in the correct context. The grammar is insecure and includes incorrect subject/verb agreement, e.g. 'the growing advances in technology causes ...', 'this by the way increase the cost ...' and 'research are still on in improving workplace conditions'. Plural forms are sometimes wrong and there is the occasional incorrect usage of tense, e.g. 'In Mauritius, sugar cane cultivation is done mostly by machines since 2006.'



## General conclusion

Valid points are often mentioned rather than fully developed. The English contains many grammatical errors. Expression would have been much improved by the use of vocabulary in its correct context.

## Question

Consider the idea that money can never buy happiness.

## Mark scheme

Key words are 'Consider' and 'money' and 'buy happiness'.

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- A definition of happiness in this context is required.
- Factors other than money which may lead to happiness include personal contentment, a loving relationship and/or family, a successful and fulfilling career, good health, interesting and stimulating leisure pursuits, no major worries.
- Money may not be able to restore failing health, nor mend a broken relationship. It can not make good the loss of a loved one nor provide an instant answer to loneliness. The responsibility for managing and taking good care of large sums of money is not necessarily an easy task and can be a source of indecision and worry.
- There is a saying in German which, roughly translated says, 'Money does not make you happy, but it can be soothing'. Perhaps that is the nearest point to happiness.



meanwhile, the children will have to complete homework. Then, <sup>they</sup> will need to sleep early in order to be punctual in school and at work. Some routine occur everyday. SS

The child lacks mother's affection. Why the mother works? SS

~~For~~ The reason is to get money ~~for~~ and for the happiness sake of happiness. But this is obviously not happiness. S

*Tone* side! if the mother would <sup>have</sup> stayed at home, perhaps the E

*Implication* child would have more time to come <sup>her</sup> near, <sup>her</sup> <sup>time</sup> ~~her~~ the mother would E

would pamper him and this ~~is~~ is what we call happiness.

Altogether in the other side, never the father would take a leave at work early, but to be contrary, he would do overtime. SS

Why? also need to ask, it is simply to get more revenue. S

As with the the child tend to grow up in this situation where parent do not have much time. if the parent would S

sit at home, in a <sup>peaceful</sup> environment and meditate about the fact, <sup>concerning</sup> ~~concerning~~ happiness, perhaps the small moment of E

*So think working then...* thinking would allow him to see that money at any cost can never buy happiness.

But the <sup>true</sup> fact is that once get caught by the system materialist materialism, one cannot stop oneself. To abstain from it, one need to think about the reality: when we will P

*inspire* think then perhaps we will discover the true fact about happiness. The thing is that money has made people to get S

not any time even for thinking. S

For them, who believe that the money they will obtain at the end of the month will make happiness in the house. ES

they have money they buy videogames and all leisure materials which tend to comfort a child, but still lack of S

No. the word happiness. At this matter is becoming serious. Nowadays people make fake smiles. fanny, the expression of happiness is lacked from their face. When one is happy, ~~they~~ <sup>his</sup> behaviour <sup>is</sup> different. When ~~it~~ <sup>he</sup> talks, the way of walking, the attitude, the expression from ~~the~~ <sup>his</sup> face are totally different.

However, I would prefer old's people generation due to the word of happiness. Our elder people were right when they say that money can never buy happiness. Visualising the new generation's way of living, old people always say that their generation was better. Although they were poor, but ~~at that time~~ <sup>there</sup> was happiness everywhere. There were family planning, organising picnics, going at the seaside. Mother was having full time for her kids. The father would often take vacation at work to be with her kids. At that time there was had happiness.

Mostly in European country, <sup>for</sup> women, to ~~have~~ <sup>have</sup> their kids and go at work is a tradition. Many observers which usually conclude about divorce claimed that when mother go to work, ~~she~~ <sup>she</sup> sometimes or most of the time she met another friend. friend to turn to boyfriend and boyfriend turn to keeper. The word keeper is <sup>at</sup> of friendship word to say <sup>not</sup> because when already have a husband why keep another outside. then dispute among legally ~~married~~ married couple then divorce.

finally this affect whom. firstly, it affects the kid who become mentally disturbed, secondly the husband and the word happiness and thereby the wife also is not

happy. <sup>if we</sup> ~~and~~ ~~we~~ when we take the matter seriously,  
 we can see that both go to work for the reason of money  
 to make happiness and finally this lead to another  
 destination. Though, every people who had lived for money  
 when ~~the~~ <sup>going</sup> ~~they~~ conclude that money can never buy  
 happiness. This prove that really money ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> had  
 never been able to buy happiness, ~~with~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~it's~~ never able to  
 buy happiness ~~until now~~ <sup>until now</sup> and will never ~~be able~~ <sup>able</sup> to buy  
 happiness in the near future.

E 5

12

Stilted and full of  
 errors which impede  
 meaning.

C 7

Very little substance.  
 A rudimentary discussion.

### Examiner comment – grade u

The opening paragraph needs considerable improvement both in content and in the English. Few people would agree with the assertive definition in the first sentence, the image of the balloon does not convey any real meaning and the whole point regarding greed and materialism is both overstated and laboured. The definition of 'happiness' is vague and rather rambling. Also, it is not helped by the clumsy English. Having a meaningful, shared relationship with family and close friends is quite rightly judged to be a source of true happiness. However, the unnecessarily lengthy account of a frantically paced family life, due to both parents working and thus having little time for the children, is basically correct but presented here in a simplistic manner. Awkward expression impedes the meaning of the next two sections. Similarly, the paragraph on 'fake smiles' needs more detail and explanation. The next point about how the 'olden days' were better – 'although they were poor but there were happiness everywhere' – is a sweeping statement and not universally true. The statement in the next paragraph about married women going to work and meeting a 'boyfriend' who then becomes a 'keeper' is also sweeping and beginning to drift off the topic. The ensuing divorce leads to unhappiness in the family which the candidate suggests is a direct result of the greed of both parents for materialistic gain. They seem not to have realised that money and material goods can not buy real happiness. The account is rather long-winded and far from well expressed but it does contain an element of truth in some cases.

### General conclusion

The essay offers only a very basic discussion containing little of real substance. The content is affected also by unclear expression, with too much unsubstantiated comment. The English is stilted and contains a multitude of errors of all kinds on almost every line. As a result, it is also difficult sometimes to follow the argument.

## Paper 2 (8001 only)

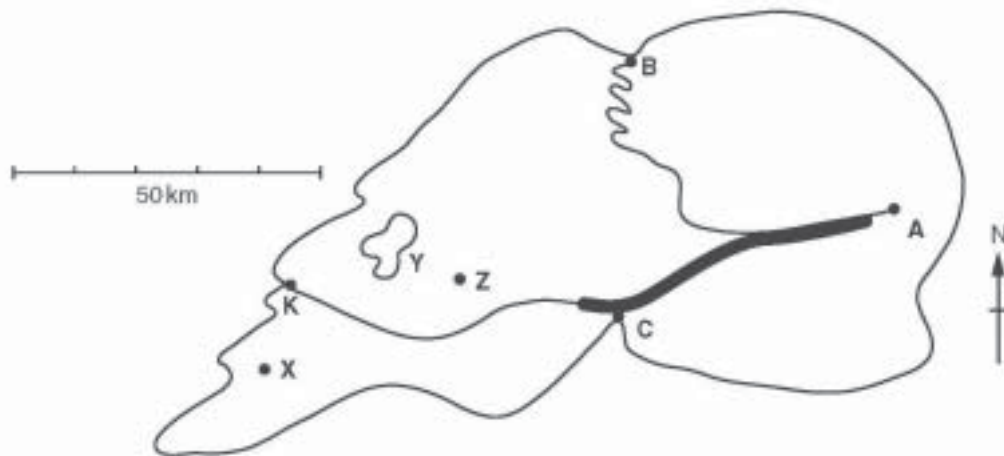
Three questions will be set based on information given in the question paper. One will test comprehension of an English prose passage as a whole and in detail. The others may be based on information given in the form of notes, statistics or diagrams and/or may take the form of tests of logical or scientific reasoning. Candidates answer one question. There will be 35 marks for Content and 15 marks for Use of English.

### Question 1

1 Read the following information and then answer all the questions (a – d) which follow.

You work for lastminutescope.com – a company that specialises in arranging holidays at very short notice. You are required to book flights and two weeks' accommodation for the Romeros – a family of two adults and twins aged 18 years that is travelling from the northern hemisphere to the island of Banizar that straddles the Tropic of Capricorn. The family, all keen swimmers, hopes to enjoy a beach holiday and see some of the major cultural and natural attractions of the island.

#### BANIZAR



#### Key:

X Extinct volcano	A Airport	— Main highway
Y Lake Kunaru National Park	B Blue Marlin	
Z Internationally famous religious site	C Capital	
	K King's Hotel	

The available flights are as follows:

- Trans Ocean Airlines offers a direct service from the Romeros' home airport that arrives at 11:30 local time and return departure is at 20:00.
- Air Banizar does not fly direct, but has a two-hour stopover in a Middle Eastern country. The scheduled arrival time is 18:00 and return departure is at 23:00.

There are two hotels – each with its own swimming pool – that have vacancies:

- The King's Hotel, a haven for those seeking a peaceful holiday, is noted for the quality and variety of its food. It is situated in a part of the island where there are occasional interruptions to the electricity supply which can result in a loss of facilities. The rocky shore makes access for boats difficult. It is within easy walking distance of a town with some shops and evening entertainment.
- The Blue Marlin is noted for its lively night life. It is situated on a cliff top and the beach is accessed using a path of 50 steps down to the sea. A wide range of water sports is free. The accommodation is of a very high standard consisting of single and two storey villas.

In making the booking you are aware of the following information gathered from the family and your own knowledge of the Island:

- 1 Whilst the family are experienced travellers, Mr Romero has a fear of take-off and landing.
- 2 Mrs Romero is recovering from a broken leg sustained in a recent car accident.
- 3 Traffic on the Island's main highway comes to a standstill when it passes through the Capital in the morning/evening rush hours and at lunch time.
- 4 Taxis operate throughout the Island, but are very expensive.
- 5 Mrs Romero suffers from car-sickness.
- 6 The sea can be rather cold at this time of the year.
- 7 All the family enjoy a good meal and one of the twins is a vegan.
- 8 Mrs Romero is an avid reader who hopes to catch up with her novels by the water during the day and in the hotel bar in the evening.
- 9 The twins are particularly looking forward to learning to water-ski and enjoying discotheques in the evenings.
- 10 Car hire is available for over 21s, but neither parent is keen to drive on the opposite side of the road to that which they are used to at home.
- 11 Rooms at the Blue Marlin are not available until late afternoon on the day of arrival; the other hotel has rooms available from noon.
- 12 There are no coconut palms in the garden at the King's.
- 13 The family have spent most of their available funds on the trip and will need to be careful in their spending patterns for the fortnight.
- 14 On the West side of the Island the sea goes out a long way at low tide.
- 15 Each week there is an organized free trip from the Blue Marlin to the National Park.

Note: When a question asks for an answer **IN YOUR OWN WORDS** and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

- (a) On the basis of the information provided, say which flight/hotel combination you are most likely to choose, and why. **Answer in about 120 of your own words.** [12]
- (b) On the basis of the information provided, say which flight/hotel combination you are least likely to choose, and why. **Answer in about 120 of your own words.** [12]
- (c) Which aspects of the combination chosen in (a) might give your clients cause for complaint? Justify your selection **in about 80 words.** [8]
- (d) Which point in the list above strikes you as the least important? Justify your choice. [3]

Note: Up to an additional 15 marks will be available for use of English.

## Mark scheme

(a) and (b)

**Candidates may choose any 'package'. The best answers will show there is no perfect combination of flight/hotel. To obtain high marks, candidates must appreciate the relationships between flights, facilities and locations.**

Any of the following points could be taken into account:

- TOA: direct service offers shorter journey and no additional landing/take-off (1), but arrival is early and would encounter traffic if going via the capital (3). Family may not be able to check in at chosen hotel when they arrive (11).
- Air Banizar: arrival time misses the traffic through the Capital (3) and would allow check in to any hotel with no hanging around (11), but the stop-over does involve an additional landing and take-off (1).

**King's  
Plus points**

- food-all, and esp. twin (7)
- quiet evenings-parents (intro., 8)
- check-in time- if using TOA (11)
- close to attractions (map, intro., 10, 13,)
- town (discos, etc.) within easy walking distance (4, 9, 10, 13,)

**Minus points**

- electricity supply-food, pool (intro.,6, 7, 8)
- quiet evenings-twins (9)
- rocky shore-limited water sports (intro., 9)
- congestion through the capital-especially, if using TOA (3)
- low tide (intro., 14)

**Blue Marlin  
Plus points**

- free water sports (intro., 9, 13)
- lively night life-twins (intro., 9)
- good accommodation (intro.)
- avoid congestion through Capital-especially, if using TOA (3)
- free travel to National Park (15)

**Minus points**

- access to beach (intro., 2)
- two-storey villas (intro., 2)
- room availability if using TOA (intro., 11)
- noisy evenings-parents (intro., 8)
- road from the hotel to the main highway and to attractions (5)

In assessing each of **(a)** and **(b)**, award:

10 to 12 for a perceptive development

- of at least five relevant considerations that cover flights, locations and facilities
- that is soundly organized
- and makes use of analytical skills
- in about 120 words.

8–9 when **one** of the criteria above has **not** been satisfied.

6–7 when **two** of the criteria above have **not** been satisfied.

3–5 when the answer is badly flawed, but contains **some** worthwhile material.

0–2 when there is little or no merit in the answer

[12 each]



- (c) Candidates are expected to provide a selection of negative points from the information provided on the flights and hotels. For example, if the TOA/Blue Marlin option had been chosen in (a), then the family could complain about the time of arrival, the road to the hotel and from the hotel to attractions, accommodation issues, and the route to the beach.

Maximum credit may be obtained by providing **four developed** points.

[4 × 2 = 8]

- (d) Point 12 may be a likely choice.

Assess the quality of each response bearing the following in mind:

- insight (why the selected detail adds nothing in making a choice);
- strength of argument;
- fluency.

[3]

### Example candidate response – grade a7

1a) The flight chosen is Trans Ocean Airlines as it offers a direct flight, most suitable for Mr Romero bear of take-offs and landings, for there will be only ~~one~~ <sup>two</sup> of each. The family will reside at the King's Hotel. It has rooms available as from noon, only thirty minutes after their arrival. It is near a natural park, a volcano and a religious site as well as being within walking distance of a town which is fairly active with some evening facilities. The family's appreciation for a good meal will be fulfilled by the wide variety of food available. The swimming pool will be good for Mrs Romero and <sup>she</sup> will not strain her recovering leg from having to walk a lot and will not suffer from car sea sickness.

b) The flight least likely to be chosen is Air Bantear, as it is not a direct flight and therefore means more take offs and landings, which is not to the taste of Mr Romero. Also, it is far from the attractions of the island and Mrs Romero would not like to travel that much. To book a room, they ~~will~~<sup>would</sup> have to wait a lot of time. Since it is of very high standard, it also means it would be expensive and the family has to ~~manage~~<sup>manage</sup> available funds. They would be reluctant to hire taxis, and due to the different driving side they are unwilling to hire a car. The active night life of the hotel would not allow Mrs Romero to read peacefully in the evening.

c) To reach the King's Hotel, the family ~~would~~<sup>will</sup> have to take a taxi passing through the capital. Since they are taking the Trans Ocean Airliner, they will arrive at lunch time and traffic will be at its maximum, slowing them down considerably and, ~~will~~<sup>will</sup> cause Mrs Romero to feel car sick. Also, taxis are expensive. The power cuts may annoy Mrs Romero, as she will not be able to read in the evening. Also lastly, the rocky shore will not allow the twins to practice water-ski as access for boats is very difficult.

d) The point stating the absence of coconut palms in the garden at the King's Hotel could be seen as the least important one. The family seeks a holiday on the beach and does not require these. The absence of these palms will thus not affect their holiday.

### Examiner comment – grade a7

- (a)** The choice of airline is made at the outset and, although the candidate appreciates the benefit for Mr Romero, the response is compromised as there is significant copying from the question paper. The next point is fully credited as the room availability is linked to the arrival of the flight. Although the proximity to the cultural and natural attractions is a good reason for choosing the King's Hotel, there is no development of the idea linking it to budgetary constraints or discomfort when travelling. Similarly, the advantages of having a town on the doorstep are not explained in any depth though the culinary delights of the hotel are appreciated. The final point about a swimming pool is of no consequence as the same could be said of the other hotel. With five relevant points but limited development this part was placed in the second highest mark band.
- (b)** Unfortunately, the candidate forgets to mention the name of the chosen hotel. However, it is clear that The Blue Marlin is under consideration and the benefit of the doubt is given. Four sound points are made concerning the disadvantage of the interrupted flight, the extra distance to the various attractions, the possibility of the accommodation cost exceeding the family's budget and the impact of the evening activities on certain members of the family. The point concerning the time of room availability is not understood as the flight arrives after the rooms could be occupied. Here four sound points are quite well developed and this justified a mark in the second highest mark band.
- (c)** This is a strong section as four possible areas of complaint are identified. Traffic congestion, power cuts and the rocky nature of the shore are fully appreciated though the reference to expensive taxis is somewhat vague.
- (d)** The choice of coconut palms is a good one and there is just about sufficient explanation for the full mark.

### Use of English

The writing is confident and fluent throughout and the meaning never in doubt. There are very few examples of 'lifting' and some of the paraphrasing is quite impressive. The script was placed in the top mark band for English.

### Conclusion

This is a very good script from a candidate who has a sound understanding of the question; at no stage does the candidate flounder and a good mark is obtained for each section. Moreover, as the various rubrics are observed, all that is written is taken into account.

## Question 2

2 Study the following exchange of correspondence, and then answer the questions (a – g) which follow.

**A** Dear Marcus  
 May I offer my congratulations on your winning a scholarship to Maccord University. As you know, your mother and I were students there (not *that* many years ago!) and I shall follow your progress with interest (not literally, I trust!). I am particularly pleased that you opened a Privileged Student account with us and I hope you find we are a student-friendly bank. Don't hesitate to get in touch if I can be of any particular assistance.  
 Yours sincerely  
 Anna Baxter  
 Manager

**B** Dear Marcus  
 I hope you are settling in and enjoying university life. By chance, I met your parents the other day and..... May I take this opportunity to remind you that your interest-free overdraft limit is \$100..... Don't forget that we have a dedicated student advisor at the branch and, of course, I'm always available for a chat.  
 Yours sincerely  
 Anna Baxter  
 Manager

**C** Dear Ms Baxter  
 Thank you for your letter of..... As you know, studying joint honours in English and Environmental Sciences means that I have to buy loads of books and equipment for the course.....  
 Yours  
 Marcus

**D** Dear Marcus  
 Thank you for your letter of..... However, I'm rather surprised to find that so many of our retailers such as 'Fashion Icon', 'Films4U', 'City Gaming', 'World of Bikes' and the local filling stations have diversified so much!.....  
 Yours sincerely  
 Anna Baxter  
 Manager

**E** Dear Ms Baxter  
 .....the post seems to be so unreliable these days, doesn't it?  
 Yours sincerely  
 Marcus Freeman

**F** Dear Marcus  
 .....and unless you are able to reduce your overdraft or produce evidence of a further source of income, I shall have no alternative but to.....  
 Yours sincerely  
 A Baxter  
 Manager

**G** Dear Ms Baxter  
 .....I really can't imagine what the people administering the scholarship fund are doing.  
 Yours sincerely  
 Marcus Freeman

**H** Dear Mr Freeman  
 May I make it clear that you are banking with us, we are not banking with you.  
 Yours sincerely  
 A Baxter (Ms)  
 Manager

- (a) In extract A, what impression do you think the bank manager is trying to make by using the phrases 'not *that* many years ago' and 'not literally, I trust!'? [2]
- (b) In extract B, why do you think the manager makes a reference to the student's parents? [1]
- (c) In extract D, what point is the bank manager trying to make? [3]
- (d) The correspondence is not complete: one letter in the exchange has not been included. Where do you think it might have been in the sequence between extract A and extract H? **In about 50 words** (no need to include date or address), use your imagination to compose a suitable letter. [5]
- (e) What might Marcus have said in the earlier part of extract E? **Write about 40 words.** [4]
- (f) **In about 100 words**, describe how the manager's attitude changes towards Marcus throughout the correspondence. [10]
- (g) Bearing in mind the situation that the student and the bank manager find themselves in, with whom do you sympathize more, and why? **Answer in about 100 words.** [10]

Note: Up to an additional 15 marks will be available for use of English.

### Mark scheme

- (a) Showing she is close in age to Marcus; although from a different generation is in touch with students. A gentle hint that she doesn't want Marcus to incur an overdraft and be penalized. Does not intend to spy on him. [2 × 1 = 2]
- (b) A distraction / wanting to appear as a family friend before getting to the real point to suggest to Marcus that he has gone beyond the interest-free limit. [1]
- (c) Using heavy sarcasm in letting Marcus know that he is fooling no-one by saying that he is spending

his money on books and necessary course equipment. The manager knows from his statements that he has bought clothes, video games (or similar), DVDs, and is running a motor bike / scooter. This can also be seen as a waste of money. [3]

- (d) Between D and E may be a popular choice (although other cases may be chosen and argued) as in E Marcus is trying to excuse himself by blaming the postal service.

In 50 words this can be only a short letter from the manager covering points such as:

- pointing out to Marcus that no reply has been received to D;
- and requiring an explanation for his spending patterns;
- and making it clear that the account needed to put in order;
- any other valid point.

In marking, take into account perception, relevance, fluency and word length. [5]

- (e) Apologies for not replying:

- but I never received your letter ...
- well, yes, I have treated myself to a few items ...
- but I really have spent a lot on books and equipment ...
- and, of course, I still have my scholarship money to come ...
- and I'm confident that I can soon put my account in order.
- any other valid point.

[4 × 1]

- (f) **A**

Very friendly tone; praise; establishes links with family; jocular style; values custom; offer of personal service.

**B**

Still friendly and provides gentle reminder of the terms of his account/further offer of help

**D**

A change of mood caused by her disbelief and (as she sees it) Marcus' attempt to pull the wool over her eyes. Irritation shown by use of sarcasm.

**F**

Increased irritation. The sequence suggests that Marcus failed to reply to E (embarrassed/ couldn't think of a convincing explanation) and a letter from the manager (not shown) has been sent – possibly in stronger terms than D asking Marcus why he hasn't replied and asking for specific measures to put his house in order. For the first time the manager indicates that the bank will instigate proceedings against Marcus. The manager adopts a more formal style of title.

**H**

It is unlikely that the manager believes the tale about the scholarship fund- perhaps she can see that the monies have actually been paid into his account. The rather abrupt letter combines more sarcasm, exasperation and anger. His forename is dropped for the first time – in anger? She reverts to an entirely formal style.

In assessing the answer, award

- 9–10 for a chronological approach that deals with each stage in the correspondence covered within the word limit and makes good use of analytical skills in about 100 words.

- 7–8 when one of the criteria above has not been satisfied;  
 5–6 when two of the above criteria have not been satisfied;  
 3–4 when the answer is badly flawed, but contains some worthwhile material;  
 0–2 when there is little or no merit in the answer. [10]

g) **Marcus:**

An impoverished student trying to make ends meet;  
 may really have spent lots on books and equipment;  
 even students are entitled to some fun;  
 may not have received the 'missing' letter;  
 there could well be some maladministration of the scholarship fund;  
 as a family friend the manager could have been more sympathetic.

**The Manager:**

As a family friend gave Marcus a warm welcome and offered the personal touch;  
 gave Marcus a very gentle reminder of the o/d limit and offered a meeting with a student advisor at the bank;  
 story about 'books and equipment' is barely credible and the manager is well within her rights to challenge Marcus' version of events and poke a little gentle fun at his story (tho' some may see it as rather more than that);  
 writes four letters to Marcus before she gets tough - giving the student many chances;  
 as Marcus hasn't even bothered to reply to one of her letters the manager is perfectly entitled to instigate proceedings on behalf of the bank.  
 the 'cock and bull' tale of the scholarship really is the last straw and the manager is well within her rights to feel angry and let down.

In assessing the answer, award:

- 9–10 for a perceptive development of at least four considerations; that is soundly organized; and makes effective use of analytical skills; in about 100 words.  
 7–8 when one of the criteria above has not been satisfied;  
 5–6 when two of the criteria above have not been satisfied;  
 3–4 when the answer is badly flawed, but contains some worthwhile material;  
 0–2 when there is little or no merit in the answer. [10]

## Example candidate response – grade a7

- a) These phrases are an attempt on behalf of the bank manager to establish a cordial and friendly relationship with her customer. She means to say that she is young enough for her to understand his needs and that her primary objective is his benefit and comfort. The light tone favours an informal relationship.
- b) She is trying to be familiar with the student while inferring that his parents will be kept informed of his doings and transactions with the bank.
- c) By her use of subtle sarcasm, she is making a comment on the expenditure of the student. He has, from what it seems, been spending his money on fashion items, films, ~~games~~ games, bikes and fuel. These are all disconnected from usual student expenditure on studies. The manager therefore implicitly expresses her disapproval upon his consumption pattern; he is spending too much on entertainment and not enough on his study material which ~~he~~ should have been his major concern.



d) the missing letter might be found between extract D and E:

Dear Marcus,

I have not received any answer to my previous letter. I do not know whether it has reached you. I am therefore sending you another one to request you to please repay your overdraft which is long overdue. I entreat you to spend sensibly in the future.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Baxter

(manager)

(54 words)

e) It indeed seems that I have not received your previous letter. I will have to request you to please extend my overdraft for some time since I am currently out of money. I apologise for the late reply.

(38 words)

f) The manager first uses a friendly tone, emphasizing her interest in his studies and her availability. She then subtly imposes restrictions by mentioning the limit and inferring that she is in touch with his parents. The use of sarcasm to comment upon his expenditure on futile commodities reflects her judgement on his extravagant lifestyle. She adopts a harsher tone. The next letter mirrors her business-like attitude through the formality and serious requests. The tone loses its former familiarity. In the last letter, she is succinct and extremely formal. She expresses clear displeasure, as it is obvious through the way she addresses him and her changed signature.

(100 words)

g) I sympathize with the bank manager. She was full of good intentions, emphasizing her friendly attitude and good personal relations with her client. The latter proves himself to be irresponsible. He neither replies to all her letters nor repays the overdraft. The manager might end up being in trouble with her superiors due to his carelessness. She might be considered as incompetent. Her efforts with Marcus have not been rewarded. In fact, the delay in repayment might even be ~~attributed~~ attributed to her familiarity with his family and her behaviour might be considered as unemphical by her superiors. She will have to answer for a student's extravagance. She might even lose her job.

(103 words)

### Examiner comment – grade a7

- (a)** At the outset, a strong impression is created by the candidate with the phrase 'cordial and friendly relationship'. This is precisely what the bank manager is trying to establish. The point about the manager's age is made though the pun on the word 'interest' proves elusive. Even so, the tone of the remarks is understood and this part earned full credit.
- (b)** This is a valid interpretation of the reason for the reference to Marcus' parents.
- (c)** Here the candidate shows that she really understands the manager's thinking. The irony employed by the manager isn't cutting or meant to be harmful, but rather gentle or, as the candidate puts it 'subtle'. It is made clear that Marcus is not fooling her and she manages to express her disapproval. Full marks.
- (d)** In correctly identifying the position of the missing letter, the candidate has read the correspondence closely and made the link to the postal service. Whilst other interpretations of the position of the missing letter could attract credit, none can be inferred as clearly from the correspondence as between D and E. The answer makes reference to why no reply has been received and also contains a request to Marcus to put his house in order. The tone is just right as, at this stage, the manager is still sympathetic to Marcus.
- (e)** Here three clear points emerge: confirmation of a missing letter; a request for an extension of the overdraft facility; an apology. Again, the candidate shows perception.
- (f)** This is virtually a model response to correspond with the marking scheme! Each stage of the correspondence is dealt with in chronological order and, most impressively, the candidate never loses sight of **how** the manager's attitude changes at the expense of **why**. The links between letters are made and changes of mood- subtle or otherwise- are registered. The change to a formal style of address is also noted. Excellent.
- (g)** It is perhaps not surprising that a candidate with such maturity of thought should come down on the side of the manager. In terms of the way that they have each conducted themselves, a case is made for the reasonableness of the manager and the fecklessness of Marcus. The candidate also appreciates the wider professional issues involved.

**Use of English**

This is written by someone confident and fluent in the language. It is virtually error free and shows an ability to handle and express complex ideas. There are many felicitous turns of phrase, vocabulary is extensive and there are some delightful nuances shown.

**Conclusion**

In every respect this is an exceptional script.

## Question 3

3 Read the following passage, and then answer all the questions (a – f) which follow.

It was a chance conversation in March 1985 that first started Josh Silver on his quest to make the world's poor see. A professor of physics at Oxford University, Silver was idly discussing optical lenses with a colleague, wondering whether they might be adjusted without the need for expensive specialist equipment, when the lightbulb of inspiration first flickered above his head. What if it were possible, he thought, to make a pair of glasses which, instead of requiring an optician, could be 'tuned' by wearers to correct their own vision? Might it be possible to bring affordable spectacles to millions who would otherwise never have them? 5

More than two decades after posing that question, Silver now feels he has the answer. The British inventor has embarked on a quest that is breathtakingly ambitious, but which he insists is achievable – to offer glasses to a billion of the world's poorest people by 2020. Some 30,000 pairs of his spectacles have already been distributed in fifteen countries, but to Silver that is very small beer. Within the next year the now-retired professor and his team plan to launch a trial in India which will, they hope, distribute one million pairs of glasses. 10 15

The target, within a few years, is 100 million pairs annually. With the global need for basic sight-correction (by his own detailed research, estimated at more than half the world's population) Silver sees no reason to stop at a billion.

If the scale of his ambition is dazzling, at the heart of his plan is an invention which is engagingly simple. Silver has devised a pair of glasses which relies on the principle that the fatter a lens the more powerful it becomes. Inside the device's tough plastic lenses are two clear circular sacs filled with fluid, each of which is connected to a small syringe attached to either arm of the glasses. 20

The wearer adjusts a dial on the syringe to adjust the amount of fluid in the sac, thus changing the power of the lens. When the wearer is happy with the strength of each lens the sac is sealed by twisting a small screw, and the syringes removed. The principle is so simple that with very little guidance people are perfectly capable of creating glasses to their own prescription. 25

Silver recalls that moment in 1985 as a 'tremendous glimpse of the obvious' – namely that opticians weren't necessary to provide glasses. This is a crucial factor in the developing world where trained specialists are in desperate demand: in Britain there is one for every 4,500 people, in sub-Saharan Africa there is only one per million. 30

The implications of bringing glasses within the reach of poor communities are enormous, says the scientist. Literacy rates improve hugely, fishermen are able to mend their nets, women to weave clothing. In Ghana, Silver met a man whose sight had deteriorated with age, and who had been forced to retire as a tailor because he could no longer see to thread the needle of his sewing machine. 'So he retires. He was about 35. He could have worked for at least another 20 years. We put these glasses on him, and he smiled and threaded his needle. He can work at his trade now.' 35

Making and distributing a billion pairs of spectacles is no small undertaking. Of course – even at a dollar each (the target cost) and without Silver taking any profit, the cost is eye-watering. This is what Silver calls 'the challenge of scaling up'. 40

For the Indian project he has joined forces with Mehmood Khan, a businessman whose family runs a humanitarian programme based in 500 villages in the northern state of Haryana. There will be no shortage of takers in the region, Khan says. 'In just one of our districts we will have half a million people who need the technology.' Khan's day job as Global Leader of Innovation for a large multi-national company means that he has contact with 150 million consumers a day and is therefore used to dealing with big numbers. 45

But surely finding funding on this scale will prove impossible? 'I share a vision with Josh,' says Khan. 'A thing like this, once it works, you create awareness, you enrol governments and the UN, and the model becomes scaleable. People begin to believe.' And from a business point of view, he notes wryly, when poor people become more economically developed they also become potential customers. 50

In addition to the enormous manufacturing and distribution challenges, Silver has one other pressing problem, namely addressing the sole complaint about the glasses – their rather clunky size and design. 'Work is going on on several new designs, and further work will be required to get the costs down. The truth is that there is, at the moment, no device that can be made for a dollar in volumes of 100 million. But I am entirely confident that we can do that.' 55

Such is his determination, you wouldn't bet against it. Oxford University, at his instigation, has agreed to host a Centre for Vision in the Developing World, which is about to begin working on a World Bank-funded project with scientists from China, South Africa and the US. 'Things are never simple. But I will solve this problem if I can. And I won't really let people stand in my way.' 60

Note: When a question asks for an answer IN YOUR OWN WORDS and you select the appropriate material from the passage for your answer, you must still use your own words to express it. Little credit can be given to answers which only copy words or phrases from the passage.

- (a) What does the author of the article mean by the expressions: 'lightbulb of inspiration' (line 4); 'very small beer' (line 13); 'eye-watering' (line 42); 'you wouldn't bet against it' (line 60)? [4]
- (b) Explain in about 100 of your own words the essential differences between Silver's glasses and conventional glasses. [10]
- (c) What specific examples does the inventor give of ways in which his glasses will help those on very low incomes? [3]
- (d) What, in the passage, suggests that not everyone's motives are purely benevolent? [2]
- (e) In about 40 of your own words, explain what difficulties the inventor might face in making the scheme work. [4]

- (f) (i) Explain the meaning of **six** of the following words as they appear in the passage. You may write the answer in one word or a short phrase:

idly (line 2)

embarked (line 10)

scale (line 19)

glimpse (line 29)

deteriorated (line 35)

undertaking (line 40)

pressing (line 55)

instigation (line 60)

[6]

- (ii) For each of the words that you have chosen from the list, write a separate sentence to illustrate its meaning as used in the passage. Your six sentences should **not** deal with the subject matter of the passage. [6]

Note: Up to an additional 15 marks will be available for use of English.

### Mark scheme

(a)

- Mental illumination; stimulus for an idea; a 'eureka' moment; flash of insight;
- Trifling or unimportant (when compared with something else);
- Astounding; Amazing; Almost inevitable; You wouldn't disagree

[4 × 1 = 4]

(b) Credit any five of the points below or any other valid point:

- (Basic principle is that the strength of a lens depends on its thickness).
- Conventional glasses have solid, fixed lenses made of glass or plastic; Silver's spectacles have lenses of variable focal length as the lenses are filled with fluid and the power changed by varying the amount of fluid in the lens.
- Liquid is injected through the side pieces into a pouch inside the lens until the correct strength is obtained.
- The glasses will be much cheaper and therefore affordable to a greater number of people.
- People can do this themselves/no need for a qualified optician therefore making it easier for people without access to specialised medical services.
- No need for specialist equipment which is often unavailable in LEDCs.
- Conventional spectacles are designed for a specific wearer; the new model can be easily adapted to suit almost anyone.
- Silver's glasses can be adjusted as the patient's eyesight changes.
- Silver's glasses are much less attractive than most conventional glasses.
- Award one mark for a simple statement.
- Award two marks for one simple statement plus development.

[5 × 2 = 10]

(c) Credit any three of the points below

- Enables people to read;
- Those who depend on fishing for a living can repair their equipment;
- Women can make clothes;
- Prolongs the working life of individuals.

[3 × 1 = 3]

- (d) Mehmood Khan spots a business opportunity: as people become wealthier they are more likely to purchase things. He works for a large organisation. [2]
- (e) Credit any of the points below or any other valid point:
- The difficulties in actually making the glasses in bulk;
  - Transferring them from the manufacturer to the potential customers;
  - The glasses aren't particularly attractive/unflattering to the wearer;
  - They are cumbersome, uncomfortable;
  - Difficulty in getting financial backing;
  - Getting the cost of the glasses down.
  - Getting a suitable site. [4 × 1 = 4]
- (f) (i) Credit any six of the following:
- idly: casually, purposelessly;
  - embarked: started, engaged, commenced;
  - scale: range, compass, size, extent;
  - glimpse: momentary view, a passing appearance;
  - deteriorated: got worse, got poorer, became impaired;
  - undertaking: task, project (taken upon oneself);
  - pressing: urgent, immediate;
  - instigation: initiation, suggestion [6]
- (ii) As he had nothing better to do, the man idly watched the traffic go by as he waited for his bus.
- In her determination to win a scholarship, the student abandoned her social life and embarked on a revision programme at the start of term.
- Confronted by Everest, even the most experienced mountaineers find the scale of their task daunting.
- As the cheetah was running so quickly through the long grass, the photographer could catch only a glimpse of the animal.
- As the team continued to lose matches, its position in the league deteriorated.
- The opposition party thought that the government's undertaking to reduce the rate of inflation by the end of the year was very ambitious.
- The secretary left the meeting suddenly as she remembered her pressing appointment at the hospital.
- At the president's instigation the ministries were forced to cut their spending for the next financial year.

## Example candidate response – grade a8

3.

(a) lightbulb of inspiration: The author means that ~~Josh~~ all of a sudden an idea appeared to Josh which was a result of inner positive feeling.

very small beer: The author By this, the author means that Silver thinks he has not done a great deal in distributing 30,000 pairs of spectacles. It implies that still more needs to be done.

eye-watering: The author means that Josh ~~is~~ is making the glasses affordable to everyone so that it may reach even the poorer countries.

you wouldn't bet against it: The author means that seeing Josh's conviction, ~~one cannot on his own~~ ~~ready~~ to help the poor, one cannot stop him in his endeavour and <sup>or</sup> in any way in reaching his goal.

(b) Silver's glasses comprise of very hard plastic lenses. Inside ~~the~~ lenses, there are <sup>two</sup> sacs which are filled with a fluid. ~~The~~ <sup>two</sup> syringes <sup>is</sup> are attached to each of the two sacs. The syringes lie on each either side of the glass. ~~on one of the arms~~. The power of the lens can be adjusted as per required by varying the amount of fluid in the sac. When the wearer ~~can~~ sees clearer, ~~to the~~ <sup>he</sup> latter just has



to seal the sac and tighten it using a screw. ~~Conventional~~  
 On the other side Conventional glasses cannot be  
 adjusted as per required. It has only a limited range  
 of power and can be changed only after the consent  
 by the optician. Conventional glasses are generally ~~thin~~  
 thinner than ~~the~~ Silver's glasses.

(c) The inventor says that people with a generally  
 low income can be helped out in pursuing their  
 work. He illustrates examples of fish fishermen who  
 will be able to pursue their work and continue  
 repairing and making nets even if their eyes  
 eyesight becomes weak. He also says that women  
 may continue working in the textile industry  
 even if their eyesight gets bad.

(d) Khan's motives are not purely benevolent even  
 if he agrees on certain issues is in accordance  
 on certain issues with Josh. Khan is money minded  
 is more and is more preoccupied about profits and losses  
 rather than benevolence.

(e) The inventor might face problem in ~~finding funds~~<sup>gathering</sup>  
 for his projects gathering funds for his project. He  
 might ~~may~~ also find it difficult to make new designs to  
 adapt to the lifestyle of people. Josh might encounter  
 problems in ~~the~~ maintaining the cost of the glasses at one  
 dollar each.

(f)(i) scale - dimension.  
 deteriorated - became worse.  
~~undertaking~~  
 pressing - of great priority.  
 glimpse - sight.  
 instigation - ~~persistent request~~ compulsive request.  
 embarked - set for.

(ii) The scale of his popularity at school has gone up since he saved the headmistress from a car accident.

The atmosphere of the village deteriorated even more after the police station was burnt to ashes last month.

The <sup>severe</sup> poisoning of the lake ~~at~~ Iita Titikaka used by <sup>thousands</sup> millions of people is a more pressing issue than the ~~setting up~~ bringing down of illegal houses occupied by local residents.

In the rainforest of Amazon, if one gets a glimpse of the very rare chimpanzee, ~~best~~  
 During his travel to the rainforest of Amazon, he ~~may~~ managed to get a glimpse of the very rare Cobra residing there and he should consider himself very lucky.

At the headboy's instigation, the school arranged for an end of year party which had never been

carried out for the past twenty years.

Christopher Columbus embarked for in his search for of new territories and after months of travel discovered America.

### Examiner comment – grade a8

- (a)** A good start is made as three of the four expressions are adequately explained. The link between ‘light bulb of inspiration’ and the suddenness of an idea is appreciated; the term ‘very small beer’ implying a small achievement to date, with much more required is understood; and, in the final expression, the emphasis on achievement rather than determination is recognised.
- (b)** This part earned half the available marks as much of the answer is descriptive and does not focus sufficiently on the differences between Silver’s glasses and conventional spectacles. Credit is obtained for the description of the glasses and the way the focal length is adjusted. The fact that conventional glasses cannot be adjusted in this way is appreciated. The role of the optician is mentioned and there is a partially made point relating to shape and appearance. One of the important differences mentioned in the passage is the relative cost and affordability of Silver’s glasses; this is overlooked by the candidate as is the need, or otherwise, for specialist equipment.
- (c)** The benefits to fishermen and weavers are described in the answer but there is no mention of the extension of an individual’s working life or the improvement in literacy rates.
- (d)** Although the idea about greater disposable income is not clearly stated, the candidate does identify the relevant paragraph in the passage and shows an understanding of the businessman’s motives.
- (e)** The candidate observes the word limit and mentions funds, designs and cost as three difficulties the inventor may face in getting the scheme to work. There are other problems that could have been included and so this part fell just short of the full mark.
- (f) (i)** Two of the chosen words - ‘deteriorated’ and ‘pressing’ - are given totally satisfactory definitions. ‘Dimension’ is close but would not read well if substituted for ‘scale’ in the passage; ‘sight’ has a much broader meaning than ‘glimpse’. The other definitions have a very different meaning to that intended.
- (f) (ii)** This part was well answered as five of the sentences illustrate the chosen word well enough to get the mark. Even the sentence illustrating the meaning of ‘glimpse’ is close to achieving the mark. There is, however, not quite enough here to make it clear that a brief look, rather than a lengthy observation of a cobra has been taken.

### Use of English

The English is fluent and confident and the candidate is able to use ‘own words’ rather than copy from the passage- even in (b) where there is some complex and technical language. Spelling and punctuation are sound and there are very few grammatical errors so that meaning is never in doubt. This script was placed in the top band for English.

### Conclusion

This is a very good script where significant credit is obtained for each part of the question. If more relevant material had been included in (b) and the definitions had been more precise in (f) (i) it would have achieved an outstanding mark.

## Question 1

See pages 62–65 for question and mark scheme.

## Example candidate response – grade c10

~~I think~~ I am ~~more~~ more likely to combine  
 (a) Trans Ocean Airlines and King's hotel as ~~the~~ first  
 of all ~~the~~ the arrival time ~~is~~ of the <sup>Trans Ocean</sup> plane ~~is~~ will  
 be ~~after~~ after noon and thus the King's hotel  
 will be immediately accessible compared to the Blue  
 Martin. <sup>Secondly,</sup> as the water will be is  
 cold at this period, the family  
~~won't~~ <sup>will not</sup> enjoy sea-activities <sup>much</sup> ~~the~~ as ~~the~~  
 Kururu National Park, the famous  
 religious site and the extinct volcano  
~~would~~ are nearer ~~than~~ ~~the~~ to the  
 King's hotel than the Blue Martin. <sup>thus,</sup>  
 the family will not have to travel  
 much for the voyages and are  
 going to enjoy more. Mrs Romero, <sup>suffering</sup> ~~has~~  
~~she~~ from car-sickness, will have to only  
 one long <sup>way</sup> <sup>twice</sup> ~~to~~ encounter ~~that~~ ~~which~~ ~~is~~  
 from the airport to the hotel. ~~then~~ <sup>vice-versa</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>then</sup>  
 the way from the hotel to the  
 natural and ~~and~~ cultural attractions will  
 be shorter. Moreover, the twins can ~~to~~ enjoy  
 to discotheques ~~from~~ ~~the~~ ~~hotels~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~  
~~the~~ ~~from~~ in the evenings, as ~~there~~ I  
~~we~~ think that ~~the~~

Robert Kim.  
 First point in Jean

5

1

(a) Plan

Flight

Master

Trans. O.A.

direct service.

↳ 11:30 - 2000 → <sup>arrived</sup> time can

↳ good timing

Mr Romero encounter

take-off & landing - only

once.

can have lunch then go to hotel

hotel.

\* hotel \* - open after noon -

- cold water - can not <sup>crisp water</sup> ~~boil~~ - <sup>stf</sup>

good food. (good eater)

- taxis expensive f no driving

& ↳ Hr R.

car sickness.

only from

airp. to

k long

voyage -

clean

small/shirt.

cannot go stay

far from the

encl n.a.

- Good

- buses

can travel

have disco at night due to

evening entertainment.

(b) Air Bonizar and Blue Marlin is not the good choice as Mr Romero has take-off and landing gear and will have to encounter take-off and landing <sup>through the Air Bonizar</sup> twice. Moreover, the travel from ~~king~~ Blue Marlin to the cultural and natural attractions ~~is~~ is too long and thus, will be ~~ext~~ more expensive. The couple will ~~be~~ have to wait till late afternoon to get access and will be ~~tired~~ tired waiting. They will also have ~~to~~ problems in travelling in the morning, ~~and~~ afternoon and at lunch time ~~to~~ as the and Mrs Romero ~~will~~ would surely suffer more than enjoying and her suffering, ~~will~~ <sup>would</sup> affect the whole family's holiday. Furthermore, the family will have to wait till late afternoon to get access to the hotel and will be ~~tired~~ <sup>frustrate</sup> tired waiting.

(c) firstly, the king's hotel has a big problem. ~~that is~~ The occasional interruptions to the electricity supply would certainly affect their holidays as they will be bored without <sup>as much facilities</sup> activities. The ~~sea~~ rocky shore as well is not favourable for them there. They will be deprived of their wish to have a ~~good~~ <sup>real</sup> beach holiday. Not to forget, their way from the airport to the hotel and vice versa is ~~constant~~ going to give them ~~a~~ <sup>to</sup> all a headache and ~~a~~ specially Mrs Romero. ~~When they will have to travel in the evening to catch the plane the airport, is g they a the travel~~

3

(d) ~~The twelfth~~

(d) The point where it is stated that there are no coconut palms in the king's hotel garden as the coconut palms ~~is~~ <sup>is not</sup> has no connection to my work

No real justification 1

First

Examiner comment – grade c10

(a) One of the skills tested by this paper is the ability to write concisely within a specified word limit. It is, therefore, helpful to draft a plan before writing the final answer. Here, the candidate does draw up some preliminary ideas but is unable to incorporate them all into the answer within the prescribed 120 words. A good start is made in that the choice of flight/hotel is stated at the outset and the first point is made within the opening sentence. The second idea – regarding sea temperature – did not attract credit since this has nothing to do with the chosen combination. A perfectly valid observation is made about the proximity of the island's attractions to the King's hotel; unfortunately this is not fully developed as the link to the cost of transport and the family's limited budget is not made. The next point concerning Mrs Romero's discomfort when travelling between the airport and the hotel is muddled and unintelligible. At

this point the rubric is contravened and the final point could not be considered. This section was deemed to be 'flawed' and fell into one of the lower mark bands.

- (b)** As in the previous part, the candidate gets straight to the point in recognising the disadvantage of using Air Banizar. Whilst this point was fully credited, the candidate came perilously close to copying from the passage. The next point is well made as the expenditure on taxis is understood. The map provided in the Question shows only a limited number of roads on the island and it is reasonable to believe that a journey from the Blue Marlin would involve travel through the Capital. The final point about the delay in accessing rooms at the Blue Marlin until late afternoon overlooks the fact that the chosen flight does not arrive until early evening. With three developed points this fell into one of the middle mark bands.
- (c)** The reference to power cuts is certainly a potential source of complaint, though the candidate could have been a little more specific in describing how the family might be 'bored'. A reference to family members being unable to read in the dark, or possible difficulties experienced in the hotel kitchen would have provided support. The nature of the sea shore is a valid point. The final point about the distance from the airport to the hotel is rather weak. Had it been developed to mention the stop-start nature of a traffic jam or exposure to exhaust fumes then credit would have been given. As the journey to the other hotel is not that much shorter and along a zigzag road the case was not made.
- (d)** The choice of point 12 is sound, but the reference to 'my work' did not add anything to justify the choice, and this part attracted minimal credit.

### **Use of English**

The writing was quite fluent and the meaning rarely in doubt. The candidate showed an admirable observance of the rubric concerning the use of 'own words', and was successful in avoiding lifting material from the passage. There were few mechanical errors – the occasional verb ending apart, e.g. 'Mrs Romero would surely suffers more ...'. There were one or two examples of clumsy expression, e.g. 'the family are not going to travel much for the voyages and are going to enjoy more.' The script was placed in the higher middle mark band for English.



## Question 2

See pages 68–71 for question and mark scheme.

## Example candidate response – grade c10

2

(a) By using 'not that many years ago', the bank manager is trying to say that it has not been so long time since she finished her studies at the Macdorf University and perhaps she means to say that she is not so old and will be able to understand and guide Marcus especially when it concerns the university. She is not expecting so much change occurring at the Macdorf University.

By using 'not literally, I trust!', the bank manager is trying to make Marcus feel at ease after telling him that she will follow his progress. She will not be constantly behind Marcus. She has complete faith in him in the sense that she is sure Marcus is a good student and will make the most out of his studies at the university.

- (b) The bank manager ~~is~~ makes such reference may be because Marcus's parents went to the bank to give money for the overdraft and this money was more than a hundred dollars.
- (c) The bank manager is <sup>indirectly</sup> trying to say that the bank will not be able to increase the overdraft of Marcus. On one hand, Marcus is asking for giving more money for the overdraft and on the other hand, the retailers of the bank are being diversified and offering the public more products. The bank will have to increase money given to the retailers also. ~~Since~~ If it does likewise, it will suffer a great loss.
- (d) It might have been between extract A and extract B.
- Dear Ms Baxter
- Thank you for your letter of . . . . . and for congratulating me. I am happy to see that you care for your customer by following their progress. It is my pleasure to bank with you. I will ~~even be settling in the university~~.
- Today is my first day at the university and there are a few arrangements yet to be done. . . . .
- Yours,  
Marcus.
- (e) Marcus might have said that he is surely understanding the meaning behind the bank manager saying that the retailers have diversified. The retailers have informed the public and the bank through the past by putting up what might be falsified images. (40 words)

(f) At the beginning of the correspondence, the manager is very friendly with the customer. She puts the customer at ease and reassures him that the bank is here to guide him in case of any query. Then, with much attention she formulates her words to ask him to give money within limit. The customer does not understand and the manager tells him indirectly and with care that she will not be able to increase overdraft. Then she gives him two alternatives and finally loses control and gets angry. (58 words)

(g) It is the bank manager with whom I sympathize the most. This is because being a manager, the girl has to know how to talk to people and tolerate many difficult cases such as Marcus. She has to put herself in the situation of the customer, understand his difficulties but at the same time manage the bank's money. She has two problems to undertake, that is, manage the bank and making sure that ~~she~~ the bank does not lose any customer. As compared to the customer who thinks of only his benefits, the manager has to provide a win-win situation for both client and the bank or else, she will either lose a customer or her job. (115 words)

### Examiner comment – grade c10

- (a) The candidate gets off to a good start as the light-hearted tone used by the manager is fully appreciated. The reference to the manager's age is spot-on and the interpretation that the manager will not spy on Marcus is a perfectly valid one.
- (b) This is quite an imaginative idea, but there is nothing in extract B to support it.
- (c) The response shows a lack of understanding of the point the manager is trying to make. In taking the letter at face value the candidate has not taken into consideration the previous correspondence. In particular, the phrase 'retailers of the bank are being diversified' used by the candidate indicates that the manager's use of irony is missed. The idea that the bank will suffer a great loss by giving money to the retailers, is wide of the mark.

- (d)** In order to obtain full marks for this part of the question, candidates had to place the missing letter between D and E as the fragment of correspondence in E points clearly to a break in communication at that point. Credit could be obtained for alternative answers and here, although the response is rather bland, the letter is a sensible enough reply to the manager's first letter.
- (e)** There is nothing to credit in this response. To obtain full marks, there has to be some logical link between the earlier part of the letter and the final comment about the poor postal service. Comments about 'diversified retailers' and 'falsified images' indicate that this section of the correspondence is not understood.
- (f)** This is a fair attempt to describe the changes in the manager's attitude and much of the answer does deal with how her attitude changes. The candidate addresses the various stages in the correspondence although there is limited analysis. The more formal style adopted by the manager towards the end of the correspondence is not discussed.
- (g)** The major issue here is that the assessment is far too general; what is written could be said about the relationship between the bank and any of its 'difficult' customers. There is a lack of focus on the particular situation faced by Marcus and the manager. To achieve a high mark, an answer would need to address how the manager had reacted to the behaviour of Marcus. This was placed into one of the lower mark bands for content.

### **Use of English**

The English is fluent with few errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar. There are some examples of clumsy expression: 'has not been so long time since ...' in (a); 'asking for giving more money ..' in (c); notwithstanding, the script was placed at the lower end of the top mark band for English.

### **Conclusion**

A lack of understanding of the correspondence in places coupled with limited appreciation of the situation in which the manager and student found themselves suppressed the mark for content. The overall grade was achieved due to the good standard of English.

## Question 3

See pages 76–79 for question and mark scheme.

## Example candidate response – grade c10

2/	(a) 'lightbulb of inspiration'	
	• The topic being discussed, suddenly gave birth to a new idea in his mind, and <del>gist of</del> the discussion was a strong source of encouragement and reference to work on the idea.	9
	'very small beer'	
	• The achievement was very little and almost unsatisfactory <del>when</del> in comparison to the <sup>ambitious</sup> target <del>set</del> set by Silver.	
	'eye-watering'	
	• The cost is still unaffordable, with reference to the living conditions and thin <u>income</u> of the people who would have to buy the special glasses.	9
	'you wouldn't bet against it'	
	• No one would dare oppose the aim of Silver, since <sup>positive</sup> was tremendously motivated; so strongly, that no one would even <del>not</del> think of his dream not being realised.	9
		(3)

- (b) • The thick lens in Silver's glasses contains clear sacs filled with fluid, where the amount of fluid determines the power of the lens, whereas in conventional glasses it is the thickness of the lens that determines its power.
- Silver's glasses have screws and syringe-connection parts, to seal and regulate the amount of fluid in the sacs.
- Silver's glasses are larger in size than conventional glasses, and the design makes them seem odd.
- ~~Silver's glasses~~ The lens power of Silver's glasses can be adjusted by the wearer himself, whereas that of conventional glasses has to be adjusted by an optician.

(98 words)

5

(a) • More people will be able to read, write and study, hence creating a more literate society, without much expenses on glasses.

• Jobs that require high optical activity, such as fishermen mending their nets and women weaving clothing, will be able to perform the tasks more facilitated greatly.

• People who have lost their jobs due to poor vision, e.g. the tailor, or people of poor vision wanting to join a field requiring high optical activity, would benefit greatly from these glasses.

3

(d.) The word "warily" and the phrase "when poor people become more economically developed, they also become potential consumers", from line 57.

✓ enough exam. ✓

②

(e.) • Even at such a reduced price, some low-income earners might not afford the glasses.

• A large-scale distribution, requires <sup>great</sup> co-operation and sponsorship, which might not be provided by some people.

• The manufacture is on a large-scale, and the amount manufactured might be able to meet with the number of people in a certain population.

②

(f) (1) idly - leisurely

embarked - set off ✓

undertaking - responsibility

instigation - conviction

scale - basis

pressing - unresolved

I have the habit of just sitting idly on the cliff, and watching the rising sun full of promises. ①

We have embarked on a journey, which is called life, and it has no return ticket. ✓

Baby-sitting is a huge undertaking, but I can manage during the holidays, due to past experiences with my siblings.

This mathematical problem is very pressing; if I had all the time in the world, I could have, perhaps, solved it.

Due to his instigation, my boss no longer believes in me and I have not been selected to represent our company at national level. ①

17 + 9 → 26

Examiner comment – grade c10

(a) The candidate makes a good start in that three of the expressions are understood. The ‘suddenness’ of mental illumination; the insignificance of Silver’s achievement to date, compared to his overall target; and that fact that he will surely realise that target are properly appreciated. The meaning of ‘eye watering’ proves elusive – a reference to affordability did not warrant credit.



- (b)** A number of valid contrasts are made. The difference in size and design between Silver's glasses and conventional spectacles is made as is the role of the optician. The explanation as to the optical difference is less clear as the importance of a lens' thickness is not restricted to conventional glasses. The important issues of cost and affordability are overlooked as is the need, or otherwise, for specialist equipment. A mid-range mark was awarded for this part of the question.
- (c)** Full marks were awarded as the candidate correctly identifies the issue of literacy together with the help provided to fishermen and weavers. The additional point concerning the extension of a person's working life is also made.
- (d)** The relevant quotation from Mehmood Khan is identified and the reference to 'wryly' suggests that the candidate fully appreciates the businessman's motive.
- (e)** In the passage there are six potential difficulties identified. There was also the opportunity for candidates to provide some ideas of their own such as obtaining a suitable site or the possibility that wearers could experience unforeseen difficulties in actually making the necessary adjustments to the glasses. In this answer just two ideas are put forward, cost and financial backing, which attracted half of the available marks.
- (f) (i)** The only word that is clearly explained is 'embarked'. Although in certain circumstances 'idly' could convey a similar meaning to 'leisurely' as could 'undertaking' to 'responsibility' this is not how the words are used in the passage.
- (f) (ii)** Although, the six sentences are grammatically sound, the one illustrating 'embarked' is the only one that unambiguously illustrates the word's meaning. For example, in the final sentence 'conviction' or 'investigation' could easily replace 'instigation'. In the penultimate sentence, using 'pressing problem' contravenes the instruction not to use material from the passage.

### Use of English

The answer flows well and the meaning is always clear with some rather nice turns of phrase. There are a number of mechanical errors including some incorrect punctuation in places. In (a) 'The topic being discussed, suddenly gave birth ...' is an example of an extraneous comma. In general, the candidate manages to avoid slavish copying from the text, and the degree of fluency shown justified an English mark in the second highest mark band.

Question 1

See pages 62–65 for question and mark scheme.

Example candidate response – grade e12

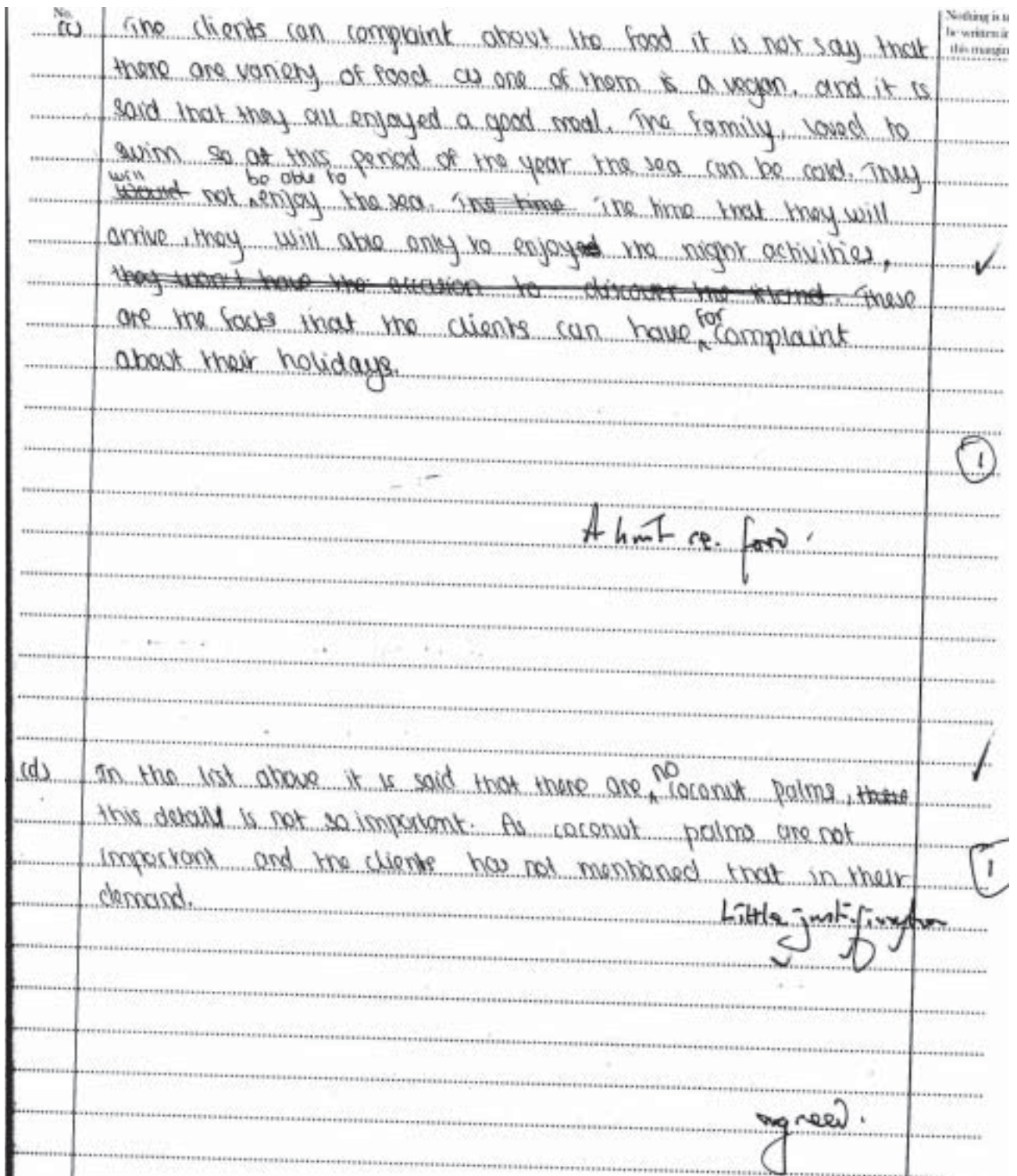
The family consist of two adults and  
twins aged 16 years. Both have different choice and have to  
pleased them. They Air Bonizar is the best for them. The  
plane will have to stop for two hours, at that time they  
can relax a bit. The Blue Merlin is the most appropriate  
hotel for the family. As the youngs wants to learn water-suit  
and discotheques they will be happy as these are available  
at the Blue Merlin. There is a swimming pool for the family.  
As they all like nature, each week the hotel organized a  
Free trip to national Park. Water sports and a trip to  
national Park are free so it will be an advantage for the  
family as they want to be careful before spending their money.  
They will save money and can use that money for something  
else.

Has finished on Page

8 Jan

6

No.		this margin
b)	<p>if the family take the flight Trans Ocean Airlines, they will arrived at 11:30 but the only hotel available at that time is The King's Hotel. <del>there is a + a</del> The King's Hotel there is <del>always</del> often a problem of electricity, so they will remain in the dark and can't do much of activities available. it is difficult to have access <del>at the</del> for books. so it will be a disadvantage for the twins, as they wanted to learn water-ski with the electricity problem the <del>children</del> twins won't enjoy the discotheques. The hotel is a bit far from the airport, as Mrs Romero suffers from car-sickness it will not pleased her at all. And to enjoy they have to walk for a long distance, to reach the capital, it <del>will</del> that will affect the health of Mrs Romero as she is recovering from a broken leg.</p>	<p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p> <p>✓</p>
	<p>? out about future for airport is better to walk.</p>	<p>(6)</p>



Examiner comment – grade e12

(a) One of the skills tested by this paper is the ability to write concisely within a specified word limit. The opening sentence is a good example of how to waste precious words in that it essentially a restatement of part of the opening paragraph of the question. The luxury of such 'scene setting' cannot be afforded. It is only on the sixth line that creditable material appears with a relevant observation about the availability of water sports and evening entertainment. The point about the swimming pool is irrelevant as both hotels are so equipped and, in this respect, are of equal merit. The next point concerning the organized trip to the National Park is creditable and the need for the family to spend within their budget is understood. Certain key information in the question concerning the time of the plane's arrival and avoidance of traffic jams en-route to the Blue Marlin are overlooked.

- (b)** The opening of this answer shows a lack of understanding in that a case for the King's Hotel appears to be made when, in fact, the question asks for the least favourable option. Things improve and a valid point relating to power cuts and their consequences is made. The next idea relates to the hotel's location and the nature of the shore which would not provide an ideal opportunity to practise water sports. This point could do with a little more development. The next disadvantage raised is a development of the earlier point regarding the electricity supply. The point about the distance of the hotel from the airport is rather weak given that there is not that much difference if the other hotel had been chosen. There is no mention of the potential traffic jam through the Capital which could affect car passengers – especially if there were frequent stop-starts and exposure to exhaust fumes. In any event, the nature of the zig-zag road to the Blue Marlin is more likely to induce nausea.
- (c)** The answer begins with a comment about the type of food that the Blue Marlin could provide. The text does not state that vegan/vegetarian options are not available, but there is a case for suggesting that there could be some disappointment in this respect. The second point about sea temperature is completely irrelevant as it is the same whichever hotel is chosen. The final idea is rather weak as arrival/departure times would have been known and agreed to in advance. In any case, Air Banizar's flight at 23:00 would give the family extra time at the end of the holiday.
- (d)** The choice of point 12 (coconut palms) is probably the obvious one to choose. There is, however, little justification made to earn additional credit.

### Use of English

The Rubric has been observed in that there is very little direct copying from the text. On the other hand, there are frequent errors in grammar and general expression. Verb endings/tenses are weak and hinder the flow. A good example is to be found at the beginning of (c): 'The clients can complaint about the food it is not say that there are variety of food...'. The script was placed in Band (b) for Use of English.

## Question 2

See pages 68–71 for question and mark scheme.

Example candidate response – grade e12

- 2
- a) By using the phrases 'not that many years ago' the manager wants to let the student know that ~~she~~ ~~she~~ knows ~~his~~ <sup>his</sup> mother closely and that she remembers her well when using the phrase 'not literally, I trust!' the bank manager lets Marcus know that he is trusted to continue working hard at the university and therefore the bank will not be monitoring him every step he takes.
- (b) In this extract, the manager makes reference to the student's parents because to a certain extent every decision Marcus takes involve his parents as well. This may be the case because the parents may most probably will be financing a part of his university studies thus from time to time the bank manager consult the parents as well as Marcus.
- c) In extract 0, the bank manager tries to tell Marcus that ~~they~~ the bank and her did not expect their retailers to have changed so much. The bank manager also let Marcus that she was not aware of the changes in the shops and that she is sorry for any inconvenience that Marcus might have experienced.

d) Dear Ms. Grant,

Thank you, I am honoured to be using your bank. As you must be knowing, tertiary education is quite expensive and I am very grateful to the bank and you for helping me financially ~~to~~ while relieving my parents of a heavy burden.

Yours  
Marcus

e) Thank you for all your well wishes and the help you have been giving me but it has been a long time since the last allowance which I really need for ~~my~~ the supplies for ~~the~~ <sup>my</sup> courses but

f) Through the letters sent to Marcus it can be observed that the bank manager's attitude changes but not in a positive way. At the beginning the manager was very sweet and happy for Marcus. She was ~~att~~ <sup>trying</sup> ~~ready~~ to help him but as time passes she seems to slowly becoming hostile to Marcus. She seems to be a little irresponsible as the help she was sending to Marcus was not reaching him in time. At the end she does not appear polite, we can even say that she is quite rude in her last letter.

g) I sympathize with Marcus as the simple act of applying for a scholarship implies that most



probably his family is a poor one, consequently, he really needed that financial help. Having won that scholarship he did not have to worry about anything at start. However, now he has to find a way to finance the rest of his studies since the bank is no longer willing to help him. Having granted the scholarship to Marcus, the bank should have continued whatever help they were giving to Marcus till the end of his tertiary studies and not disappoint him half way of it.

### Examiner comment – grade e12

- (a)** The phrase ‘not that many years ago’ as used in the question suggests much more than remembering someone well; however, the idea that the manager will not be following Marcus in the literal sense is appreciated and was credited.
- (b)** This is quite a thoughtful response and shows some degree of analysis. There is more than one way of construing why a reference to the student’s parents is made and this is perfectly acceptable.
- (c)** The purpose and intent in letter are not understood. The candidate takes the manager’s remarks at face value with no appreciation of the irony that lies behind them. The reference to an apology shows a lack of understanding of the overall situation as there is absolutely nothing in the previous correspondence to even hint at something in the manager’s behaviour/attitude that would require an apology. No marks were awarded for this part.
- (d)** A mark is lost here as the candidate doesn’t answer the first part of the question by omitting to indicate where the missing correspondence should be. The answer suggests that it is between extracts A and B and the benefit of the doubt was given. What is written is rather bland in any event, and the remark concerning the unreliability of the post in extract E is overlooked.
- (e)** In order to answer this question well it is necessary to appreciate the significance of the fragment of correspondence provided. In filling in the earlier part of extract E, the candidate does not make a link to the poor postal service and does little more than refer to original letter of the manager – something Marcus has already done in extract E. As a result, this part attracted minimal credit.
- (f)** The broad change in the attitude of the manager is appreciated but each stage in the correspondence is not covered and the answer lacks sound analysis. The tone at the start of the correspondence is appreciated, and it is perfectly reasonable to think that the final letter is rather rude. The middle part of the correspondence is not covered; for example, there is no reference to the more formal tone adopted in extract F. There is nothing in the correspondence to justify the claim that the manager was irresponsible ‘as the help she was sending to Marcus was not received in time.’ Although this part contained some worthwhile material, it was placed in the second lowest mark band.
- (g)** The candidate does not appreciate the respective situations of Marcus and the manager. The assertion that Marcus comes from a poor family cannot be supported by the information in the question. The only other point in the answer shows a lack of understanding in believing that the scholarship has been awarded by the bank, and that this obliged the bank to support him to the end of the course come what may. This question demands an understanding of the student/manager relationship based on the actions of each. This part of the answer attracted minimal credit as there was nothing in the response to suggest that a judgement had been made on the basis of the way the student and the manager behaved.

### Use of English

In this question there is very little opportunity to copy slavishly from the question paper; candidates have to rely on their own expression. The English is sound, flows well and meaning is never in doubt. There are a few errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar which, together with an overall lack of comprehension, kept it out of the top mark band for English.

## Question 3

See pages 76–79 for question and mark scheme.

## Example candidate response – grade e12

- (a)
- (i) 'lightbulb of inspiration': He means that suddenly <sup>an idea came to</sup> he got ~~an idea~~ in his mind ~~his mind~~.
- (ii) 'Very small beer': For him, it is only a minority part of his task that had been completed.
- (iii) 'Eye-watering': <sup>He claimed that,</sup> The cost is very high without taking into consideration any profit.
- (iv) 'You wouldn't bet against it': For him, he had to overcome all obstacles and challenge himself to make this project successful.
- (b) Silver's glasses had been invented <sup>on his own</sup> by ~~himself~~ and the principle behind his glasses is that the wearer himself can adjust the amount of fluid in the sac by dialling on the syringe; by doing so, the wearer is changing the power of the lens, where <sup>the</sup> flatter a lens the more powerful it becomes. <sup>Also the people</sup> ~~with~~ with very little assistance, they will be perfectly capable of ~~making~~ <sup>creating</sup> glasses for their own prescription and Silver's glasses do not <sup>any</sup> require ~~the~~ help ~~of~~ <sup>of</sup> an optician, whereas the conventional glasses the world ~~people~~ <sup>poor</sup> people can not afford since it required the use of expensive specialised equipment and an optician to ~~one~~ correct the vision of the people. They had to visit frequently the ~~optician~~ optician for check-up and once it has been fixed, it can not be corrected.

(c) The low income earns benefit enormously, ~~from the help of the members,~~ the creation of ~~his~~ Silver's glasses, will enable to improve the literacy level among of the poor, people will become more educated, secondly, these fishermen will be able to construct their own fishing tools, implying less cost for them. Thirdly, these ~~businessmen~~ will have the chance to ~~sell~~ sew their clothes on their own. This will help <sup>them</sup> to work longer and improve their living standard.

(d) The evidences from the passage is that the businessman, Mahmood Khan is thinking of making huge profit from the project and trying to attract everyone's attention <sup>to obtain things</sup> instead of helping these people which are in great need and are not able to afford. He is helping and agreed to work on this project only if he earned a share and making these people his potential customers in the future.

(e) The difficulties that Silver might encountered is that the ~~cost of~~ ~~production is extremely high~~ manufacturing of these glasses are very costly and how to distribute them throughout when finish as everyone is in great need. The most important problem and challenging one is the size and designs of these glasses <sup>and need</sup> ~~but he has~~ to find out a solution to <sup>reduce the cost even</sup> ~~get the cost reduced~~ on new designs.

(f) - (i) Embarked, investigated

(2) Scale - targeted level:

(3) Glimpse - ~~advantage~~ advantage, benefit

(4) Deteriorated - ~~declining~~ declined:

(5) Pressing - challenging:

(6) Undertaking - ~~making~~ making of

- (i) Embarked: The sociologist has embarked on a research which is very interested and worthwhile to the ~~people~~ <sup>inhabitants</sup> of Mary village.

(ii) Scale: The scale of Mona's inspiration is mind-blowing ~~her~~ <sup>the</sup> project is simply a success.

(iii) Glimpse: The ~~ideas~~ <sup>ideas</sup> suggested by the students of upper 6 had been of a huge glimpse to their teacher.

(iv) Deteriorated: According to the ~~doctor~~ <sup>doctor</sup>, his state of health ~~had~~ deteriorated because he ~~started~~ <sup>continues</sup> to smoke.

(v) *Pressing*: The problems encountered by Rina during ~~the~~ research...  
 was so pressing that she thought she will <sup>not</sup> finish her project at time.

(vi) *Undertaking*: The project of constructing a new school for the  
 poor is ~~not~~ <sup>a no</sup> undertaking problem.

### Examiner comment – grade e12

- (a)** The only term that is adequately explained is ‘lightbulb of inspiration’ – the suddenness of the idea is understood. ‘Very small beer’ means so much more than ‘minority part’; ‘eye-watering’ has a quite different meaning; and in the final part the candidate refers to the difficulties faced by the inventor rather than the inevitable success of his project.
- (b)** In trying to avoid copying directly from the text the candidate is only partially successful; some of the expression is very close to that used in the passage and the answer is compromised by a number of grammatical errors. A number of valid contrasts are made; the issues of relative cost, the need for an optician and specialist equipment are understood. The fundamental differences in design and materials used are not covered.
- (c)** Reference to improved literacy rates and the benefits to fishermen and weavers ensured that full marks were obtained for this part of the question.
- (d)** Although the relevant paragraph in the passage is identified, only partial credit was awarded. The point that the businessman will profit from the venture is clear enough; the fact that this will be because of poor peoples’ improved circumstances is not.
- (e)** Marks were awarded for the reference to the likely cost of the glasses and the issue of how to distribute them to so many people. ‘Manufacturing’ and ‘size and design’ are lifted straight from the passage and could not be credited.
- (f) (i)** This was a weak part of the answer as many of the synonyms offered were far from the meaning of the words in the question. ‘Declined’ is close, though to substitute it in the passage would jar; and ‘target level’ is not an acceptable alternative to ‘scale’.
- (f) (ii)** ‘Embarked’ and ‘deteriorated’ earned marks. One could easily substitute a word such as ‘brilliance’ in (ii); (iii) makes little sense; in (iv) the subject matter of the passage (pressing problem) is used; and in (vi), even if the sentence made grammatical sense, the adjectival use of ‘undertaking’ would rule it out.

### Use of English

There are many basic grammatical errors to be found and in places the intended meaning of what is written is in doubt. Commendably, the candidate has made a good effort to avoid lifting phrases from the passage; even so, this was placed in the second lowest mark band for English.

### Conclusion

Although credit was awarded for the various parts of the question, only (c) received the full mark; in places there was little of merit which, combined with a low mark for English, impeded the award of a higher grade.

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