



# Cambridge IGCSE<sup>®</sup> (9–1)

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**FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH**

**0990/02**

Paper 2 Directed Writing and Composition

**For examination from 2020**

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 80

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**Specimen**

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This document has **12** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

**Generic Marking Principles**

These general marking principles must be applied by all examiners when marking candidate answers. They should be applied alongside the specific content of the mark scheme or generic level descriptors for a question. Each question paper and mark scheme will also comply with these marking principles.

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 1:**

Marks must be awarded in line with:

- the specific content of the mark scheme or the generic level descriptors for the question
- the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the generic level descriptors for the question
- the standard of responses required by a candidate as exemplified by the standardisation scripts

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 2:**

Marks awarded are always **whole marks** (not half marks or other fractions).

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 3:**

Marks must be awarded **positively**:

- marks are awarded for correct/valid answers as defined in the mark scheme. However, credit is given for valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme, referring to your Team Leader as appropriate
- marks are awarded when candidates clearly demonstrate what they know and can do
- marks are not deducted for errors
- marks are not deducted for omissions
- answers should only be judged on the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar when these features are specifically assessed by the question as indicated by the mark scheme. The meaning, however, should be unambiguous

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 4:**

Rules must be applied consistently e.g. in situations where candidates have not followed instructions or in the application of generic level descriptors

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 5:**

Marks should be awarded using the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme for the question (however; the use of the full mark range may be limited according to the quality of the candidate responses seen).

**GENERIC MARKING PRINCIPLE 6:**

Marks awarded are based solely on the requirements as defined in the mark scheme. Marks should not be awarded with grade thresholds or grade descriptors in mind.

**Note:** All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated. Nonetheless, the content must be clearly related to and derived from the text.

### Section A: Directed Writing

#### Question 1

This question tests the following writing assessment objectives (25 marks)

**W1** articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined

**W2** organise and structure ideas and opinions for deliberate effect

**W3** use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures appropriate to context

**W4** use register appropriate to context

**W5** make accurate use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

and reading assessment objectives (15 marks)

**R1** demonstrate understanding of explicit meanings

**R2** demonstrate understanding of implicit meanings and attitudes

**R3** analyse, evaluate and develop facts, ideas and opinions using appropriate support from the text

**R5** select and use information for specific purposes

Question	Answer	Marks
1	<p>Imagine you are a pupil in a school which does not have a school council.</p> <p><b>Write a speech</b> to be given in a school assembly, giving your views on whether or not students should participate in decisions made about the school.</p> <p>In your speech you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evaluate the views given in both texts about student participation</li> <li>• give your own views, based on what you have read, about whether a school council would benefit students and teachers.</li> </ul> <p>Base your speech on what you have read in <b>both</b> texts, but be careful to use your own words. Address both of the bullet points.</p> <p>Begin your speech: ‘Thank you for coming to listen to me today ...’.</p> <p>Write about 250 to 350 words.</p> <p><b><u>Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 25 marks for the quality of your writing.</u></b></p> <p>Notes on task</p> <p>Responses <i>might</i> use the following ideas:</p> <p><b>Text A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ‘one fashionable’ – student representation may just be a passing fad</li> <li>• School councils take up too much time and energy from students and teachers</li> <li>• ‘lip service’ – if student representation is false, it has no substance</li> <li>• Teachers are accountable to parents and should put education first</li> <li>• Experienced teachers should make decisions not children</li> </ul> <p><b>Text B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An ‘enlightened’ approach is needed to make school councils work</li> <li>• Student participation is very popular and well regarded</li> <li>• Student participation works when children are involved in ‘real’ issues</li> <li>• Students can take responsibility for difficult problems e.g. behaviour</li> <li>• Participation can make a difference to students’ attitudes to school</li> <li>• Attendance and results are improved by participation</li> <li>• Students can learn important skills e.g. negotiation, communication, decision-making</li> <li>• Students can have a fresh opinion on issues</li> <li>• Decisions made may have a major impact on them so they are motivated to participate</li> </ul>	40

Question	Answer	Marks
1	<p><b>Possible evaluation of ideas:</b></p> <p><b>Text A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School councils may indeed be pointless if students' decisions are not valued</li> <li>• Mr Aziz suggests students have little experience to bring to decisions about school</li> <li>• The main function of a school is to educate – this has implications for student participation</li> </ul> <p><b>Text B</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student representation on its own is not enough – needs planning</li> <li>• Some quite ambitious claims are made about its benefits – are these realistic?</li> <li>• Not much is said about how much time and commitment it takes – just that it should be put out</li> </ul> <p><b>Possible synthesis of ideas:</b></p> <p>Text A seems to illustrate a different approach to education/the purpose of schools from Text B. The approach in Text A is based on the authority of the teacher/lack of trust in students whereas the approach in Text B is based on the teacher as facilitator/faith in students to make good decisions – candidates' own views may reflect this</p> <p>Text A shows some ridicule towards student participation while Text B enthuses about it – the candidate may suggest these are both extremes and the truth lies somewhere in between.</p> <p>The 'it all depends' approach may show a synthesis of ideas – Mr Aziz's position means student participation would never work but students' 'freedom' on difficult problems might work</p>	

**Marking criteria for Section A Question 1****Table A, Writing**

Use the following table to give a mark out of 25 for writing.

Level	Marks	Description
6	22–25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Highly effective style capable of conveying subtle meaning. (W1)</li> <li>Carefully structured for benefit of the reader. (W2)</li> <li>Wide range of sophisticated vocabulary, precisely used. (W3)</li> <li>Highly effective register for audience and purpose. (W4)</li> <li>Spelling, punctuation and grammar almost always accurate. (W5)</li> </ul>
5	18–21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective style. (W1)</li> <li>Secure overall structure, organised to help the reader. (W2)</li> <li>Wide range of vocabulary, used with some precision. (W3)</li> <li>Effective register for audience and purpose. (W4)</li> <li>Spelling, punctuation and grammar mostly accurate, with occasional minor errors. (W5)</li> </ul>
4	14–17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sometimes effective style. (W1)</li> <li>Ideas generally well sequenced. (W2)</li> <li>Range of vocabulary is adequate and sometimes effective. (W3)</li> <li>Sometimes effective register for audience and purpose. (W4)</li> <li>Spelling, punctuation and grammar generally accurate though with some errors. (W5)</li> </ul>
3	10–13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inconsistent style, appears sometimes awkward but meaning clear. (W1)</li> <li>Relies on the sequence of the original text. (W2)</li> <li>Vocabulary is simple, limited in range or reliant on the original text. (W3)</li> <li>Some awareness of an appropriate register for audience and purpose. (W4)</li> <li>Frequent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar, sometimes serious. (W5)</li> </ul>
2	6–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limited style. (W1)</li> <li>Represents is not well sequenced. (W2)</li> <li>Limited vocabulary or words/phrases copied from the original text. (W3)</li> <li>Limited awareness of appropriate register for audience and purpose. (W4)</li> <li>Persistent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar. (W5)</li> </ul>
1	1–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appears unclear. (W1)</li> <li>Poor sequencing of ideas. (W2)</li> <li>Very limited vocabulary or copying from the original text. (W3)</li> <li>Very limited awareness of appropriate register for audience and purpose. (W4)</li> <li>Persistent errors in spelling, punctuation and grammar impede communication. (W5)</li> </ul>
0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No creditable content.</li> </ul>

**Table B, Reading**

Use the following table to give a mark out of 15 for reading.

Level	Marks	Description
6	13–15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Successfully evaluates ideas and opinions both explicit and implicit. (R1, R2, R3)</li> <li>Assimilates ideas from the text to give a developed, sophisticated response. (R3, R5)</li> </ul>
5	10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some useful evaluation of ideas and opinions both explicit and implicit. (R1, R2, R3)</li> <li>A thorough response, supported by a detailed selection of relevant ideas from the text. (R3, R5)</li> </ul>
4	7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Begins to evaluate mainly explicit ideas and opinions (R1, R2, R3)</li> <li>An appropriate response that includes relevant ideas from the text. (R3, R5)</li> </ul>
3	5–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Selects and comments on explicit ideas and opinions (R1, R2, R3)</li> <li>Makes a general response including a few relevant ideas from the text. (R3, R5)</li> </ul>
2	3–4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies explicit ideas and opinions (R1, R2, R3)</li> <li>Makes a limited response with little evidence from the text. (R3, R5)</li> </ul>
1	1–2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Very limited response with minimal relation to the text. (R1, R2, R3, R5)</li> </ul>
0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No creditable content.</li> </ul>

**Section B: Composition****Questions 2, 3, 4 or 5**

This question tests the following writing assessment objectives (40 marks)

**W1** articulate experience and express what is thought, felt and imagined

**W2** organise and structure ideas and opinions for deliberate effect

**W3** use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures appropriate to context

**W4** use register appropriate to context

**W5** make accurate use of punctuation and grammar.

Question	Answer	Marks
2	<p><b>EITHER</b></p> <p><b>Describe an occasion when a group of people are eating together.</b></p> <p>Use Table A to give a mark out of 16 for content and structure, and Table B to give a mark out of 24 for style and accuracy.</p>	40

Question	Answer	Marks
3	<p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Describe a busy train or bus station.</b></p> <p>Use Table A to give a mark out of 16 for content and structure, and Table B to give a mark out of 24 for style and accuracy.</p>	40

Question	Answer	Marks
4	<p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Write a story that includes the words, ‘... nothing could have prepared him for what he saw ...’.</b></p> <p>Use Table A to give a mark out of 16 for content and structure, and Table B to give a mark out of 24 for style and accuracy.</p>	40

Question	Answer	Marks
5	<p><b>OR</b></p> <p><b>Write a story that involves a character new to the area.</b></p> <p>Use Table A to give a mark out of 16 for content and structure, and Table B to give a mark out of 24 for style and accuracy.</p>	40



**Marking criteria for Section B****Table A, Composition: Content and structure**

Level	Marks	General and specific marking criteria	
<b>6</b>	<b>14–16</b>	<b>General</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content is complex, engaging and effective. (W1)</li> <li>Structure is secure, well balanced and effectively managed for deliberate effect. (W2)</li> </ul>	
		<b>Specific – descriptive</b>  <i>Many well-defined and developed ideas and images create a convincing overall picture with varieties of focus.</i>	<b>Specific – narrative</b>  <i>The plot is well-defined and strongly developed with features of fiction writing such as description, characterisation and effective climax, and convincing details.</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>11–13</b>	<b>General</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content is developed, engaging and effective. (W1)</li> <li>Structure is well managed, with some choices made for deliberate effect. (W2)</li> </ul>	
		<b>Specific – descriptive</b>  <i>Frequent, well-chosen images and details give a mostly convincing picture.</i>	<b>Specific – narrative</b>  <i>The plot is defined and developed with features of fiction writing such as description, characterisation, climax and details.</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>8–10</b>	<b>General</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content is relevant with some development. (W1)</li> <li>Structure is competently managed. (W2)</li> </ul>	
		<b>Specific – descriptive</b>  <i>A selection of relevant ideas, images and details, even where there is a tendency to write in a narrative style.</i>	<b>Specific – narrative</b>  <i>The plot is relevant and cohesive, with some features such as characterisation and setting of scene.</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>5–7</b>	<b>General</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content is straightforward and briefly developed. (W1)</li> <li>Structure is mostly organised but may not always be effective. (W2)</li> </ul>	
		<b>Specific – descriptive</b>  <i>The task is addressed with a series of relevant but straightforward details, which may be more typical of a narrative.</i>	<b>Specific – narrative</b>  <i>The plot is straightforward, with limited use of the features of narrative writing.</i>

Level	Marks	General and specific marking criteria	
2	3–4	<b>General</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content is simple, and ideas and events may be limited. (W1)</li> <li>Structure is partially organised but limited in its effect. (W2)</li> </ul>	
		<b>Specific – descriptive</b>  <i>The recording of some relevant events with limited detail.</i>	<b>Specific – narrative</b>  <i>The plot is a simple narrative that may consist of events that are only partially linked and/or which are presented with partial clarity.</i>
1	1–2	<b>General</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Content is occasionally relevant or clear. (W1)</li> <li>Structure is limited and ineffective. (W2)</li> </ul>	
		<b>Specific – descriptive</b>  <i>The description is unclear and lacks detail.</i>	<b>Specific – narrative</b>  <i>The plot and/or narrative lacks coherence.</i>
0	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No creditable content.</li> </ul>	

**Table B, Composition: Style and accuracy**

Level	Marks	Description
<b>6</b>	<b>21–24</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Precise, well-chosen vocabulary and a varied sentence structures chosen for effect. (W3)</li> <li>• Consistent well-chosen register suitable for the context. (W4)</li> <li>• Spelling, punctuation and grammar almost always accurate. (W5)</li> </ul>
<b>5</b>	<b>17–20</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mostly precise vocabulary and a range of sentence structures mostly used for effect. (W3)</li> <li>• Mostly consistent appropriate register suitable for the context. (W4)</li> <li>• Spelling, punctuation and grammar mostly accurate, with occasional minor errors. (W5)</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>13–16</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some precise vocabulary and a range of sentence structures sometimes used for effect. (W3)</li> <li>• Some appropriate register for the context. (W4)</li> <li>• Spelling, punctuation and grammar generally accurate, but with some errors. (W5)</li> </ul>
<b>3</b>	<b>9–12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple vocabulary and a range of straightforward sentence structures. (W3)</li> <li>• Simple register with a general awareness of the context. (W4)</li> <li>• Frequent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar, occasionally serious. (W5)</li> </ul>
<b>2</b>	<b>5–8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited and/or imprecise vocabulary and sentence structures. (W3)</li> <li>• Limited and/or imprecise register for the context. (W4)</li> <li>• Persistent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar. (W5)</li> </ul>
<b>1</b>	<b>1–4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequently imprecise vocabulary and sentence structures. (W3)</li> <li>• Register demonstrates little or no sense of the context. (W4)</li> <li>• Persistent errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar impair communication. (W5)</li> </ul>
<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No credible content.</li> </ul>

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