

INTERNATIONAL A-LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE EN03

Unit 3 Language Variation

Mark scheme

January 2021

Version: 1.0 Final Mark Scheme



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

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

Further copies of this mark scheme are available from oxfordagaexams.org.uk

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International English language mark scheme

How to mark

Aims

When you are marking your allocation of scripts your main aims should be to:

- recognise and identify the achievements of students
- place students in the appropriate mark band and in the appropriate part of that mark band (high, low, middle) for each assessment objective
- record your judgements with brief notes, annotations and comments that are relevant to the mark scheme and make it clear to other examiners how you have arrived at the numerical mark awarded for each assessment objective
- put into a rank order the achievements of students (not to grade them that is done later using the rank order that your marking has produced)
- ensure comparability of assessment for all students, regardless of question or examiner.

Approach

It is important to be **open minded** and **positive** when marking scripts.

The specification recognises the variety of experiences and knowledge that students will have. It encourages them to study language in a way that is relevant to them. The questions have been designed to give them opportunities to discuss what they have found out about language. It is important to assess the quality of **what the student offers**.

Do not mark scripts as though they were mere shadows of some platonic ideal (or the answer you would have written). The mark schemes have been composed to assess **quality of response** and not to identify expected items of knowledge.

Assessment objectives

This component requires students to:

AO1: Demonstrate understanding of methods, terminology, concepts and issues in English language.

AO2: Analyse how meanings are shaped in a range of texts and data.

AO3: Demonstrate ability to use English in different ways.

The marking grids

The specification has generic marking grids for each assessment objective that is customised with indicative content for individual tasks. These have been designed to allow assessment of the range of knowledge, understanding and skills that the specification demands.

Within each assessment objective there are five broad levels representing different levels of achievement. Do not think of levels equalling grade boundaries.

On the left-hand side of the mark scheme, in bold, are the generic descriptors that identify the performance characteristics at five distinct levels.

On the right-hand side are statements of indicative content. These give examples of the kind of things students might do that would exemplify the level. They are neither exhaustive nor required - they are simply indicative of what would appear at this level. You will find that they sometimes indicate areas of content that can be handled with increasing sophistication and subtlety. You will also find statements which only characterise work at the bottom or top of the range.

Depending on the part of the examination, the levels will have different mark ranges assigned to them. This will reflect the different weighting of assessment objectives in particular tasks and across the examination as a whole. You may be required to give different marks to bands for different assessment

Using the grids

objectives.

These levels of response mark schemes are broken down into five levels, each of which has descriptors. The descriptors for the level show the performance characteristics of the level. There is the same number of marks in each level for an individual assessment objective. The number of marks per level will vary depending upon the number of marks allocated to the various assessment objectives covered by a particular question.

Having familiarised yourself with the descriptors and indicative content, read through the answer and annotate it (as instructed below) to identify the qualities that are being looked for and that it shows. You can now check the levels and award a mark.

Step 1 Determine a level

Start at the lowest level of the mark scheme and use it as a ladder to see whether the answer meets the descriptors for that level. The descriptors for the level indicate the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level. If it meets all the descriptors for the lowest level then go to the next one and decide if it meets this level, and so on, until you have a match between the level descriptors and the answer. With practice and familiarity, you will find that for better answers you will be able to skip through the lower levels of the mark scheme quickly.

When assigning a level, you should look at the overall quality of the answer and not look to pick holes in small and specific parts of the answer where the student has not performed quite as well as the rest. If the answer covers different aspects of different levels of the mark scheme you should use a best-fit approach for defining the level and then use the variability of the response to help decide the mark within the level; ie if the response fulfils most but not all of level 3 with a small amount of level 4 material, it would be placed in level 3 but be awarded a mark near the top of the level because of the level 4 content.

Step 2 Determine a mark

Once you have assigned a level you need to decide on the mark.

It is often best to start in the middle of the level's mark range and then check and adjust. If there is a lot of indicative content fully identifiable in the work you need to give the highest mark in the level. If only some is identifiable or it is only partially fulfilled, then give the lower mark.

The exemplar materials used during standardisation will also help. There will be an answer in the standardising materials that will correspond with each level of the mark scheme. This answer will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the example to determine if it is of the same standard, better or worse than the example. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the example.

You may well need to read back through the answer as you apply the mark scheme to clarify points and assure yourself that the level and the mark are appropriate.

In addition to the generic descriptors (presented in bold text), paper specific indicative descriptors (presented in plain text) are provided as a guide for examiners. These are not intended to be exhaustive and you must credit other valid points.

An answer that contains nothing of relevance to the question must be awarded no marks.

Annotating scripts

It is vital that the way you arrive at a mark should be recorded on the script. This will help you with making accurate judgements and it will help any subsequent markers to identify how you are thinking.

Where?

- > in the body of the script
- ➤ in the margin
- > at the end of each answer.

What annotations?

- 1. Ticks for AO1
 - placed in the body of the script at the point of credit
 - single tick for Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 credit √
 - double tick for Level 4 credit √√
 - triple tick for Level 5 credit √√√

2. Stamps for AO2 and AO3

- L1, L2, L3, L4, L5
- placed in the margin at the point of credit.

3. Written comments

- A comment box at the end of each answer for each AO:
 - green comment box for AO1
 - red comment box for AO2
 - blue comment box for AO3.

You should write a summative comment at the end for each assessment objective.

Please do not write negative comments about students' work or their alleged aptitudes; this is unprofessional and it impedes a positive marking approach.

To what extent are children's errors a part of the process of learning spoken language?

In your answer, you should refer to **Data Set 1** and **Data Set 2** and to relevant ideas from language study.

[25 marks]

AO1: Demonstrate understanding of methods, terminology, concepts and issues in International English Language.

AO1 in the context of this question focuses on relevant concepts and issues.

Laval/ Desta	-	O1 in the context of this question focuses on relevant concepts and issues.	
Level/ Perforr Marks	mance characteristics	Indicative content These are examples of ways students' work might exemplify the performance characteristics in the question above. They indicate possible content and how it can be treated at different levels.	
9 - 10 issue • explo	onstrate an overview of	Students are likely to: • evaluate and/or challenge different ways of explaining children's spoken language development • synthesise research and ideas, and conceptualise a view of the role and function of children's errors in language development.	
• ident	nts will: Eify different views, oaches and interpretations.	Students are likely to: • identify at least one explanation of how error types are formed, eg semantic overextensions, overgeneralised rules of grammar/patterns • comment on different explanations of children's spoken language development, eg imitation, innateness, interaction, cognition.	
	nts will: v knowledge of relevant epts and issues.	Students are likely to: • identify at least one explanation of children's errors, eg that they are 'virtuous' • comment on the idea that children's errors can show an understanding of language rules • show knowledge of relevant research.	
	nts will:	Students are likely to: • show awareness of research by name-dropping or undeveloped/confused references • attempt reference to research with limited accuracy or relevance.	
• discu	ents will: uss issues anecdotally out specialist knowledge.	Students are likely to: • offer no reference to research • discuss children's language development generally or with no language focus.	

AO2: Anal	yse how meanings are created in a ra	nge of texts and data.
Level/ Marks	Performance characteristics	Indicative content These are examples of ways students' work might exemplify the performance characteristics in the question above. They indicate possible content and how it can be treated at different levels.
Level 5 13 -15	Students will: • explore use of language and representations according to context.	 Students are likely to: explore the importance of errors in revealing different aspects of a child's developing understanding of the world, eg heuristic function (asking questions), seriation (bigger), semantic relationships (categeories and analogies) explore developing understanding of grammatical rules and errors, eg subject/object pronouns, negative formation, omission of primary verbs and articles explore different types of contexts, eg language associated with actions or value judgements, deicitic references in immediate contexts integrate a range of well-selected examples to discuss the nature of children's spoken development.
Level 4 10 -12	Students will: • analyse how language choices create meanings and representations • analyse how aspects of context work together to affect language use.	Students are likely to: • analyse the use of language to achieve different functions, eg to describe and judge, to control others, to seek information • analyse errors that follow categorising rules, eg similarities of form and function: blanket/towel, tiger/cat • analyse the significance of different contexts, eg associating words with places: duck and pond, reading books • offer relevant and specific examples to discuss the nature of children's spoken development.
Level 3 7 - 9	Students will: • interpret significance of specific choices of language according to context • link specific language choices with an aspect of context.	Students are likely to: • interpret different functions of children's language, eg asking questions, telling/commanding others • interpret the children's language as being influenced by context, eg saying 'ducks' when at a pond • link examples of children's language to logical or 'virtuous' errors.

Level 2 4 - 6	Students will: • identify distinctive features of language and significant aspects of context.	Students are likely to: • identify examples from the data through simple language detail, eg question aimed at parent • identify general characteristics of children's errors.
Level 1 1 - 3	Students will: • paraphrase or describe content of texts • misunderstand text or context.	Students are likely to: • mention age of the children as an explanation for their language use • mention spoken language development without examples.
0	Nothing relevant written.	Nothing relevant written.

To what extent is learning to write for different audiences and purposes the main aspect of children's writing development?

In your answer, you should refer to **Data Set 3** and **Data Set 4** and to relevant ideas from language study.

[25 marks]

AO1: Demonstrate understanding of methods, terminology, concepts and issues in International English Language.

AO1 in the context of this question focuses on relevant concepts and issues.

Level/ Marks	Performance characteristics	Indicative content These are examples of ways students' work might exemplify the performance characteristics in the question above. They indicate possible content and how it can be treated at different levels.
9 - 10	Students will: • demonstrate an overview of issues • explore different views, approaches and interpretations.	 Students are likely to: evaluate and/or challenge different ways of explaining children's written language development synthesise research and ideas, and conceptualise a view of the processes of children's written language development.
Level 4 7 - 8	Students will: • identify different views, approaches and interpretations.	Students are likely to: • identify more than one view of the nature of writing development, eg children's writing as influenced by social, cultural and individual contexts • comment on different aspects of children's writing development, eg writing in different genres, development of different skills.
Level 3 5 - 6	Students will: • show knowledge of relevant concepts and issues.	Students are likely to: • identify at least one view of the nature of children's writing development, eg growing awareness of audience, purpose and genre as they get older • comment on the idea that children's writing progresses in stages • show knowledge of relevant research.

Level 2 3 - 4	Students will: • show familiarity with the area of study.	Students are likely to: • show awareness of research by name-dropping or undeveloped/confused references • attempt reference to research with limited accuracy or relevance.
Level 1 1 - 2	Students will: • discuss issues anecdotally without specialist knowledge.	Students are likely to: offer no reference to research discuss children's language development generally or with no language focus.
0	Nothing relevant written.	Nothing relevant written.

Level/ Marks	Performance characteristics	Indicative content These are examples of ways students' work might exemplify the performance characteristics in the question above. They indicate possible content and how it can be treated at different levels.
Level 5 13 - 15	Students will: • explore use of language and representations according to context.	 Students are likely to: explore a range of different contexts and literary practices, eg exposure to a range of writing models and writing technology explore the role of the teacher, eg task-setting encouragement, praise, correction explore children's ability to shape and adapt writing for a variety of purposes and audiences, making different choices depending on genre and task integrate a range of well-selected examples to discuss the range of skills that children develop when writing for different audiences and purposes.
Level 4 10 - 12	Students will: • analyse how language choices create meanings and representations • analyse how aspects of context work together to affect language use.	 Students are likely to: analyse how language choices are used to present information or instruction, eg design, layout, discourse structure analyse use of language that is appropriate for topic and the implied audience of each text, essecond/third person, descriptive detail, road names, location identifiers/deictic markers, simple sentences analyse the significance of a classroom task and teacher input when producing written work offer relevant and specific examples to discuss the nature of children's written language development.
Level 3 7 - 9	Students will: • interpret significance of specific choices of language according to context • link specific language choices with an aspect of context.	Students are likely to: • interpret ways that children use written language for different purposes, eg to inform/describe, to instruct, using different sentence functions and vocabulary choices • interpret ways that children make written language choices according to genre, eg organisation of content • interpret ways that children shape language for specific audiences, eg clarity of expression.

Level 2 4 - 6	Students will: • identify distinctive features of language and significant aspects of context.	Students are likely to: • identify audience or purposes of writing in broad terms • identify features typical of children's writing in broad terms, eg spelling, vocabulary choices.
Level 1 1 - 3	Students will: • paraphrase or describe content of texts • misunderstand text or context.	Students are likely to: • mention age as a likely explanation for children's use of written language • discuss children's language development generally or with no language focus.
0	Nothing relevant written.	Nothing relevant written.

'The growth of English around the world is as damaging as it is useful'.

How far do you agree with this view?

In your answer, you should refer to relevant ideas from language study.

[25 marks]

AO1: Demonstrate understanding of methods, terminology, concepts and issues in International English Language.

AO1 in the	AO1 in the context of this question focuses on relevant concepts and issues.		
Level/ Marks	Performance characteristics	Indicative content These are examples of ways students' work might exemplify the performance characteristics in the question above. They indicate possible content and how it can be treated at different levels.	
Level 5 13 - 15	Students will: • demonstrate an overview of issues • explore different views, approaches and interpretations.	Students are likely to: evaluate and/or challenge different ideas and views about English around the world, eg historical legacy, lingua franca role, cultural impact, development of International Englishes evaluate and/or challenge 'damaging' as a view of language growth offer perceptive, relevant and specific examples of language use refer to scholarship accurately and specifically use terminology accurately, with understanding.	
Level 4 10 - 12	Students will: • identify different views, approaches and interpretations.	 Students are likely to: explain how and why English is used in different places and settings, advancing a supported view of its damaging effects, eg language death, imposition of outside control, loss of identity explain how the growth of English may be seen as useful, eg lingua franca role, access to the wider world, role in business and education offer relevant and specific examples of language use refer to scholarship accurately use terminology mostly accurately, showing understanding. 	

Level 3 7 - 9	Students will: • show knowledge of relevant concepts and issues.	Students are likely to: offer a straightforward, relevant discussion of where English is used around the world offer a straightforward discussion on the damaging or useful effects of English as an international language relevant examples of language use refer to scholarship in general ways use terminology with partial accuracy and understanding.
Level 2 4 - 6	Students will: • show familiarity with the area of study.	Students are likely to: • discuss English around the world very generally, with limited focus on its damaging or useful effects • give limited, or very generalised examples of language use • attempt reference to scholarship but with limited accuracy or relevance • attempt to use terminology, but with limited accuracy and understanding.
Level 1 1 - 3	Students will: • discuss issues anecdotally without specialist knowledge.	Students are likely to: • mention a use of English around the world with more than one example (3) • mention a use of English around the world with one example (2) • mention International English without examples (1).
0	Nothing relevant written.	Nothing relevant written.

Level/	Performance characteristics	Indicative content
Marks		These are examples of ways students' work might exemplify the performance characteristics in the question above. They indicate possible content and how it can be treated at different levels.
Level 5	Students will: • use form expertly	Students are likely to: • guide the reader through a line of
9 - 10	 use and sustain register, effective for context show outstanding technical control. 	 argument by using clear signposting make effective connections between points and paragraphs write with clarity and accuracy throughout
Level 4 7 - 8	Students will: use form convincingly use register, effective for context	Students are likely to: • demonstrate a line of argument • cover points in a well organised way
	show skilful technical control.	write with clarity and accuracy, showing only an occasional error or lapse.
Level 3	Students will: • use form competently	Students are likely to: communicate with clear topics and
5 - 6	 use register, mainly effectively, for context show competent technical control. 	paragraphsgroup points in a logical waywrite with general clarity and accuracy.
Level 2	Students will: • use form with some lack of control	Students are likely to: • attempt an academic format, with uneven
3 - 4	 use register appropriate for context at times show basic technical control. 	 result achieve an academic style but inconsistently show lapses in clarity and accuracy.
Level 1	Students will: use form limited to simple elements	Students are likely to: • make some points but with little or no
1 - 2	 shape language broadly for context show limited technical control. 	 organisation attempt a formal style, with limited succession lack clarity and accuracy, impeding communication.
0	Nothing relevant written.	Nothing relevant written.

How far do you agree that media and popular culture are the main reasons for the growth of the English language around the world?

In your answer, you should refer to relevant ideas from language study.

[25 marks]

AO1: Demonstrate understanding of methods, terminology, concepts and issues in International English Language.

• AO1 in the context of this discussion essay focuses on the concepts and issues, along with their associated terminology, that are relevant to the question.

associated	associated terminology, that are relevant to the question.		
Level/ Marks	Performance characteristics	Indicative content These are examples of ways students' work might exemplify the performance characteristics in the question above. They indicate possible content and how it can be treated at different levels.	
Level 5 13 - 15	Students will: • demonstrate an overview of issues • explore different views, approaches and interpretations.	Students are likely to: • evaluate and/or challenge ideas about the growth of English as an international language by examining the importance of media and popular culture, eg cultural imperalism, popular music genres, online language, English as a lingua franca • evaluate ideas about the significance of varieties other than English as important in media and popular culture • offer perceptive, relevant and specific examples of language use • refer to scholarship accurately and specifically • use terminology accurately, with understanding.	
Level 4 10 - 12	Students will: • identify different views, approaches and interpretations.	Students are likely to: • explain and illustrate different arguments about the importance of media and popular culture • explain how other shaping factors may have contributed to the growth of English as an international language • offer relevant and specific examples of language use • refer to scholarship accurately • use terminology mostly accurately, showing understanding.	

Level 3 7 - 9	Students will: • show knowledge of relevant concepts and issues.	Students are likely to: • offer a straightforward, relevant discussion of the role and importance of media and popular culture in the growth of English, eg US film industry, the BBC, online language • offer a straightforward discussion of the growth of International English • give relevant examples of language use • refer to scholarship in general ways • use terminology with partial accuracy and understanding.
Level 2 4 - 6	Students will: • show familiarity with the area of study.	Students are likely to: • discuss some links between International English and the media and/or popular culture very generally • give limited, or very generalised examples of language use • attempt reference to scholarship but with limited accuracy or relevance • attempt to use terminology, but with limited accuracy and understanding.
Level 1 1 - 3	Students will: • discuss issues anecdotally without specialist knowledge.	Students are likely to: • mention International English with more than one example of media or popular cuture (3) • mention International English with one example of media or popular cuture (2) • mention International English generally with no reference to examples (1).
0	Nothing relevant written.	Nothing relevant written.

AO3: Demonstrate ability to use English in different ways.		
Level/ Marks	Performance characteristics	Indicative content These are examples of ways students' work might exemplify the performance characteristics in the question above. They indicate possible content and how it can be treated at different levels.
Level 5 9 - 10	Students will: use form expertly use and sustain register, effective for context show outstanding technical control.	Students are likely to: • guide the reader through a line of argument by using clear signposting • make effective connections between points and paragraphs • write with clarity and accuracy throughout.
Level 4 7 - 8	Students will: • use form convincingly • use register, effective for context • show skilful technical control.	Students are likely to: • demonstrate a line of argument • cover points in a well organised way • write with clarity and accuracy, showing only an occasional error or lapse.
Level 3 5 - 6	Students will: use form competently use register, mainly effectively, for context show competent technical control.	Students are likely to: communicate with clear topics and paragraphs group points in a logical way write with general clarity and accuracy.
Level 2 3 - 4	Students will: use form with some lack of control use register appropriate for context at times show basic technical control.	Students are likely to: attempt an academic format, with uneven result achieve an academic style but inconsistently show lapses in clarity and accuracy.
Level 1 1 - 2	Students will: use form limited to simple elements shape language broadly for context show limited technical control.	Students are likely to: • make some points but with little or no organisation • attempt a formal style, with limited success • lack clarity and accuracy, impeding communication.
0	Nothing relevant written.	Nothing relevant written.