



AS ENGLISH LANGUAGE 7701/2

Paper 2 Language varieties

Mark scheme

June 2025

Version: 1.0 Final



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 Examiner.

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.

No student should be disadvantaged on the basis of their gender identity and/or how they refer to the gender identity of others in their exam responses.

A consistent use of 'they/them' as a singular and pronouns beyond 'she/her' or 'he/him' will be credited in exam responses in line with existing mark scheme criteria.

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

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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 are 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:** Apply appropriate methods of language analysis, using associated terminology and coherent written expression
- AO2:** Demonstrate critical understanding of concepts and issues relevant to language use
- AO5:** Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate in different ways.

The marking grids

The specification has generic marking grids with a hierarchy of performance characteristics for each Assessment Objective that are customised with indicative content for individual tasks. These have been designed to allow consistent assessment of the range of knowledge, understanding and skills that the specification demands across all tasks.

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

You will be giving a mark to each separate Assessment Objective tested by a task.

Depending on the question, 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 Objectives.

There is the same number of marks in each level for an individual Assessment Objective. The number of marks per level will vary from two to four across different Assessment Objectives depending upon the number of marks allocated to the Assessment Objective in a particular question.

Step 1 Using the grids and annotating scripts

These levels of response mark schemes are broken down into five levels, each of which has descriptors.

On the left-hand side of the mark scheme, in bold, are the **generic descriptors** that identify the **performance characteristics** at five distinct levels. These are designed to identify clearly different levels and types of performance.

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.

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.

As you mark a script, use annotations to identify exactly where the student shows the performance characteristics noted in the mark scheme. You should note where they give evidence of the indicative content you have been given.

Remember they may do things not mentioned in the indicative content but of similar quality – reward these too.

You can now check the levels and award a mark.

Step 2 Writing a comment to determine a level

Look back at the script. If you have made precise, full and accurate annotations it should be easy to work out what level to award the answer.

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.

When you first look at some answers, it is useful to start with the lowest level of the mark scheme and use the mark scheme as a ladder to see how far the answer can go up the scale.

The descriptors for a level indicate the different qualities that might be seen in the student's answer for that level.

Good answers will not necessarily be characterised by the descriptors in lower bands because they will be doing better things. You may find yourself thinking: no, it's better than that. If so, look to the next level to see if that begins to describe what the answer does.

As you go up through the levels with good answers you will find they do the things characterised by the descriptors.

If an answer meets all the descriptors for a 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.

You need to keep going up through the levels to see which descriptors capture what the script has done. Keep checking up through the levels in case it does some of a higher level beyond its typical ceiling.

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 3 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. These scripts will have been awarded a mark by the Lead Examiner. You can compare the student's answer with the exemplar to determine if it is of the same standard, better or worse. You can then use this to allocate a mark for the answer based on the Lead Examiner's mark on the exemplar.

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.

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, should adjustment need to be made.

Where?

- In the body of the script.
- At the end of the answer.

What annotations?**1 Ticks**

- Used for **AO1** and **AO5**.
- Placed **in the body of the script**.
- **At a point of credit**.
- **Single** for **up to Level 3** credit – ✓
- **Double** for **Level 4** credit – ✓✓
- **Triple** for **Level 5** credit – ✓✓✓

2 Stamps

- L1 L2 L3 L4 L5.
- Used for **AO2** in the **body of the script**.
- **At a point of credit**.

3 Question marks

- Used in the **body of the script**.
- Used to identify errors, uncertainties.

4 Written comments

- A **comment box** at the end of the answer for each Assessment Objective.
- Choose the right colour:
 - **AO1 red**
 - **AO2 blue**
 - **AO5 purple**.
- Begin by writing AO1, AO2 etc to identify further.
- Don't just copy out grid statements – interpret them in the light of what the script does.

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

Distribution of Assessment Objectives and Weightings

The table below is a reminder of which Assessment Objectives will be tested by the questions and tasks completed by students and the marks available for them.

Assessment Objective	AO1	AO2	AO5	Total
Questions 1/2	10	20		30
Question 3		20	20	40
				70

Section A: Language diversity**Questions 1 and 2**

- Award a mark out of 10 for AO1, place in the left-hand mark box.
- Award a mark out of 20 for AO2, place in the left-hand mark box.

Section B: Language discourses**Question 3**

- Award a mark out of 20 for AO2, place in the left-hand mark box.
- Award a mark out of 20 for AO5, place in the left-hand mark box.

E-marker2 will total the marks for you and submit them when you have saved your work.

0 1

Discuss the idea that some accents are more suitable for jobs than other accents.

[30 marks]

AO1: Apply appropriate methods of language analysis, using associated terminology and coherent written expression	
Level/ Marks	Performance characteristics
Level 5 9–10	Students will: • apply linguistic methods and terminology, identifying patterns and complexities • guide the reader.
Level 4 7–8	Students will: • apply linguistic methods and terminology with precision and detail • develop a line of argument.
Level 3 5–6	Students will: • apply linguistic methods and terminology consistently and appropriately • communicate with clear topics and paragraphs.
Level 2 3–4	Students will: • use linguistic methods and terminology inappropriately and / or inconsistently • express ideas with organisation emerging.
Level 1 1–2	Students will: • quote or identify features of language without linguistic description • present material with limited organisation.
0	Nothing written about the text or topic.

AO2: Demonstrate critical understanding of concepts and issues relevant to language use		
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 17–20	Students will: • demonstrate an individual overview of issues • assess views, approaches, interpretations of linguistic issues.	Students are likely to: • assess the significance and effect of judgements of accents • assess issues of repertoires, performance of identity and accommodation • assess evidence for the arbitrary / social nature of attitudes • challenge the methodology of survey.
Level 4 13–16	Students will: • identify different views, approaches and interpretations of linguistic issues.	Students are likely to: • identify and explain positive judgements of non-standard accents for job suitability • identify and explain negative judgements of standard accents for job suitability • identify and explain changing judgements of accents • explain why different age groups rate accents differently.
Level 3 9–12	Students will: • show detailed knowledge of linguistic ideas, concepts and research.	Students are likely to: • explain positive judgements of standard accents for job suitability • explain negative judgements of non-standard accents for job suitability • explain judgements as social connotations of accents • refer to research findings to illustrate and explain judgements.
Level 2 5–8	Students will: • show familiarity with linguistic ideas, concepts and research.	Students are likely to: • label standard and non-standard accents • identify which accents are rated higher and lower in Figure 1 • identify how age affects judgements of accents in Figure 1 • link accents with particular jobs.
Level 1 1–4	Students will: • discuss issues anecdotally without specialist linguistic knowledge.	Students are likely to: • discuss accents and jobs without linguistic comment (4) • identify examples of accents (3) • discuss accents without examples (2) • discuss suitability for jobs without focus on language (1).
0	Nothing written about the text or topic.	

0 2

Discuss the idea that the English language needs to be made gender inclusive.

[30 marks]

AO1: Apply appropriate methods of language analysis, using associated terminology and coherent written expression	
Level/ Marks	Performance characteristics
Level 5 9–10	Students will: • apply linguistic methods and terminology, identifying patterns and complexities • guide the reader.
Level 4 7–8	Students will: • apply linguistic methods and terminology with precision and detail • develop a line of argument.
Level 3 5–6	Students will: • apply linguistic methods and terminology consistently and appropriately • communicate with clear topics and paragraphs.
Level 2 3–4	Students will: • use linguistic methods and terminology inappropriately and / or inconsistently • express ideas with organisation emerging.
Level 1 1–2	Students will: • quote or identify features of language without linguistic description • present material with limited organisation.
0	Nothing written about the text or topic.

AO2: Demonstrate critical understanding of concepts and issues relevant to language use		
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 17–20	Students will: • demonstrate an individual overview of issues • assess views, approaches, interpretations of linguistic issues.	Students are likely to: • assess ideas about language reform and gender-inclusive language • explore changing representations of gender / reclamations • assess reflectionist vs determinist views of language • explore issues of language and non-binary views of gender.
Level 4 13–16	Students will: • identify different views, approaches and interpretations of linguistic issues.	Students are likely to: • discuss power of language to reflect views of gender • discuss power of language to shape views of gender • identify and discuss examples of language reform and inclusive language • identify attitudes against language reform.
Level 3 9–12	Students will: • show detailed knowledge of linguistic ideas, concepts and research.	Students are likely to: • illustrate and analyse examples of sexist and discriminatory language • use general linguistic terms, eg metaphor, nouns, suffixes, pronouns, semantic fields • use linguistic concepts about language and gender. • discuss patterns of meaning and language use.
Level 2 5–8	Students will: • show familiarity with linguistic ideas, concepts and research.	Students are likely to: • outline a view of the need for inclusivity in language • comment on the issues raised by the terms given in Text A • explain representations of gender in vocabulary items • discuss denotational and connotational meanings.
Level 1 1–4	Students will: • discuss issues anecdotally without specialist linguistic knowledge.	Students are likely to: • discuss sexist or inclusive language without linguistic comment (4) • give examples of sexist or inclusive language (3) • discuss language representing women and men without examples (2) • discuss sexism and other issues without focus on language (1).
0	Nothing written about the text or topic.	

0 3

Write an article in which you discuss the need for organisations to use clear communication. You should refer to ideas from language study.

Before writing your article you should state your intended audience.

[40 marks]

AO2: Demonstrate critical understanding of concepts and issues relevant to language use		
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 17–20	Students will: • demonstrate an individual overview of issues • assess views, approaches, interpretations of linguistic issues.	Students are likely to: • conceptualise the distinctive nature of occupational language • explore issues of power in occupational language • explore issues of marketing and branding • assess issues of self-presentation and identity.
Level 4 13–16	Students will: • identify different views, approaches and interpretations of linguistic issues.	Students are likely to: • exemplify participants / roles / social groups / communities of practice that use organisational language • exemplify a range of occupational situations and language uses • explain relevant linguistic ideas, concepts and research connected to clear communication, eg inclusivity, tone, grammar • explain Plain English Society ideas about clear communication.
Level 3 9–12	Students will: • show detailed knowledge of linguistic ideas, concepts and research.	Students are likely to: • illustrate a range of occupational registers • illustrate positive uses of jargon • illustrate less effective uses of jargon • comment on types of meaning in jargon.
Level 2 5–8	Students will: • show familiarity with linguistic ideas, concepts and research.	Students are likely to: • outline the idea of organisational registers or jargons • comment on ideas from Text B • identify language use in clear communication • identify language use in unclear communication.

Level 1 1–4	Students will: • discuss issues anecdotally without specialist linguistic knowledge.	Students are likely to: • discuss examples of clear or unclear communication without linguistic comment (4) • give examples of clear or unclear communication (3) • discuss clear or unclear communication without examples (2) • discuss organisations with no language focus (1).
0	Nothing written about the text or topic.	

AO5: Demonstrate expertise and creativity in the use of English to communicate 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 17–20	Students will: • use form creatively • show close attention to register, effective for context • write accurately.	Students are likely to: • guide the reader • argue well-documented viewpoints • use engaging and informative style.
Level 4 13–16	Students will: • use form convincingly • use and sustain register, effective for context • show strong control of accuracy.	Students are likely to: • produce an effective opening and conclusion • write accessibly and transform linguistic ideas for audience • write for context of a non-specialist audience, recognising need to engage and inform.
Level 3 9–12	Students will: • use form competently • use register, sometimes effective for context • show firm control of accuracy.	Students are likely to: • produce an effective opening and lively sub-editorial material • use a linguistic register but with overly academic elements • write for stated audience / context.
Level 2 5–8	Students will: • use form appropriately • use appropriate address for context • make occasional errors.	Students are likely to: • use article format eg a functional headline, sub-editorial material • address the reader but use an overly informal style.
Level 1 1–4	Students will: • use form limited to simple elements • shape language broadly for context • make intrusive errors.	Students are likely to: • write in paragraphs • write essay-like response.
0	Nothing written about the text or topic.	