

Higher Tier Paper 4 (Writing)

We have identified two small errors in the 'communication and content' mark grid for Question 1 of the Higher Tier writing paper (Paper 4):

- The second bullet point in mark band 1–3 (bottom band) is incorrect: the bullet point should read 'Limited adaptation of language to narrate, inform and interest; straightforward personal opinions are given with limited justification'
- The first bullet point in mark band 10–12 (top band) is incorrect: the bullet point should read 'Communicates information relevant to the task with expansion of key points and ideas'

The correct communication and content mark grid for Question 1 (Higher Tier) is below:

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable content
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicates brief information relevant to the task with little development• Limited adaptation of language to narrate, inform and interest; straightforward personal opinions are given with limited justification• Expresses straightforward thoughts and ideas; uses common, familiar language with repetition• Variable use of appropriate register and style
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicates information relevant to the task, with development of the occasional key point and idea• Some effective adaptation of language to narrate and inform; attempts are made to interest and give convincing personal opinions which are occasionally successful• Expresses mainly straightforward thoughts and ideas with the occasional individual thought/idea; some different examples of common, familiar language• Appropriate use of register and style is evident but with inconsistencies
7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicates information relevant to the task, with development of some key points and ideas• Mostly effective adaptation of language to narrate and inform, some effective language to interest and give convincing personal opinions• Some examples of creative language use to express individual thoughts and ideas; a variety of mainly common, familiar language with the occasional example of uncommon language• Appropriate use of register and style is evident but with occasional inconsistency
10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicates information relevant to the task with expansion of key points and ideas• Effective adaptation of language to narrate, inform, interest and give convincing personal opinions• Frequent examples of creative language use to express individual thoughts and ideas; a variety of vocabulary and expression, some examples of uncommon language• Appropriate use of register and style throughout, with minimal inconsistency

The grid above should be used for marking all Higher Tier Paper 4 (Writing) mock examinations using both the Sample Assessment Materials and the specimen papers. Please note there are no errors in the 'linguistic knowledge and accuracy' mark grid for Question 1.

We have also spotted an error in the mark grid for Question 3 of the Higher Tier writing paper (Paper 4):

- The mark bands are incorrect: the mark bands should be '1–3', '4–6', '7–9' and '10–12'

The correct mark grid for Question 3 (Higher Tier) is below:

Mark	Descriptor
0	No rewardable content
1–3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meaning of some individual words or phrases is conveyed; frequent omissions/incorrectly communicated words and phrases/mother-tongue interference• Some straightforward structures are accurate but regular errors prevent meaning of individual phrases/sentences being conveyed
4–6	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meaning of the passage is partially communicated, some words and phrases are omitted/incorrectly communicated• Language and structures are accurate in some phrases and sentences but some errors prevent meaning being conveyed
7–9	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meaning of the passage is mostly communicated, occasional words are omitted/incorrectly communicated• Mostly accurate language and structures; errors occur that occasionally hinder clarity and in rare instances prevent meaning being conveyed
10–12	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The meaning of the passage is fully communicated• Consistently accurate language and structures, any errors do not hinder clarity

All reformed GCSE specifications, Sample Assessment Materials and specimen papers will be amended to reflect these changes.