

**Marking notes**  
**Remarques pour la notation**  
**Notas para la corrección**

**May / Mai / Mayo 2015**

**English / Anglais / Inglés A:  
language and literature /  
langue et littérature /  
lengua y literatura**

**Standard level  
Niveau moyen  
Nivel medio**

**Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1**

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### **Text 1**

The text is an extract from an opinion article in a UK newspaper deploring attitudes to learning foreign languages in Britain.

An adequate to good analysis will:

- show understanding of the text type
- identify the specific UK problem that has prompted the opinion article
- recognize that the writer is highly critical and identify some of the things he is angry or critical about.
- identify the potential audience as well as who the writer's criticisms are directed at
- comment on the diction and the style of the article (*eg*, tone, use of colloquial expressions, emphatic language, rhetorical questions, enumeration, statistics)
- comment on the illustration and on parallels to be made between it and the text
- recognize the shifts in point of view (notably pronouns)
- identify some ways in which the writer entertains the reader.

A good to excellent analysis may also:

- analyse more fully the writer's criticisms, possibly noting his enthusiasm for language learning and his aversion to utilitarianism, materialism or trust in market forces
- comment more extensively on the contexts to which the writer refers (including the general or international contexts in addition to the British) and the potential audiences he is reaching
- comment more extensively on the rhetorical features of the piece, including, for example, discussion of the cautionary as well as of the critical aspects of the writer's discourse
- comment more extensively on the effects of the shifts in point of view.
- discuss some of the images in the text (such as "our cage" or being "encased in one language") together with a more detailed interpretation of the illustration
- comment further on the subtleties of the writer's humour (*eg*, irony).

## Text 2

The text is part of a letter written by a soldier in World War I to his wife describing the events he took part in before and after entering the town of Ypres in 1915.

An adequate to good analysis will:

- identify the situation the letter-writer is in and his possible purpose in writing to the primary addressee
- enumerate some of the things that readers past or present learn about the situation from the letter-writer's news and describe some of the effects, or possible effects, on them
- make some comments about stylistic features that may include the letter-writer's choice of diction or imagery
- notice the letter-writer's use of pronouns
- notice the contrast between the cheerful tone of the letter-writer and the gravity of his situation and give some examples
- possibly comment on such details as the address and dateline, the way the letter-writer signs off, or on the title of the work in which his letter was published.

A good to excellent analysis may also:

- notice that this first-hand account of conditions on the battlefield would also have been of interest to a reader in 1917, when it was published, perhaps even to a reader today
  - identify the letter-writer more specifically, making inferences about his background, class or rank
  - comment on the effects of pronoun shifts in the letter
  - explore more fully the interest for readers of this letter as well as the possible effects on them
  - notice particularly what the reader learns about the logistical and organizational uncertainties of the soldier's life at the front and perhaps comment on the critical nature of his remarks
  - comment more fully on the narrative voice of the letter-writer, such as changes in tone or diction, including examples of the use of humour or irony
  - analyse more fully the stylistic features of the letter, drawing attention perhaps to the cinematographic quality of some of his account
  - comment on the effects on readers of such details as the address and dateline, the way the letter-writer signs off, or the title of the work in which his letter was published.
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