

OXFORD

INTERNATIONAL
AQA EXAMINATIONS

INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

(9280/R) Reading
Report on the examination

June 2019

REPORT ON EXAMINATION: INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE (9280/R) – JUNE 2019

GENERAL COMMENTS

The general performance in Reading was very heartening this summer; though again no students achieved full marks, many achieved very impressive scores. The texts were intended to be progressively more challenging, and students generally performed less well in answers to questions on Text 4 compared to Text 1. However, there was an increase in those doing well on questions asked about Text 4 compared to previous series. Students found Text 3, on the topic of social media, to be the most challenging in terms of identifying the correct meanings and wording clear responses.

Again students generally performed better on the multiple choice questions than open questions. Open questions which required students to show understanding of a specific phrase in context presented the highest level of challenge. Students did best in these questions when they were able to pinpoint the precise meaning of the phrase in context and explain it clearly and accurately using relevant and appropriate synonyms.

Students did less well in open questions when they copied words and phrases from the text without amending the wording and punctuation to fit the requirements of the question. While it was sometimes acceptable and relevant to copy from the text word for word in answers, this was not always the case. Students did best when they showed a clear understanding of the inference of the text, particularly for questions on Texts 3 and 4.

TEXT 1

Students generally achieved very well on all six questions, with virtually all students answering question 5 correctly.

TEXT 2

Question 7

This question was correctly answered by nearly all students.

Question 8

Just over four fifths of students gained the full two marks on this question. Verbs needed to be used in the correct form to address the wording of the question: 'Name two specific things you can do'.

Question 9

This question was well answered with 95% of students gaining one mark.

Question 10

This was a well-answered question though sometimes students provided too much information. Answers should provide only the specific information required.

Question 11

This was a challenging question with 28% of students gaining the full two marks for explaining both ideas of 'plenty' and 'feast your eyes on'. Well over half of students achieved one mark.

Questions 12 and 13

These were both well-answered multiple choice questions with 96% gaining two marks on question 12 and 80% gaining two marks on question 13.

Question 14

This was a well-answered question with the vast majority of students choosing the correct answer.

TEXT 3

Questions 15 and 16

Both of these multiple choice questions were well answered with over 90% of students providing the correct answers on each question.

Question 17

This proved to be a discriminating question with only a small number of students giving an accurate explanation of 'relentless consumption' and gaining the full two marks.

Question 18

This question presented challenges with students appearing to find it difficult to find three examples (just under a quarter of students achieved all three marks).

Question 19

Students appeared to find this question challenging with around two fifths gaining one mark.

Question 20

This was a well-answered multiple choice question with over four fifths of students gaining all four marks by identifying four comments which young people have made about their phones.

Question 21

The vast majority of students gained one or two marks on this question, and of those well over half of students gained the full two marks. For two marks students needed to address both ideas of what makes communication quicker and what makes it less meaningful.

Question 22

To gain the mark students needed to explain the idea of 'reassess' clearly. Around a third of students gained the mark for this question.

Question 23

The best answers to this question clearly explained both ideas of getting rid of most apps, except for two of them. Around a third of students gained both marks for this question.

Question 24

The majority of students selected the correct option for this question by identifying the main point of the article.

TEXT 4

Question 25

This proved to be a discriminating question with only a small number of students gaining both marks available by fully explaining that there are many trees and that they are flawless.

Question 26

Students appeared to find this to be a more challenging multiple choice question with 56% gaining four marks for identifying four things which happen.

Question 27

Students appeared to find this a challenging question with 14% gaining the full three marks. This question required students to explain that the flowers have a wider meaning, that they are symbolic and that they represent core values.

Question 28

The majority of students selected to correct answer in response to this question.

Question 29

It was encouraging that three quarters of students gained the full three marks available for this question.

Question 30

This multiple choice question was broadly well answered with just under two thirds identifying both correct statements.

Question 31 and Question 32

These two multiple choice questions required students to identify the meaning of some sophisticated vocabulary. The standard of performance was high, with 84% of students answering question 31 correctly and 88% answering question 32 correctly.

Question 33

This was a well-answered question with 85% of students gaining the two marks available.

Question 34

This was a reasonably well-answered question, though some students showed a lack of understanding by copying parts of sentences from the text which did not make sense on their own.

Question 35

This was a reasonably well-answered multiple choice question which was answered correctly by nearly two thirds of students.

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