

## **GCSE**

### **English (Northern Ireland)**

Unit **A633/01**: Information and Ideas (Foundation Tier)

General Certificate of Secondary Education

### **Mark Scheme for November 2015**

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA) is a leading UK awarding body, providing a wide range of qualifications to meet the needs of candidates of all ages and abilities. OCR qualifications include AS/A Levels, Diplomas, GCSEs, Cambridge Nationals, Cambridge Technicals, Functional Skills, Key Skills, Entry Level qualifications, NVQs and vocational qualifications in areas such as IT, business, languages, teaching/training, administration and secretarial skills.

It is also responsible for developing new specifications to meet national requirements and the needs of students and teachers. OCR is a not-for-profit organisation; any surplus made is invested back into the establishment to help towards the development of qualifications and support, which keep pace with the changing needs of today's society.

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and students, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which marks were awarded by examiners. It does not indicate the details of the discussions which took place at an examiners' meeting before marking commenced.

All examiners are instructed that alternative correct answers and unexpected approaches in candidates' scripts must be given marks that fairly reflect the relevant knowledge and skills demonstrated.

Mark schemes should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and the report on the examination.

OCR will not enter into any discussion or correspondence in connection with this mark scheme.

© OCR 2015

**Marking and Annotation of Scripts after the Standardisation Meeting**

All scripts must be marked in accordance with the version of the mark scheme agreed at the Standardisation meeting.

**Annotation of scripts**

Examiners should use annotation to show clearly where a mark is earned or why it has not been awarded. This will help examiners, checkers and those who review the marking of scripts.

**Annotation consists of:**

- ticks and crosses to show where marks have been earned or not earned
- specific words or phrases as agreed at Standardisation and as contained and included in the final mark scheme to show why a mark has been earned or indicate why a mark has not been earned (eg to show there is an omission)
- standard abbreviations, eg for *follow through*, *special case*, etc.

As scripts may be returned to centres, you should use the minimum of comments and make sure that these are related to the award of a mark or marks and are matched to statements in the mark scheme.

Do **not** include comments on a candidate's work.

Record any annotation in the body of the answer, or in the margin next to the point where the decision is made to award, or not award, the mark.

**Recording of marks**

Give a clear indication of how marks have been awarded, as instructed in the mark scheme.

Show evidence that you have seen the work on every page of a script on which the candidate has made a response.

Cross through every blank page to show that you have seen it.

Follow the current guidance on crossed-out work.

**Handling of unexpected answers**

The Standardisation meeting will include discussion of marking issues, including:

- consideration of the mark scheme to reach a decision about the range of acceptable responses and the marks appropriate to them
- comparable marking standards for optional questions
- the handling of unexpected, yet acceptable, answers.

If you are not sure how to apply the mark scheme to an answer, you should telephone your Team Leader

## SECTION A - NON-FICTION AND MEDIA

## SECTION A READING

Question 1 *Diana Nyad, 64: "We Should Never Ever Give Up"*

## CRITERIA

Candidates should demonstrate that they can:

- Read and understand texts, selecting material appropriate to purpose, collating from different sources (AO2 i).

Question		Indicative Content	Marks	Guidance
1	(a)	<p>Award <b>one</b> mark for each of the following, up to a maximum of three:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fifth attempt</li> <li>• 64 (when she swam)</li> <li>• Swam through / greeted by (cheering) crowds</li> <li>• Arrived at 2pm</li> <li>• Swam / Arrived (off the coast of Key West) Florida</li> <li>• She set a record</li> <li>• (She swam) from Cuba</li> </ul>	3	<p>There is no premium on own words in this answer. Selective copying is acceptable.</p> <p>Verbatim copying of the whole sentence is not acceptable.</p> <p>Tick only 1 point per box.</p>
	(b)	<p>Award <b>one</b> mark for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (an) elusive (dream)</li> </ul>	1	<p>Tick the correct answer.</p> <p>Credit 'dream', elusive dream', 'an elusive dream'.</p>
	(c)	<p>Award <b>one</b> mark for each of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caused her to stop / stop her last attempt</li> <li>• Burn to limbs</li> <li>• Burn to face</li> </ul>	2	<p>There is no premium on own words in this answer. Selective copying is acceptable.</p> <p>Verbatim copying of the clause that contains all three possible answers is not acceptable.</p> <p>Tick only 1 point per box.</p>

Question	Indicative Content	Marks	Guidance
1 (d)	<p>Candidates may refer to <b>some</b> of the following points:</p> <p><b>DIFFICULTIES</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Swollen lips / tongue (from water/mask)</li> <li>2. Caused slurred speech / problems with speaking</li> <li>3. Not allowed physical contact with crew</li> <li>4. Cuts in her mouth (from mask)</li> <li>5. Tides / eddies / currents / reefs</li> <li>6. Danger of ships</li> <li>7. Sharks/ jellyfish</li> </ol> <p><b>ACHIEVEMENTS</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 50-hour swim</li> <li>2. Long term ambition / dream realised</li> <li>3. Built a special group / team / lots of people to organise event</li> <li>4. First person to swim (Cuba-Florida) without shark cage</li> <li>5. Generated the warmth of her supporters – e.g. chanting her name</li> <li>6. She was inspirational to others (an acceptable general point)</li> <li>7. She never gave up (in spite of her age / difficulties)</li> <li>8. An historic moment</li> <li>9. Congratulations from the president</li> </ol> <p>There is no requirement for an even balance of points. Exclusive focus on one category is likely to be self-limiting.</p>	14	<p><b>NOTES</b></p> <p>Features of higher band responses (Band 4 and above) are likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• clear focus on the task</li> <li>• effective organisation of points</li> <li>• ability to express points in own words (where possible).</li> </ul> <p>Medium band responses (Bands 5 and 6) are likely to show evidence that the task has been understood. In Band 6, points are likely to be listed mechanically without a clear focus on the question and with some lifting. ‘Mechanical’ responses include those which follow the passage closely, perhaps altering the occasional word or inverting sentence structures.</p> <p>Lower band responses (Bands 7 and 8) may make a good number of points but lift the material, sometimes indiscriminately.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONS</b></p> <p>This answer is not marked per point. Use the band descriptors and practice scripts to arrive at your mark. Disregard any points in 1a, 1b or 1c.</p> <p>Use the following annotations to help you arrive at your mark:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> to indicate points from the list in this table</li> <li> for points not made securely</li> <li> for repeated points</li> <li> for extended lifting</li> <li> for mis-reading</li> <li> for irrelevant material.</li> </ul>

**Question 1d****GENERIC band descriptors****\*\*Be prepared to use the FULL range\*\****The band descriptors which are shaded reward performance above or below that expected on this paper.*

<b>BAND</b>	<b>MARKS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTOR</b>
Above 4	14 13 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear understanding of text and task</li> <li>• Mostly clear focus; good organisation</li> <li>• Consistent attempt to use own words</li> <li>• Good range of points clearly identified</li> </ul>
4	11 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text and task have been understood, though there may be some unnecessary material</li> <li>• Generally clear focus – perhaps some blurring</li> <li>• Evidence of ability to express in own words (where appropriate)</li> <li>• A range of points clearly identified</li> </ul>
5	9 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task generally addressed, though there may be some irrelevant material</li> <li>• Some lack of focus</li> <li>• Own words generally used, but may be some selective lifting</li> <li>• General understanding of a number of points</li> </ul>
6	7 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some evidence that the task has been understood</li> <li>• Lacks clear focus</li> <li>• Points listed mechanically, with some lifting</li> <li>• Straightforward understanding of some of the simpler points</li> </ul>
7	5 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only a little evidence that the task has been understood</li> <li>• May contain indiscriminate lifting</li> <li>• Some grasp of a limited number of points</li> </ul>
8	3 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Considerable misunderstanding of text and task</li> <li>• May contain much indiscriminate lifting</li> <li>• At the top of the band, a rudimentary understanding of only a limited number of simple points</li> </ul>
Below 8	1 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Material selected has little or no bearing on the task</li> <li>• Answers likely to be brief and hesitant or rambling and unstructured</li> </ul>

Question 2 *Help the Aged* letter

## CRITERIA

Candidates should demonstrate that they can:

- Explain and evaluate how writers use presentational features to achieve effects and engage and influence the reader (AO2 iii).

Question	Indicative Content	Marks	Guidance
2 (a)	<p><b>Higher Band</b> responses [Bands 4 and above] are likely both to identify particular headings, the logo and photographs to make reasonably sustained comments about the effects on the reader. At the top end there will be clear evidence that specific effects of these presentational features are being analysed rather than described or merely listed. Candidates <b>may</b> comment on the following: the loneliness of the woman looking out of the window; the significance of the locket photograph; the logo's image of the sun; the effects of specific words in the headings.</p> <p><b>Middle Band</b> responses [Bands 5 and 6] are likely to be characterised by a general awareness of the effects of the headings, logo and photographs, and by a descriptive rather than analytical approach. Examples at this level may be simply listed and amount to little more than feature-spotting, with some basic and generalised comment.</p> <p><b>Lower Band</b> responses [Bands 7 and below] are likely to show only a rudimentary understanding of the effects of the headings, logo and photographs. Comments on presentation are likely to be basic and generalised, at the level of spotting more obvious features such as use of large fonts and colourful pictures.</p>	6	<p><b>NOTES</b> Features of higher band answers are likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identification of specific features from the text</li> <li>• analytical comment on the effect of the features identified.</li> </ul> <p>It is possible for concise answers demonstrating these qualities to score highly. It is important not to over-reward long answers which identify specific features or which offer only generalised comment.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONS</b> Use the band descriptors and practice scripts to arrive at your mark.</p> <p>Do not reward generic comments that could be true of any media text: e.g. 'the headings are big and attract the reader': 'the pictures are colourful and draw you in'.</p> <p>Do not credit comments about the main body of the text, which is the focus of Question 2(b).</p> <p>Use the following annotations to help you arrive at your mark:</p> <p> to indicate specific features identified by the candidate</p> <p> to indicate explanations and analytical comment</p> <p> for explanations that are not fully clear</p> <p> for irrelevant material.</p>

**QUESTION 2a GENERIC BAND DESCRIPTORS****\*\*\* Be prepared to use the FULL range \*\*\****The band descriptors which are shaded reward performance above or below that expected on this paper.*

<b>BAND</b>	<b>MARKS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTOR</b>
<b>Above</b> 4	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear and reasonably sustained analytical response</li> <li>• Use of well-selected detail for support</li> </ul>
4	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some evidence of analytical comment</li> <li>• Use of some appropriate details for support</li> </ul>
5	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Begins to develop a response; mainly descriptive</li> <li>• Reference to some relevant detail</li> </ul>
6	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some relevant comment</li> <li>• Reference to a little detail</li> </ul>
7	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Straightforward points</li> <li>• Features merely identified</li> </ul>
8	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Simple points</li> <li>• Little, if any, specific detail</li> </ul>
<b>Below</b> 8	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response not worthy of credit: answer brief and hesitating or rambling and lacking relevance</li> </ul>

Question	Indicative Content	Marks	Guidance
2 (b)	<p><b>Higher Band</b> responses [Bands 4 and above] are likely to identify the purpose of the letter and the persuasive nature of much of the language.</p> <p>Candidates are likely to make some comment on the emotive use of language: ‘her memories...are photographs’; ‘She lives alone in a small flat’; ‘the world passes by her window’; Jean’s last friend’ etc. They are likely to explore the direct address and appeal to the reader: eg ‘You could show...’; ‘Please give us just £12 today’. They may comment on the effects of language features such as alliteration (‘feeling lonely and forgotten’, ‘services to show them someone cares’, ‘suffer in silence’) and imagery (‘the world passes by her window’, ‘open up your heart’). At the top end there will be some evidence that language is being analysed and comments supported by appropriate reference. At the top end there will be some evidence that language is being analysed and comments supported by appropriate reference.</p> <p><b>Middle Band</b> responses [Bands 5 and 6] are likely to be characterised by a general awareness of the overall purpose of the letter and some of its persuasive writing, and by a descriptive rather than analytical approach. Quotations at this level may be simply listed and/or excessive in length. Where comments on language exist, they are likely to be generalised and/or repetitive. Language features may be logged, sometimes incorrectly or vaguely (eg ‘the article uses strong verbs’).</p> <p><b>Lower Band</b> [Bands 7 and below] responses are likely to show only a rudimentary understanding of the purpose of the letter. Comments on language are likely to be basic, generalised and in some cases erroneous. Responses may be characterised by much lifting of points and/or listing of quotations without comment or explanation. At the bottom end, there will be considerable misunderstanding of both task and text and/or almost verbatim copying of parts of the text.</p>	14	<p><b>NOTES</b></p> <p>Features of higher band answers are likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• identification of specific <b>information</b> and <b>language</b> points</li> <li>• analytical comment on the effects of the points identified.</li> </ul> <p>Good quality comment on the effects of specific words and phrases is a discriminator for this task. Answers lacking comment on language points should not be marked higher than Band 5.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONS</b></p> <p>Use the band descriptors and practice scripts to arrive at your mark.</p> <p>Do not over-reward answers that adopt an overly descriptive approach.</p> <p>Do not credit comments about headings, the logo and photographs that are the focus of Question 2(a).</p> <p>Use the following annotations to help you arrive at your mark:</p> <p> to indicate information points</p> <p> to indicate words/phrases specifically identified by the candidate</p> <p> to indicate explanations and analytical comment</p> <p> for explanations that are not fully clear</p> <p> for irrelevant material.</p> <p> for extended lifting</p>

<b>QUESTION 2b GENERIC BAND DESCRIPTORS</b>		
<b>**Be prepared to use the FULL range**</b>		
<i>The band descriptors which are shaded reward performance above or below that expected on this paper.</i>		
<b>BAND</b>	<b>MARKS</b>	<b>DESCRIPTOR</b>
Above 4	14 13 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A good range of points showing a secure understanding of the ways in which information and language contribute to the text's purpose</li> <li>• Careful supporting references and some analytical comment</li> <li>• Sound awareness of text and task</li> </ul>
4	11 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A range of points showing a sound understanding of the ways in which information and language contribute to the text's purpose</li> <li>• Appropriate supporting references and an attempt at an analytical approach</li> <li>• Task has been addressed for the main part</li> </ul>
5	9 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Easier information points together show some understanding of the text's purpose</li> <li>• Comments tend to be descriptive rather than analytical, and references may be inert</li> <li>• Some focus on the task</li> </ul>
6	7 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Points likely to concentrate on simpler information and basic language features</li> <li>• Assertions predominate, with minimal or no textual evidence in support</li> <li>• A little evidence that the task has been understood</li> </ul>
7	5 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some simple descriptive points</li> <li>• Much indiscriminate re-telling of the content, or paraphrase</li> <li>• Considerable misunderstanding of the passage and/or task</li> </ul>
8	3 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only glancing references to the task</li> <li>• May consist entirely of indiscriminate re-telling, without explanation or comment</li> <li>• Almost complete misunderstanding of passage and task</li> </ul>
Below 8	1 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Answers will be brief and hesitant or rambling and unstructured</li> <li>• Material selected will have little or no bearing on the task</li> </ul>

**SECTION B: WRITING**

Candidates answer EITHER 3 OR 4.

**CRITERIA**

Candidates should demonstrate that they can:

- Write to communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, using and adapting forms and selecting vocabulary appropriate to task and purpose in ways that engage the reader (AO3 i)
- Organise information and ideas into structured and sequenced sentences, paragraphs and whole texts, using a variety of linguistic and structural features to support cohesion and over coherence (AO3 ii)
- Use a range of sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate punctuation and spelling (AO3 iii).

Question	Indicative Content	Marks	Guidance
3	<p>Candidates are free to respond to the task in any valid way. We should perhaps expect some latitude in candidates' interpretation of the words 'young and older'.</p> <p>Stronger responses will show some appreciation of the need to shape material consciously in order to engage the interest of readers. There is likely to be some evidence of an effective use of rhetorical devices in presenting their views.</p>	40	<p><b>NOTES</b> Length in itself is not a criterion. Short answers may be self-penalising in terms of the marking criteria (e.g. control, development of ideas, structure, paragraphing, variety of sentence structures) – but may well demonstrate significant qualities.</p> <p>However, very short answers (fewer than 50 words) should not normally be marked higher than Band 7 for either of the two marks for Writing. For AO3 (iii), there will not be sufficient evidence of correct spelling and punctuation or of a variety of sentence structures.</p> <p><b>INSTRUCTIONS</b> Use the band descriptors and practice scripts to arrive at your mark.</p> <p>Award two marks: one for AO3(i)/(ii); another for AO3(iii).</p> <p>Use the following annotations to help you arrive at your marks:</p>
4	<p>For higher bands there should be a clear sense of the audience and purpose specified in the task.</p> <p>The writing should engage the listener's interest, and there will be, for the higher bands, some evidence of crafting the writing to create specific persuasive effects.</p>	40	<p> for good ideas</p> <p> for good vocabulary and expression</p> <p> for errors of spelling, punctuation and grammar</p> <p> for awkward expression</p> <p> for weak sentence structure</p> <p> for omissions</p>

**Note:** If the candidate has answered Question 4, click on 'No Response' for both Question 3 writing elements. Then proceed to annotating/markings Question 4.

If the candidate has answered Question 3, annotate/mark this question and input the two separate marks. Then click on 'No Response' for both Question 4 writing elements.

## Generic Marking Criteria for Section B: Writing

Band	Marks	Descriptors AO3i & AO3ii	Marks	Descriptors AO3iii
Above Band 4	27 26 25 24	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows generally competent control of the material but may not always convey meaning clearly when using more ambitious linguistic devices and structures.</li> <li>demonstrates a secure understanding of the task, addressing it in a relevant way and adapting form and style with confidence to suit audience and purpose.</li> <li>uses varied vocabulary to create different effects which are mainly appropriate to the purpose of the writing, conveying thought and meaning clearly.</li> <li>uses structure deliberately and with direction – a focused and interesting opening, events and ideas developed clearly and in some detail, an appropriate ending.</li> <li>uses paragraphs of varying length and structure for effect, which effectively organise and link ideas and create an overall sense of coherence.</li> </ul>	13 12	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses generally well controlled sentence structures which are varied in length and type and show evidence of being used deliberately to create specific effects appropriate to the task.</li> <li>shows secure spelling of complex regular words and generally secure spelling of irregular or more complex vocabulary.</li> <li>uses punctuation to enhance or clarify meaning – is accurate both within and between sentences, but may make some errors in complex sentence structures.</li> </ul>
4	23 22 21 20	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows general control of the material; the response may be straightforward and controlled but linguistically unambitious or may lose some control in attempting something ambitious.</li> <li>demonstrates an understanding of the task, addressing it in a mainly relevant way with some evidence of adapting form and style to suit different audiences and purposes.</li> <li>uses some variety of vocabulary to create different effects and to suit the purpose of the writing, but which may be imprecise or fail to convey shades of meaning.</li> <li>uses structure with a sense of direction – a clear and focused opening, straightforward development of ideas, an attempt to achieve an appropriate ending.</li> <li>is organised into paragraphs which may be varied for effect and which are carefully linked together to make the sequence of events or development of ideas clear to the reader.</li> </ul>	11 10	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses sentence structures which show some variety. May tend to repeat sentence types, lose control of more ambitious structures, or make some syntactical errors.</li> <li>usually spells complex regular words securely; may make errors with irregular or more complex vocabulary.</li> <li>uses punctuation in an attempt to create some specific effects; is usually accurate for sentence separation and sometimes within sentences, but may make less secure use of speech marks, colons and semi colons.</li> </ul>

Band	Marks	Descriptors AO3i & AO3ii	Marks	Descriptors AO3iii
5	19 18 17 16	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• may not always show control of the material; the response may be simple and controlled but linguistically unambitious, or may attempt something ambitious but tend to lose control.</li> <li>• demonstrates some understanding of the task, addressing it in a sometimes relevant way and with some attempt to adapt form and style to suit audience and purpose.</li> <li>• uses vocabulary to create some limited effects, which may however be too simple to convey shades of meaning, not fully understood or not appropriate and may contain some idiomatic errors.</li> <li>• uses structure with some sense of direction – a generally clear and focused opening, some development of ideas, a limited attempt to achieve an appropriate ending.</li> <li>• uses paragraphs which may occasionally be varied for effect and/or are linked together to make the sequence of events or development of ideas fairly clear to the reader.</li> </ul>	9 8	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• uses sentence structures which show a little variety; may tend repeat sentence types, lose control of more ambitious structures, and/or include syntactical errors.</li> <li>• usually spells simple regular vocabulary securely but may make errors with complex regular vocabulary.</li> <li>• uses punctuation which sometimes helps clarify meaning, usually accurately for sentence separation and sometimes successfully within sentences.</li> </ul>
6	15 14 13 12	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• does not always show control of the material; the response may have a level of linguistic error that distracts the reader from the merits of the content.</li> <li>• demonstrates a limited understanding of the task and addresses it with some relevance, making a limited attempt to adapt form and style to suit audience and purpose.</li> <li>• uses vocabulary which is sometimes chosen for variety and interest but likely to be limited in range, sometimes inappropriate and may contain some idiomatic errors.</li> <li>• structures writing with some sense of direction which may not be sustained; a fairly clear opening, some limited development of ideas, some sense of an ending.</li> <li>• uses paragraphs which create some sense of sequence for the events or the development of ideas but which may lack unity or have little or no evidence of links between them.</li> </ul>	7 6	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• uses repetitive sentence structures, which are mainly simple or compound, or lengthy with some sense of control.</li> <li>• usually spells simple regular vocabulary accurately but may make a number of typical errors.</li> <li>• sometimes uses punctuation accurately for sentence separation but has limited success with attempts to use it within sentences to clarify meaning.</li> </ul>

Band	Marks	Descriptors AO3i & AO3ii	Marks	Descriptors AO3iii
7	11 10 9 8	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows limited control of the material; the level of linguistic error may require the reader to re-read some sentences before the meaning is clear.</li> <li>demonstrates a very limited understanding of the task, addressing it with occasional focus and making limited attempts to adapt form and style to suit audience and purpose.</li> <li>uses vocabulary to create occasional variety and interest but which is likely to be very limited in range and often inappropriate with some idiomatic errors.</li> <li>shows some signs of organisation and some sense of direction – a limited attempt to create an opening, very simple or rambling development of ideas, may come to a stop rather than achieving a deliberate ending.</li> <li>uses paragraphs which may signal only obvious development of events or ideas, or which may be haphazard and lack clear links or overall unity.</li> </ul>	5 4	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses simple repetitive sentence structures with little control of more complex ones and frequent syntactical faults.</li> <li>spells some simple regular vocabulary accurately but makes random errors.</li> <li>uses some basic punctuation with some success between sentences but, within sentences, usually misuses or omits it.</li> </ul>
8	7 6 5 4 3	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>offers occasional relevant and comprehensible content, but density of linguistic error may require the reader to re-read and re-organise the text before meaning is clear.</li> <li>demonstrates a little awareness of the task, addressing it with intermittent focus; form and style may occasionally be appropriate to audience and/or purpose, but this is unlikely to be deliberate.</li> <li>uses vocabulary which is very occasionally chosen for variety and/or interest but which is very limited in range and often inappropriate, with obvious idiomatic errors.</li> <li>shows occasional signs of organisation and a very limited – if any – sense of direction.</li> <li>uses paragraphs occasionally to signal very obvious changes in the direction of events or ideas, but which may need to be re-read or re-organised before the meaning is clear.</li> </ul>	3 2	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>uses recognisable sentence structures, with some accuracy in the use of more simple ones.</li> <li>uses erratic spelling which may be recognisable for most words but is accurate for only a limited number.</li> <li>uses punctuation which is occasionally successful but is inconsistent and likely to be inaccurate.</li> </ul>

Band	Marks	Descriptors AO3i & AO3ii	Marks	Descriptors AO3iii
<b>Below band 8</b>	<b>2 1 0</b>	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is very short or communicates very little, with some sections making no sense at all; may gain some marks where there is occasional clarity.</li> <li>• shows almost no awareness of task, audience or purpose.</li> <li>• uses vocabulary which is seriously limited.</li> <li>• shows almost no signs of organisation or sense of direction.</li> <li>• uses paragraphs – if at all – in a haphazard way such that, in spite of re-reading and re-organising, very little sense emerges.</li> </ul>	<b>1 0</b>	<p><i>In this band a candidate's writing:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• uses spelling and punctuation so imprecisely that very little meaning is communicated.</li> </ul>

**OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)**  
1 Hills Road  
Cambridge  
CB1 2EU

**OCR Customer Contact Centre**

**Education and Learning**

Telephone: 01223 553998

Facsimile: 01223 552627

Email: [general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk](mailto:general.qualifications@ocr.org.uk)

[www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

For staff training purposes and as part of our quality assurance programme your call may be recorded or monitored

**Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations**  
is a Company Limited by Guarantee  
Registered in England  
Registered Office; 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU  
Registered Company Number: 3484466  
OCR is an exempt Charity

**OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA Examinations)**  
Head office  
Telephone: 01223 552552  
Facsimile: 01223 552553

© OCR 2015

