

ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE HG PAPER 1

Firstly, congratulations are due to the teachers of English whose candidates did well. It was clear that many candidates who did well followed instructions: e.g. 1.15 evaluate ...; the better candidates labeled and numbered their answers clearly and correctly.

Secondly, summary techniques were generally poor. Thirdly, candidates guilty of shopping thinking and expression performed poorly: “sort of”, “almost”, “not bad” etc. do not make creditable statements but leave the markers to find the answer and the marks. Poor language skills were of two kinds: “kinda”, “gonna”, “would of” and the results of poor pronunciation – “development” (six); the other kind was the rewriting of the same point in several ways for the length of a page, in pursuit of 2 marks! ‘Baby talk’ – ‘cos – should be discouraged. Fourthly, learners should practice answering questions about metaphors – saying what the comparison is rather than defining the figure of speech.

Fifthly, teachers are alerted to the growing trend in which candidates are required to comment on the language in action – e.g. what change in emphasis occurs when the Active Voice is changed to the Passive. Reference to words requires appropriate punctuation, e.g. ‘humankind’ rather than ‘man’.

Lastly, a repeat: candidates must LEAD EVIDENCE. And thank you for discouraging the use of correction fluid!