

English Paper

Sections A, B1, and B2 are marked against the below skills and abilities. No specialised subject knowledge is required to answer either the précis or the essay, as these are intended to assess your ability to communicate clearly and to present logical arguments.

The following skills and abilities are looked for by all departments:

Strand	Skill/Ability	Amplification	Competence
1	Comprehension of the written word	The ability to understand vocabulary and sentence construction to a good standard	Essential
2	Use of written English	The ability to communicate thoughts and ideas through good construction of sentences and paragraphs, and use of a reasonable vocabulary	Essential
3	Critical or logical engagement with the subject matter	An ability to present independent expressions of an idea or the ability to identify and engage with different approaches to a central idea	Essential
4	Social engagement	An enquiring attitude to social issues and the ability to understand and articulate complex ideas	Desirable
5	Independent analysis	Original or innovative ideas or presentation and discussion of ideas	Desirable
6	Problem solving skills	Ability to discuss several approaches and critically analyse and articulate solutions or outcomes	Desirable

Section A

This is a compulsory précis question taken by all candidates. It tests the above strands of 1 to 3. The following will be taken into account whilst marking.

Marks Awarded	
80% or above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrates sophisticated use of vocabulary • Not formulaic • Well-structured and interesting to read
60% to 79%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to separate relevant and material points from irrelevant and immaterial. • Competent use of vocabulary • Demonstration of contextual understanding • Keeping to word limit and majority of prose to be in candidates own words • Avoiding editorialising or re-interpretation
40% to 59%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some understanding of the subject matter but poor presentation and inadequate language skills • Some inaccuracy or irrelevance
20% to 39%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorly written and lacking relevance, accuracy or structure

Section B1

This is a short essay answered by students who are completing Test 1. It tests the above strands of 1 to 4 and takes the following will be taken into account while marking:

Marks Awarded	
80% or above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shows a strong element of independent critical analysis• Not formulaic• Good structure to the essay and interesting to read• Sophisticated arguments or knowledge
60% to 79%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competent and appropriate use of English• A structured essay that is well presented and concluded• Logical paragraphing• Ability to present arguments and alternate views• Good use of examples
40% to 59%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some understanding of the subject matter but poor presentation and inadequate language skills• Simplistic arguments• Some inaccuracy or irrelevance
20% to 39%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very weak answers• Poorly written and lacking relevance, accuracy or substance

Section B2

This is a longer essay to be answered by candidates who are completing Test 2. It tests the above strands of 1 to 6 and the following will be taken into account while marking:

Marks Awarded	
80% or above	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shows a strong element of independent critical analysis on social or controversial issues• Not formulaic• Good structure to essay and interesting to read• Sophisticated arguments demonstrating critical engagement with the subject• Demonstrates very good knowledge and familiarity of subject
60% to 79%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A structured essay that is well-presented and concluded• Logical paragraphing• Ability to present arguments critically and assess alternate views• Familiarity with and substantive engagement with issues or problems raised• Some original elements• Good use of examples
40% to 59%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some understanding of the subject matter but poor presentation and inadequate language skills• Simplistic arguments• Some inaccuracy or irrelevance
20% to 39%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Very weak answers• Poorly written and lacking relevance, accuracy or substance• Barely attempted question