

OXFORD

INTERNATIONAL
AQA EXAMINATIONS

INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

(9280/R) Reading

Report on the examination

November 2021

REPORT ON EXAMINATION: INTERNATIONAL GCSE ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE 9280/R UNIT Reading NOVEMBER 2021

The general performance in Reading has continued to be encouraging with many students achieving good results and two students achieving a perfect score. Students did well in answering multiple choice questions on text 1 (assessment objective 1). Text 4 in general and some specific aspects of Texts 2 and 3, such as when students were required to draw inferences and make deductions (assessment objective 4), presented the greatest level of difficulty.

Students ability to collate, organise and present detail (assessment objective 3) in particular is improving. In this exam, however, some students copied too much directly from the text and did not always filter out irrelevant information when making a list.

There was some improvement in students' ability to paraphrase well in questions which required students to 'explain in your own words what this means', with some students showing impressive knowledge of vocabulary and providing some excellent synonyms (assessment objective 2). There were some very concise answers which rephrased vocabulary while maintaining the same grammar and syntax, for example the same verb tense.

Some students found it challenging to recognise the implicit meaning of a text (assessment objective 4) where they were asked to identify the 'main point' or 'main purpose' of a paragraph or full text in multiple choice questions such as questions 10, 14, 24 and 35.

In a small number of cases handwriting was quite difficult to read and letters written in the relevant boxes did not always clearly resemble one of the given choices.

Text 01

Students generally achieved very well on all six questions with question 6 being the least well answered with 92% of students gaining the maximum one mark with question 2 being the best answered with 99% of students gaining the maximum mark.

Text 02

Question 7

This question was correctly answered by 96% of students and was generally well worded with most students indicating the main function was to provide employment advice.

Question 8

93% of students gave a correct answer for one mark.

Question 9

This question was well answered with 86% of students gaining two marks for listing two sorts of people careers advisors work with.

Question 10

94% of students answered this multiple choice question correctly.

Question 11

94% of students gained a full two marks for this multiple choice question.

Question 12

This question provided a high level of difficulty with 47% of students gaining one mark for this question and 2% gaining the full two marks. While many students were able to explain the idea of a 'challenge', not many students explained the idea of 'time management' as the ability to use/organise time effectively or efficiently.

Question 13

78% gained both marks for this multiple choice question.

Question 14

64% of students chose the correct answer in identifying the main purpose of the text.

Text 03

Question 15

91% of students answered this multiple choice question correctly.

Question 16

62% of students answered this question correctly about how often the air show was held.

Question 17

This question acted as a good discriminator with 21% of students giving a clear and accurate explanation of 'looking forward to'.

Question 18

A well-answered question with 69% of students listing three examples correctly.

Question 19

This question proved challenging with only 12% of students gaining the full two marks in explaining the phrase 'disaster struck' accurately in their own words with 33% gaining one mark.

Question 20

37% of students gained the full four marks for this multiple choice question.

Question 21

48% of students explained the phrase 'Thomas showed courage' accurately for one mark with many alluding to the adjective brave or noun bravery.

Question 22

This was a well-answered question with 75% of students gaining the full two marks.

Question 23

7% explained both ideas accurately and gained the full two marks with 28% explaining both ideas of 'talking calmly' and 'to the injured'. Where questions of this type are awarded more than one mark, students should take care to explain as many of the key verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs in their own words as possible using the correct verb tense and pronouns. In this case the phrase 'to the injured' needed to be explained accurately as well as 'talking calmly' for the full two marks.

Question 24

89% of students answered this correctly by identifying the main point of the whole article.

Text 04

Question 25

This question acted as a good discriminator. There were some very encouraging answers with a few students explaining all three ideas of 'take in' the view, 'had charmed' and 'the previous evening' accurately (1%) with 13% managing to explain at least two of these ideas.

Question 26

An encouraging 50% gained the full four marks in listing what the writer says about the Danube River.

Question 27

This was a challenging question with 1% of students gaining the full two marks and 13% of students gaining one mark.

Question 28

This was a well-answered question with 67% of students gaining the full three marks.

Question 29

75% of students chose correctly in identifying the main point of paragraph 4.

Question 30

This was an encouraging question with 60% of students answering correctly and gaining one mark.

Question 31 and Question 32

These two multiple choice questions presented students with the challenge of identifying the meaning of some sophisticated vocabulary and were broadly well answered with 65% answering question 31 correctly for the full two marks and 83% question 32 correctly for one mark.

Question 33

30% of students gained the full 4 marks in listing how the writer showed that the climb to and from the waterfall was challenging. Students should bear in mind that the first four answers given are marked in a question like this in which a list is required. It is advised that the answers students are most confident about should be written first.

Question 34

This was a reasonably well-answered question with 37% gaining the full two marks. A verb form was required in answering how the time of day affected what they saw.

Question 35

This was a well-answered multiple choice question which was answered correctly by 87% of students.

GET HELP AND SUPPORT

Visit our website for information, guidance, support and resources at oxfordaqaexams.org.uk

FAIR ASSESSMENT PROMISE

In line with OxfordAQA's Fair Assessment promise, the assessment design, marking and awarding of this examination focused on performance in the subject, rather than English language ability.



OXFORD INTERNATIONAL AQA EXAMINATIONS
GREAT CLARENDON STREET, OXFORD, OX2 6DP
UNITED KINGDOM

enquiries@oxfordaqaexams.org.uk
oxfordaqaexams.org.uk

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and Oxford International AQA Examinations will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team, AQA, Stag Hill House, Guildford, GU2 7XJ.