

DESCRIPTORS FOR EVALUATING RESPONSE DETERMINED BY MARK ALLOCATION AND COGNITIVE SKILL

A 5-mark question that requires extended abstract thinking. The response demonstrates understanding, application, analysis, complex inference and/or synthesis, evaluation or appreciation.	
Marks	Skills
5	<p>The excellent response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is complete and detailed, making specific reference to more than one element of the required text(s). • makes insightful links between the question and the text(s). • provides evidence that understanding can be transferred to a new context/new contexts. • integrates all elements, making connections and demonstrating a clear understanding of how the parts contribute to the whole.
4½–4	<p>The very good response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • makes specific reference to the required text(s). • makes accurate links between the question and the text(s). • provides evidence that understanding can be applied to familiar contexts. • integrates the key elements, making connections and demonstrating a clear understanding of how the parts contribute to the whole.
3½–3	<p>The average response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refers to the required text(s) in a general way without addressing all aspects. • makes simple, underdeveloped links between the question and the text(s). • could be complete, without the required references or evidence. • does not demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the whole determined (does not clarify/establish the significance of the whole).
2½–2	<p>The incomplete response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refers to the text(s) in a general way. • is inaccurate or simplistic. • demonstrates concrete thinking and an incomplete understanding of the elements.
1½–0	<p>The inadequate response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refers to the text(s). • does not answer the question because of a lack of understanding.

A 4-mark question that requires relational thinking.

Demonstrates understanding, application, analysis, complex inference or synthesis. This answer could require evaluation or appreciation.

Marks	Skills
4	<p>The excellent response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is complete, addressing all aspects of the question and drawing them together accurately. • links all the ideas and provides the required evidence. • demonstrates understanding applied to familiar contexts. • integrates all elements, making connections and demonstrating a clear understanding of how the parts contribute to the whole.
3½–3	<p>The good response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • shows that the significance of each element is understood, but an aspect of the answer is not clearly explained. <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addresses each element, but does not successfully link them. • is not entirely convincing and/or does not convey a clear understanding of how the parts contribute to the whole.
2½	<p>The average response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is multi-structural, but addresses the elements in an incomplete or flawed way. • does not link elements or does not demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the elements. • omits or misunderstands a key element.
2	<p>The incomplete response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is one-dimensional, omitting more than one element. • indicates a flawed understanding of the question and/or the text.
1½–0	<p>The inadequate response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attempts to address aspects of the question, but indicates only partial understanding.

A 3-mark question that requires multi-structural thinking.**Demonstrates understanding, application, analysis, inferential comprehension of implied and figurative meanings.**

Marks	Skills
3	<p>The excellent response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engages with all aspects of the question and provides the required evidence. indicates a clear understanding of the significance of each element.
2½	<p>The good response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is multi-structural, but not integrated. <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is convincing but incomplete. provides evidence if required.
2	<p>The average response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is either one-dimensional, without sufficient evidence, or is superficial and general. does not provide enough relevant justification. demonstrates that the candidate understands the issue.
1½	<p>The incomplete response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrates a flawed or incomplete understanding of what has been asked. indicates an understanding of the text. attempts to use the text to answer the question, but reasoning is concrete or simplistic.
1–0	<p>The inadequate response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> indicates only partial understanding of this aspect of the text.

A 2-mark question that requires uni-structural thinking.**Demonstrates understanding and application, literal comprehension and reorganisation.**

Marks	Skills
2	<p>The excellent response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is complete and accurate.
1½	<p>The good response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is partially complete and accurate. <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is complete and mostly accurate.
1–0	<p>The incomplete response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> is inaccurate or only includes one half of the required response.