Digital society markbands and guidance document

This document includes the following information:

- Instructions on how to use this document
- Keywords in extended responses
- Addressing critical thinking
- Pre-release guidance for HL Paper 3
- Markbands for the externally assessed components

Instructions for use of this document

The Questionbank provides the questions and indicative markscheme content but does not provide all the information, such as markbands, that are required for its use. This document provides this additional information.

The Questionbank contains the following exam papers and markschemes:

- Eight examples of SL Paper 1 (this is common with HL Paper 1, Section A)
- Eight examples of HL Paper 1, Section B
- Two examples of SL/HL Paper 2
- Two examples of HL Paper 3

The paper 1s are based on the ITGS SL Paper 1s and ITGS HL Paper 1s that were used for examination sessions between November 2017 and November 2021. Many of the questions have been adapted to incorporate changes in Guide content.

The two examples of SL/HL Paper 2 were initially based on previous ITGS SL/HL Paper 2s.

The two examples of the pre-release and HL Paper 3 were initially based on previous ITGS Case Studies.

Keywords

For the extended responses keywords are provided in the markschemes. The keywords are the DS terminology expected from students in these extended responses. The keywords are underlined.

Addressing critical thinking

Critical thinking is assessed in questions that use the following command terms: Analyse, Compare, Contrast, Compare and contrast, Discuss, Evaluate, Examine, Justify, Recommend, To what extent.

Students should use transitional words in their extended responses.

Analysis (making connections between ideas):

- To provide depth use words such as: additionally, in addition to, furthermore, likewise.
- To add balance and/or counterclaims use words such as: on the other hand, whereas, however, but, conversely.

For conclusions (recommendations for HL Paper 3 only) use words such as: in my opinion, overall, although, despite, on balance, weighing up. All conclusions (and recommendations) must be evidence based.

Pre-release for HL Paper 3

In live sessions the pre-release will be provided to schools approximately five months in advance of the exam. This allows teachers to explore the scenario prior to the HL Paper 3 examination (in the same way as for the ITGS Case Study).

Markbands for the externally assessed components

The markbands in the DS Guide are provided in this document. Each markband is on a separate page.

SL/ HL paper 1, part c markband

Marks	Level descriptor
0	• The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	• The response shows limited understanding of the demands of the question. • There is limited relevant knowledge. The response is descriptive and consists mostly of unsupported generalizations. • The response has limited organization or is only a list of items.
3–4	• The response shows some understanding of the demands of the question. • Some relevant knowledge is demonstrated, but this is not always accurate and may not be used appropriately or effectively. The response moves beyond description to include some analysis, but this is not always sustained or effective. • The response is partially organized.
5–6	• The response shows adequate understanding of the demands of the question. • Response demonstrates adequate and effective analysis supported with relevant and accurate knowledge. • The response is adequately organized.
7–8	• The response is focused and demonstrates an in-depth understanding of the demands of the question. • Response demonstrates evaluation and synthesis that is effectively and consistently supported with relevant and accurate knowledge. • The response is well-structured and effectively organized.

HL paper 1 Section B markband

Marks	Level descriptor
0	• The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–3	• The response shows a limited understanding of the demands of the question. • There is limited relevant knowledge. The response is descriptive and consists mostly of unsupported generalizations. • Counter-claims are not considered or addressed. • The response has limited organization.
4–6	• The response shows some understanding of the demands of the question. • Some relevant knowledge demonstrated but this is not always accurate and may not be used appropriately or effectively. The response is primarily descriptive with some analysis, but this is not sustained. • Counter-claims are only partially addressed. • The response is partially organized.
7–9	• The response shows adequate understanding of the demands of the question. • Response demonstrates adequate and effective analysis supported with relevant and accurate knowledge. • Counter-claims are adequately addressed. • The response is adequately organized.
10–12	• The response is focused and shows an in-depth understanding of the demands of the question. • Response demonstrates evaluation and synthesis that is effectively and consistently supported with relevant and accurate knowledge. • Counter-claims are effectively addressed in the response. • The response is well-structured and effectively organized.

SL/HL paper 2 question 4 markband

Marks	Level descriptor
0	• The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–3	• The response shows a limited understanding of the demands of the question. • There is limited relevant knowledge. • Evidence from sources is not integrated with the response. • The response has limited organization.
4–6	• The response shows some understanding of the demands of the question. • Some knowledge is demonstrated but this is not always relevant or accurate. • Evidence from sources is partially integrated into the response. • The response is partially organized.
7–9	• The response shows adequate understanding of the demands of the question. • Relevant and accurate knowledge is demonstrated with some lapses. • There is adequate integration of evidence from the sources, but this is not always sustained. • The response is adequately organized.
10–12	• The response is focused and shows an in-depth understanding of the demands of the question. • Relevant and accurate knowledge is demonstrated throughout, adding insight to the response. • There is consistent and effective integration of evidence from the sources. • The response is well-structured and effectively organized.

HL paper 3 question 3 markband

Marks	• Level descriptor
0	• The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1-2	• The response shows a limited understanding of the demands of the question. • Response is of limited relevance. The response is descriptive and consists mostly of unsupported generalizations. • The response has limited organization.
3-4	• The response shows some understanding of the demands of the question. • The response is primarily descriptive with some evaluation demonstrated but this is not sustained or fully supported. • The response is partially organized.
5-6	• The response shows adequate understanding of the demands of the question. • Response demonstrates adequate evaluation that is relevant and supported. • The response is adequately organized.
7-8	• The response is focused and shows an in-depth understanding of the demands of the question. • Response demonstrates sustained evaluation that is relevant and well-supported throughout. • The response is well-structured and effectively organized.

HL paper 3 question 4 markband

Marks	Level descriptor
0	• The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–3	• The response shows a limited understanding of the demands of the question. • The response consists mostly of unsupported generalizations with limited relevant knowledge. • No recommendations are presented or those that are presented have only limited support. • The response has limited organization.
4–6	• The response shows some understanding of the demands of the question. • The response demonstrates some knowledge, but this is not always relevant or accurate and may not be used appropriately or effectively. • Recommendations are presented with some support although this is not sustained and only partially effective. • The response is partially organized.
7–9	• The response shows adequate understanding of the demands of the question. • Response is adequately supported with relevant and accurate knowledge. • Recommendations are presented and effectively supported. • The response is adequately organized.
10–12	• The response is focused and shows an in-depth understanding of the demands of the question. • Response is well-supported throughout with relevant and accurate knowledge. • Recommendations are presented and well-supported with a clear consideration of possible trade-offs and implications. • The response is well-structured and effectively organized.