

Marking notes

Remarques pour la notation

Notas para la corrección

November / Novembre / Noviembre 2015

**English / Anglais / Inglés A:
language and literature /
langue et littérature /
lengua y literatura**

**Standard level
Niveau moyen
Nivel medio**

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1

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Text 1

This question asks candidates to analyse “Every Dog Should Own a Man”, from an article by Corey Ford published in 1952 in *This Week Magazine*, a Sunday insert for numerous US newspapers.

An adequate to good analysis will:

- consider the intended audience and the possible context in which this article was published
- consider the imaginary context of the article established by the point of view of a man who finds himself “owned” by his dog and in the “sincere” position of speaking from the dog’s perspective, all of which occurs in a recognizable home setting in a fairly well-to-do situation (big overstuffed chair, living room, train trips, *etc*)
- discuss how point of view contributes to the humour of the article due to the fact that everything is “upside-down”: the reversed sayings (“man-tired”, “teach an old man new tricks”) and the reversed situations (man being housebroken, man’s pedigree, man being physically conditioned, *etc*)
- discuss elements of the article that might challenge the reader’s perception of the world, or at least make him or her see it from the dog’s point of view
- discuss the text type as a well organized article, its title then the step-by-step advice of what is necessary for a successful man-dog relationship, characterized by clear discussion points ear-marked by transition words and topic sentences, concluding with a punch line
- discuss the effects of the pictures and the caption as well as the context they convey
- discuss the use of the narrative voice as the man speaking for his dog and how this fits the overall humour of the piece: the tongue in cheek objective tone interspersed with subjective comments about himself and his setter
- recognize that the article’s primary purpose is to amuse and entertain.

A very good to excellent analysis will also:

- offer a much more in-depth discussion of context and audience, seeing, perhaps, that the tone of the article carries many implications as to the lifestyle explored and the attitudes such a lifestyle invokes
- explore much more closely the narrative voice, for example the irony of the man speaking for dogs and the implications of this
- offer a more in-depth analysis of the article itself, possibly exploring how the writing style contributes to tone and how the clearly structured format ironically underpins the humour of the piece
- offer a sensitive exploration of the purpose of the article, seeing it perhaps as mockingly critical of dog owners, or as a reverse lesson on a person’s relationship to his dog and an easing of some of the frustrations of training and keeping a dog
- consider other levels of understanding by readers in different contexts, commenting for example on gender stereotypes.

Text 2

This question asks candidates to analyse a *Madam and Eve* comic strip from 2012 written by Stephen Francis and illustrated by Enrico Schacherl.

An adequate to good analysis will:

- consider that this is a comic strip not so much for children as for adults who may have an interest in education
- consider some contextual elements of time and place as deduced from the comic strip itself: observations about the characters and the setting as well as the implied state of education at this time
- discuss how pictures can quickly and efficiently convey ideas and attitudes, *eg* a line of the brow, an eye or even eyelid, helping to convey the “story,” or adding to characterization, a satirical point, *etc*
- discuss the role of dialogue in further revealing the characters of the little girl and the young men, the developing nature of the narrative, frame by frame, and the climactic impact of the final frame
- consider how the situation is humorous, indicating some elements that make the reader laugh or be amused, *eg* that the young men, though ignorant, have a human side that makes them somewhat endearing (high-five for failure, fear of the number 13, taking rotten apples back to the store, counting on fingers to four, and blithely assuming $2+2=5$), that a little girl wants to take the teacher to task, *etc*
- consider some of the aspects of irony, *eg* that the young girl is further advanced than the older students, that the test scores of the young men are in direct correlation to the teacher’s presence in the classroom, the fact that the young men miss the little girl’s points, the conclusion, *etc*
- consider the purpose of the comic strip as criticizing the status of education.

A very good to excellent analysis will also:

- consider more closely the contextual elements in the comic strip and the comment they make about education, for example gender stereotypes and the gender/age gap
 - analyse in greater depth and detail the use of comic devices, both in the dialogue and the pictures
 - analyse more insightfully the characterizations of the little girl and the two young men and how they contribute to the response writer and illustrator want to elicit from the reader
 - offer further discussion of the use of irony
 - offer a clear understanding of how humour is employed as a tool of criticism and, perhaps, offer a discussion of how the comic strip offers a gentle social satire.
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