

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2010 question paper
for the guidance of teachers

0486 LITERATURE (ENGLISH)

0486/32

Paper 32 (Unseen), maximum raw mark 25

This mark scheme is published as an aid to teachers and candidates, to indicate the requirements of the examination. It shows the basis on which Examiners were instructed to award marks. It does not indicate the details of the discussions that took place at an Examiners' meeting before marking began, which would have considered the acceptability of alternative answers.

Mark schemes must be read in conjunction with the question papers and the report on the examination.

- CIE will not enter into discussions or correspondence in connection with these mark schemes.

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All questions on this paper are marked out of 25.

The assessment objectives for the paper are:

- AO1 show detailed knowledge of the content of literary texts
- AO2 understand the meanings of literary texts and their context, and explore texts beyond surface meaning to show deeper awareness of ideas and attitudes
- AO3 recognise and appreciate ways in which writers use language, structure, and form to create and shape meanings and effects
- AO4 communicate a sensitive and informed personal response

The General Descriptors cover marks from 0 to 25, and apply to the marking of each question. They guide examiners to an understanding of the qualities normally expected of, or typical of, work in a band. They are a means of general guidance, and must not be interpreted as hurdle statements. For the purposes of standardisation of marking, they are to be used in conjunction with photostats of candidates' work produced in the examination and discussed during the examiners' coordination meeting, as well as the question-specific notes.

The notes for each question are related to the assessment objectives above. Because of the nature of the subject, *they are for general guidance; they are not designed as prescriptions of required content* and must not be treated as such.

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BAND DESCRIPTORS TABLE

	0/0–1	No answer/insufficient to meet the criteria for Band 8.
Band 8	2 3 4	<i>Limited attempt to respond</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows some limited understanding of simple/literal meaning
Band 7	5 6 7	<i>Some evidence of simple personal response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> makes a few straightforward comments shows a few signs of understanding the surface meaning of the text makes a little reference to the text
Band 6	8 9 10	<i>Attempts to communicate a basic personal response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> makes some relevant comments shows a basic understanding of surface meaning of the text makes a little supporting reference to the text
Band 5	11 12 13	<i>Begins to develop a personal response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows some understanding of meaning makes a little reference to the language of the text (beginning to assume a voice in an empathic task) uses some supporting textual detail
Band 4	14 15 16	<i>Makes a reasonably developed personal response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows understanding of the text and some of its deeper implications makes some response to the way the writer uses language (using suitable features of expression in an empathic task) shows some thoroughness in the use of supporting evidence from the text
Band 3	17 18 19	<i>Makes a well-developed and detailed personal response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows a clear understanding of the text and some of its deeper implications makes a developed response to the way the writer achieves her/his effects (sustaining an appropriate voice in an empathic task) supports with careful and relevant reference to the text
Band 2	20 21 22	<i>Sustains a perceptive and convincing personal response</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows a clear critical understanding of the text responds sensitively and in detail to the way the writer achieves her/his effects (sustaining a convincing voice in an empathic task) integrates much well-selected reference to the text
Band 1	23 24 25	Answers in this band have all the qualities of Band 2 work, with further insight, sensitivity, individuality and flair. They show complete and sustained engagement with both text and task.

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General notes on Question 1

This poem by Tanure Ojaide gave its title to a popular anthology. However, it is far from a straightforward anthology piece, even if its surface meaning is quite clear. The 'kit' of the title may be a sensible camouflaging of identity in troubled times, or its very absurdity and improbability may be an ironic comment on the dangers of even trying to be all things to all men. The question allows candidates to respond to the exuberance of the imagery and colour in this poem. The idea of life as an unending and evasive dream may well appeal to the candidates. It also asks candidates to evaluate the poem and its effect, helped by the third bullet point which draws attention to the last four lines of the poem. We should not prejudge the conclusions candidates might come to, or whether they find the tone celebratory or ironic. There are enough hints that we might follow the latter line, but this is left ambiguous.

Similarly, candidates might choose to take the imagery of tribes and jungle very literally and read the poem as a narrative. However, the more sophisticated reader is likely to explore these ideas as potential allegory, and perhaps comment on the danger of speaking out or writing against the grain. Any interpretation grounded in response to the imagery and voice of the text should be rewarded. In particular, the bullet points guide readers to the different elements of the 'kit' and what they might mean, and to the confident, confiding voice of the speaker. We should probably take neither at face value, even if the poem does delineate an essential response in order to survive.

BAND 8: Marks 2–3–4

Answers in this Band will show a little contact with the literal meaning of the text. There may be unassimilated lifting, or very broad description of the man and what he does in response to the poem's images, but without understanding of what those images represent.

BAND 7: Marks 5–6–7

Answers here might make a few straightforward points about the meaning of the 'kit' the poetic persona takes with him into the jungle of life. Responses may well invent a straightforward narrative to accompany images from the text.

BAND 6: Marks 8–9–10

Answers will show a little understanding of the ways in which the speaker invents strategies for survival. There may be an elementary engagement with the different pieces of 'kit' as metaphors. However, candidates at this level will probably struggle to evaluate the tone of the poem, while nevertheless showing a little understanding of the speaker's voice and how he is speaking to us.

BAND 5: Marks 11–12–13

In this mark range, there should be the beginnings of contact with the way in which the poem is written. Candidates may begin to address the first and second bullet points and show appreciation of what different elements of the 'kit' may represent. They will hear the apparently confident voice of the speaker and may even begin to form judgements about it. Comment on language may show appreciation of the images the poet creates, and perhaps even of their possible metaphorical comment on 'life's challenges', but there is unlikely to be detailed engagement with the allegorical nature of the verse. There should be reasonable understanding of the poem's outwardly confident tone.

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BAND 4: Marks 14–15–16

All three bullet points are likely to be addressed. There should be clear understanding of the range of different challenges the persona confronts and his solution to them, and the beginnings of a less literal analysis of what these may represent. There should also be an engagement with the ways in which the voice of the poem speaks to us. There should be the beginnings of analysis of the effects of choice of image and tone. Candidates should begin to shape and justify a response to the third bullet point. We should not expect a very developed or coherent response to the writing at this stage, just sufficient to show some awareness of the writer at work.

BAND 3: Marks 17–18–19

We should expect a more thorough analysis of imagery, tone and perhaps rhythm in this mark range. The exuberance of the language and the absurdity of its images ('call on my snake from nowhere') should be addressed. There may be an appreciation of the ways in which irony might work in the poem, or a more thorough exploration of the text's possible allegory. There will be a response to the metaphorical jungle journey and its endpoint. There should be a developed response to the patterns of expression in the poem such as the egotism of the persona and his possible self-delusion, and we should expect a detailed and sustained engagement with the poem's implications and effect on the reader. Thoroughness of analysis of language and careful, relevant textual reference are the hallmark of performance within this Band.

BAND 2: Marks 20–21–22

Candidates in this mark range will express a clear critical overview of the text. We should expect a detailed and sustained engagement with both the images of the 'kit' and with the voice of the speaker and there should be an interpretation of the final four lines and what they might imply about the authenticity of the speaker's attitudes and advice. Candidates at this level are likely to explore and analyse the verse. They may look at rhythm as well as imagery and might look at the syntax of the poem and its patterns of repetition. Their preoccupation will be with language and ways in which the poet uses imagery and irony. They might explore a range of possible interpretations of the various metaphors of exploration and entertainment.

BAND 1: Marks 23–24–25

Candidates in this mark range should be able to make their own response to the poem's final lines and evaluate their own analysis of the poem's images to explore the possible attitudes to life that they express. They will connect the 'kit' to different kinds of emergency and danger, and may well shape a sophisticated allegorical reading. There should be at least the beginnings of an argued synthesis of observations about the way the poet dramatises his 'advice' and addresses the reader. This should allow an evaluation of the effect on the reader and a judgement about how to answer the second part of the question. We should be prepared to reward any cogent overall reading of the poem which is strongly grounded in detailed analysis of imagery and voice.

Refer to the Band Descriptor Table in arriving at your mark.

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General notes on Question 2

This extract from a chapter of *Little Dorrit* allows candidates to enjoy Charles Dickens's descriptive skills, dialogue and characterisation, and also to appreciate the presence of both comedy and satire. The narrative situation should be easily understood. Clennam's confrontation with obstructive and preening officialdom is a fairly universal experience. Able candidates will see how he outwits Barnacle Junior by sheer persistence and clarity of purpose. Candidates should also enjoy the humour of the descriptive detail and the satire on uncaring bureaucracy. It is hoped that some will enjoy the more baroque elements of vocabulary and syntax.

BAND 8: Marks 2–3–4

Answers in this Band will show a little contact with the literal meaning of the text. There may be unassimilated lifting, or a very broad outline of Clennam's meeting with Barnacle Junior. They may struggle to distinguish between the two Barnacles.

BAND 7: Marks 5–6–7

Candidates will show a little awareness of what the passage is about and perhaps make an elementary response to Clennam's persistence and ability to get an address out of Barnacle Junior.

BAND 6: Marks 8–9–10

The first and second bullet points will begin to receive attention. There may be a tendency to paraphrase or lift, but candidates will see how the Circumlocution Office is nepotistic and obstructive and may enjoy the ways in which Barnacle Junior is discomfited. Candidates may begin to see the difference between Clennam's directness and the slow workings of the Offices of State. These will tend to be elementary responses to the imagined situation, rather than to the writing itself.

BAND 5: Marks 11–12–13

At this level, we might expect more focused, if still not explicitly detailed, response to the tone of both description and dialogue, beginning to catch aspects of comedy and satire. The comfort of Tite Barnacle's office might be contrasted with the draughty waiting room, and Clennam's purposiveness with the fatuous and ineffective Barnacle Junior. Comment on language would not be explicit, but there would be appreciation of Clennam's frustration and perhaps a hint of Dickens's satire.

BAND 4: Marks 14–15–16

The question and bullet points should be directly addressed and understood. There should be reasonable understanding of the way in which the Circumlocution Office gives a demonstration of How Not To Do It, and how the writer uses this to convey anger and frustration as well as comedy. At this level, we would expect more engagement with the detail of description of the Barnacles' influence, their inaccessibility and their laziness. There might be some appreciation of how this encourages us to take sides in the dialogue, although analysis of language and tone may not be very thorough or explicit in this mark range.

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BAND 3: Marks 17–18–19

Here we would expect sustained and explicit appreciation of the drama of this confrontation and more detailed dissection of the faults of the Barnacles and the weakness of Barnacle Junior in particular. Names and physical descriptions should receive some sustained analysis, as should the dynamics of the dialogue. Candidates at this level might engage in detail with the ironic tone of the narrator as well as the comedy of Barnacle Junior's struggles with his eye-glass. They may begin to evaluate what is implied about government obstruction, arrogance and incompetence. However, any coherent overview of this kind is more likely to achieve Band 2.

BAND 2: Marks 20–21–22

Candidates at this level will be working towards a perceptive and convincing overview of the text. Their emphasis will be on how the writing presents a satirical description of the Office and of Barnacle Junior, how we share Clennam's view of them and consequently admire his comparative directness. Candidates will integrate plenty of well-selected reference within a sensitive response to ways in which the writer creates comedy around the obstructiveness of the office and the lack of insight of its official. There will be developed analysis of ways in which the writing directs our sympathy. Candidates will be able to identify ways in which the dialogue mocks the ineffective Barnacle Junior and will be able to evaluate the ways in which we admire Clennam's persistence.

BAND 1: Marks 23–24–25

At this level candidates will achieve their own synthesis of the many observations possible about both description and dialogue here, in order to shape an overview. The concentration could be on the different qualities of Clennam and Barnacle Junior and how the writer encourages us to take the side of the ordinary man, or on the implications of the practices of the Circumlocution Office as a satire on government bureaucracy. Candidates might also engage with the ways in which the writer encourages us to see the preposterousness of the Barnacles in much the same way that Clennam does. Candidates might have different ideas about the balance of comedy and satire but will show appreciation of the tone of the novel, and its use of caricature. They may choose to see Barnacle's Junior's affectations and consequent partial blindness as symbolic, or they may simply enjoy the comedy of the way in which Clennam outwits him. Above all, there should be appreciation of the writer at work, directing our responses to the characters and to the Circumlocution Office.

Refer to the Band Descriptor Table in arriving at your mark.