

A-level Polish

Commentaries on student responses

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Contents

Contents	Page
Paper 1 – reading summary task	4
Paper 1 – translation task	4
Paper 1 – research project one: essay one	5
Paper 1 – research project two: essay two	5
Paper 2 – essay: texts	7
Paper 2 – essay: films	7
Paper 3 – summary task	8
Paper 3 – translation task	8
Paper 3 – multi-skill task 1	8
Paper 3 – multi-skills task 2	9

Paper 1

Reading summary task

Examiner commentary

AO2: This is an example of a highly accurate summary. Apart from one detail missed (the candidate writes about looking for a lost homeland, while the text refers to Skawinski's efforts to find a place which would replace it), all other details are present. Clear and concise summary.

Mark for AO2: 6/7

AO3: the language produced by the student is highly accurate. There is evidence of secure knowledge of grammar and ability to use both appropriate and accurate syntax and vocabulary. Excellent spelling.

Mark for AO3: 5/5

Total marks for the summary: 11/12

Translation task

Examiner commentary

AO2: the translation is mostly accurate. There are neither omissions nor additions present, but some incorrectly translated vocabulary eg the sites instead of the web, which meant the loss of two marks. The good level of translation is consistent throughout. The grammar and spelling are both highly accurate and correct.

Marks for AO2: 8/10

Total mark for the translation: 8/10

Research project 1 – essay one

Examiner commentary

AO2: this is an example of a very good evaluation of the topic. The relevant information from the source material has been correctly understood. The additional information and details relevant to the topic are linked to the source text and show a thorough individual research on the reality of day to day life in Poland during the communist regime.

Marks for AO2: 9/10

AO3: the language produced by the student is highly accurate/ there is evidence of secure knowledge of grammar and ability to use both complex and accurate syntax and vocabulary.

Excellent spelling.

Marks for AO3: 10/10

AO4: this is a very good critical and analytical response to the question set. The candidate demonstrates very good knowledge and understanding of the research topic. The essay contains many examples and evidence of how the communist ideology affected life in Poland during the period between 1945 and 1989. However, what could be improved is the link between the ideology and reality and how in the end market economy became an unstoppable force and an ultimate fate of the communist regime.

Marks for AO4: 16/20

Total mark for the research project – essay 1: 35/40

Research project two – essay two

Examiner commentary

AO2: this is an example of reasonable evaluation of the research topic. Some of the relevant information in the written source material has been understood. This information has sometimes been linked to research findings, but in most instances that link isn't clear. The essay contains some details and valid points about the Polish resistance movement. The conclusion is clear but brief. Also, the essay is slightly short and would benefit from adding more detailed arguments.

Marks for AO2: 5/10

AO3: the language produced by the student is generally accurate, but there are some minor errors, mostly incorrect, although close to correct spellings. There is evidence of generally reasonable grasp of grammar and ability to use complex language is demonstrated often. The vocabulary is appropriate to context and the task. That said, the candidate copied a paragraph from the source material and this has impacted the overall mark.

Marks for AO3: 8/10

AO4: this is a reasonable critical and analytical response to the question set. The candidate demonstrates a reasonable knowledge and understanding of the research topic. The essay contains many examples of activities and historical events that formed the resistance movement in Poland. However, what could be improved is drawing conclusions (for example, whether changing the strategy improved the effectiveness of the movement, what were the reasons behind that change and what was the historical context and consequences of the decisions) and evaluating the topic based on the question above.

Marks for AO4: 11/20

Total mark for the research project two – essay two: 24/40

Paper 2

Essay one – films

Examiner commentary

AO3: the student's language is mainly accurate and minor errors are rare. It is clear that the student has a secure grasp of grammar and can use language flexibly and accurately. The vocabulary used is complex and appropriate to the context and the task. The student is able to express himself/herself with clarity and high precision.

Marks for AO3: 19/20

AO4: the essay is an example of a very good, if not excellent critical and analytical response to the question set. The student demonstrated an accurate and on the whole detailed knowledge of Kieślowski's film. Three versions of Witek's life are present and analysed (although a couple of more details about the third scenario would be beneficial) and relevant conclusions are drawn. The student's opinions and views are in most cases supported by relevant and appropriate evidence from the film. It is evident that the student is familiar with political, social and cultural context of the film.

Mark for AO4: 17/20

Total marks for the essay: 36/40

Essay two – texts

Examiner commentary

AO3: the student's language is mainly accurate and minor errors are rare. It is clear that the student has a very good grasp of grammar and can use language flexibly and accurately. There are some minor errors (incorrect case form eg *bohater "Panny z..."* as opposed to *bohater "Painen z..."*). The vocabulary used is appropriate to the context and the task. The student is able to express himself/herself with clarity and high precision.

Marks for AO3: 18/20

AO4: this is an example of a good critical and analytical response to the question set. It is fairly clear that the student is familiar with both texts, as there are several examples of using relevant and appropriate evidence from both short stories. The evaluation of the issues is good, but the essay would benefit from drawing clearer conclusions eg contrast between love and death, what helped Staś and Bolesław to reconcile, what and who influenced Wiktor's re-evaluation of his life. Having said that, this is an example of a good evaluation of the issues present in two Iwaszkiewicz's short stories.

Mark for AO4: 13/20

Total mark for the essay: 31/40

Paper three

Summary task

Examiner commentary

AO1: this is an example of a highly accurate summary, all required details are present. Clear and concise summary.

Marks for AO1: 7/7

AO3: the language produced by the student is highly accurate. There is evidence of secure knowledge of grammar and ability to use both appropriate and accurate syntax and vocabulary.

Marks for AO3: 5/5

Total mark for the summary: 12/12

Translation task

Examiner commentary

AO2: the translation is mostly accurate. There are several instances where some details are missed eg *even when sunny* but the translation reflects the meaning of the source accurately. The grammar and spelling are both highly accurate and correct. 26 ticks have been awarded (please see the mark scheme p.6 for accepted translation and p.7 of the same document for the conversion grid) hence the award of 9 marks.

Marks for AO2: 9/10

Total mark for the translation: 9/10

Multi-skill task one

Examiner commentary

AO1: very limited evaluation of the spoken source material. There is very little evidence that the spoken source material has been understood, more specifically there is little mention of young people's attitude towards the EU, hence only two marks awarded for this section.

Marks for AO1: 2/10

AO2: as opposed to AO1, this is a very good evaluation of the written source material. There is plenty of evidence of full understanding of the issues raised in the written material. Arguments are summarised clearly and effectively. The student is able to express his own opinions and then draws appropriate conclusions.

Marks for AO2: 9/10

AO3: the language produced is highly accurate. The answer shows that the student has a very good grasp of grammar and an excellent lexical repertoire appropriate to the context and the task. Very good spelling and syntax.

Mark for AO3: 10/10

Total marks for the multi skill task one: 21/30

Multi-skill task two

Examiner commentary

AO1: reasonable evaluation of the spoken source material. There is some of the relevant information and evidence that the spoken source material has been understood. There is evidence of drawing conclusions (these days, young people think differently) and summarising evidence (student exchange programmes popular amongst both young Poles and other young Europeans), which justifies the award of 5 marks.

Marks for AO1: 5/10

AO2: this is an example of a reasonable evaluation of the written source material. Some of the views and arguments have been effectively summarised and some of the conclusions are correct and appropriate to the topic. Having said that, there is also evidence of incorrect understanding of an argument (*Poland as an EU member has a say in decisions being taken in Brussels* in the text while the student says that *Poland is a part of European community and is able to make her own decisions*) which impacts on the number of marks being awarded.

Marks for AO2: 5/10

AO3: the language produced is generally accurate, but there are some minor errors, including incorrect spellings (*postrzygana, inicjatywni, zamkniente*) or case forms (*z innych kraj*). These errors do not affect communication, but impact on the quality of the essay as a whole. The vocabulary used is generally good and appropriate to the context and the task.

Marks for AO3: 7/10

Total marks for the multi skill task 2: 17/30

Notes

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