



National
Qualifications
2015

2015 English Reading for Understanding, Evaluation and Analysis

New Higher

Finalised Marking Instructions

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General Marking Principles for Higher English: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation

This information is provided to help you understand the general principles you must apply when marking candidate responses to questions in this Paper. These principles must be read in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidate responses.

- (a)** Marks for each candidate response must always be assigned in line with these General Marking Principles and the Detailed Marking Instructions for this assessment.
- (b)** Marking should always be positive. This means that, for each candidate response, marks are accumulated for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding: they are not deducted from a maximum on the basis of errors or omissions.
- (c)** If a specific candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed Marking Instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your Team Leader.
- (d)** We use the term “or any other acceptable answer” to allow for the possible variation in candidate responses. Credit should be given according to the accuracy and relevance of the candidate’s answers.

Detailed Marking Instructions for each question

Question			Expected Answer(s)	Max Mark	Additional Guidance
1.			Candidates should identify two positive aspects of Central Valley, California, given in lines 1 – 5. Candidates must use their own words. No marks for straight lifts from the passage. Any two of the points in the “Additional Guidance” column for 1 mark each.	2	Possible answers: • idyllic/pastoral (“almond trees”, “sweet air”, “orchards”, “fields of ...”) • perfect/attractive (“sweet air”, “vision”) • diverse (“pomegranates, pistachios, grapes and apricots”) • bountiful/fertile/productive (“million almond trees”, “Beyond the almond orchards ... fields of ...”, “two million dairy cows ... six billion dollars’ worth ...”) • vast/expansive/scale (“a million almond trees”, “Beyond ... were fields of ...”, “Somewhere in the distance”) NB idea of ‘big’ alone = 0 marks
2.			Candidates should analyse how the writer’s use of language creates a negative impression of Central Valley in lines 6–10. For full marks there should be comments on at least 2 examples. 2 marks may be awarded for reference plus detailed/insightful comment; 1 mark for more basic comment; 0 marks for reference alone. (Marks may be awarded 2+2, 2+1+1, 1+1+1+1)	4	Possible answers: • “deeply disturbing” suggests unsettling/unnatural nature of agriculture in Central Valley • contrast eg “it may sound like ... but it is ...” – emphasises the unnatural qualities of Central Valley • repetition/list of “no birds, no butterflies, no beetles” – drives home the absence of nature/ lack of wildlife • “single blade of grass” suggests that the most basic elements of nature have been eradicated here/wild nature is not tolerated • “only bees” highlights the strange lack of insect life • “arrive by lorry” / “the bees are hired by the day” – highlights the artificiality of Central Valley • “multibillion-dollar” / “industry” suggests anonymity/mass-produced for profit

Question	Expected Answer(s)	Max Mark	Additional Guidance
3.	Candidates should analyse how the writer makes clear her disapproval of dairy farming methods used in Central Valley. For full marks there must be comment on both word choice and sentence structure, but these do not need to be evenly divided. 2 marks may be awarded for reference plus detailed/insightful comment; 1 mark for more basic comment; 0 marks for reference alone. (Marks may be awarded 2+2, 2+1+1, 1+1+1+1)	4	Possible answers: Word Choice • “last” suggests farmers see the cows as disposable objects, to be dismissed like rubbish when no longer productive • “crammed” suggests stifling, dangerous conditions • “barren” suggests emptiness, sterility, discomfort of the pens • “tiny patches” suggests restrictive, cramped areas in which cows are housed • “listlessly” suggests lack of life, lethargy, conditions weaken cows • “artificial (diets)” – emphasises the unnatural, unhealthy treatment of these cows • “pushed” suggests forceful manipulation • “grotesquely” suggests this type of dairy farming is monstrous, hideous • “worn out” suggests this type of farming is destructive • “short lives” – poignant description emphasises the tragic and unnatural consequences Sentence Structure • positioning of “As for the cows,” at the start of this paragraph creates a despairing tone and/or introduces the negative description of the cows’ lives • inversion used in “Crammed ... antibiotics.” highlights the atrocious conditions in which the cows are kept • list “fed, milked or injected with antibiotics” emphasises the assembly line/uncaring manner of the farms, suggesting the cows are merely part of a repetitive industrial process • list of procedures (“selective breeding ... hormones”) highlights the seemingly scientific procedures involved, making this type of farming seem like a cold and uncaring experiment on animals

Question			Expected Answer(s)	Max Mark	Additional Guidance
					climactic final sentence (“In their short lives ... grass.”) emphatically/dramatically highlights the contrast between these cows and the environment with which we would normally associate them

Question		Expected Answer(s)	Max Mark	Additional Guidance
4.		For full marks candidates should show understanding of the key point: the movement from farming methods in California to their application in the UK. 2 marks may be awarded for detailed/insightful comment supported by appropriate use of reference/quotation; 1 mark for more basic comment; 0 marks for reference alone. N.B. There may be a number of approaches to answering this question.	2	Possible references include: - the writer's change of focus from the USA to UK is signalled by the question "Could the British...look like this?" - the writer's move to consider intensive farming in the UK is suggested by "Farming in Britain...intensification from America" - the writer goes on to suggest that some of the intensive farming methods used in the USA - "bees arrive by lorry" - may soon arrive in the UK - "Bees are disappearing" - the writer goes on to suggest that some intensive farming methods are already being adopted in the UK, "mega-dairies and mega-piggeries" - the writer highlights the impact of intensive farming already being witnessed in the UK "countryside too sterile...native birds"
5.		Candidates should summarise the differences between Government food policy and consumer wishes. For full marks, both sides must be dealt with but not necessarily equally divided. Candidates must attempt to use their own words. No marks for straight lifts from passage. Marks awarded 1+1+1+1	4	Possible answers include: Government food policy: - buy more British/regional produce ("urging families to buy British food") - buy less foreign food ("Choosing to buy fewer imports") - ease pressure on farmers ("churn out more for less") - be more environmentally aware ("more eco-friendly way of eating") - buy in-season/healthy food ("seasonal fruit and vegetables") Consumer wishes: - drawn to less expensive produce ("addicted to cheap meat ... products") - not concerned about origins of food ("supply lines ... globe") - previously exotic/expensive food now commonplace/ inexpensive ("once delicacies ...

Question			Expected Answer(s)	Max Mark	Additional Guidance
					cheap as chips") • expectation of variety "supply lines... globe")

Question		Expected Answer(s)	Max Mark	Additional Guidance
6.		Candidates should analyse how imagery and sentence structure convey the writer's criticism of industrial farming. For full marks there should be comments on both imagery and sentence structure but these do not have to be evenly divided. 2 marks may be awarded for reference plus detailed/insightful comment; 1 mark for more basic comment; 0 marks for reference alone. (Marks may be awarded 2+2, 2+1+1, 1+1+1+1)	4	Possible answers: Imagery: • "dirty secret": suggests that the methods used in factory farming are so shocking that they cannot be revealed • "front line": suggests that industrial farming is a desperate struggle against competitors, with frequent business casualties • "treadmill": suggests that industrial farming is very hard work and consists of never-ending repetitive chores • "plummeting": suggests that proximity to an industrial farm causes a devastating drop in the value of local homes Sentence structure: • Parenthesis "to investigate ... produced" makes clear the specific nature of the "truth" • List of countries "France ... South America" indicates extent of intensive farming • Colon in line 38 introduces example of people directly affected • Dash in line 39 introduces example of people directly affected • Repetitive sentence openings "I talked ... I also talked" emphasises the scale the problem, based on her evidence gathering/variety of people affected • List "their homes ... pollution" emphasises range of stories by people affected

Question		Expected Answer(s)	Max Mark	Additional Guidance
7.		Candidates should explain how the writer continues the idea that the Central Valley dairy farming is “nightmarish”, by making 3 key points. Candidates must attempt to use their own words. No marks for straight lifts from passage. Marks awarded 1 + 1 + 1	3	Possible answers include: • visible contamination of air / pollution (“yellowish-grey smog”) • waste products in the ground (“bovine population...people”) • the animals are kept in terrible conditions (“mud, corrugated iron and concrete.”) • the overpowering smell (“nauseating reek”) • huge buildings are a blight on the landscape (“array of towering...muddy pens.”) • (apocalyptic) sense of desolation (“human population is sparse”)
8.		Candidates should evaluate the final paragraph’s effectiveness as a conclusion to the writer’s criticism of industrial farming. For full marks there must be appropriate attention to the idea of a conclusion but this does not have to be limited to points about structure. Candidates may make valid points about the emotive / rhetorical impact of the conclusion. 2 marks awarded for detailed / insightful comment plus reference. 1 mark awarded for a more basic comment. Marks awarded 2 or 1+1	2	Possible answers include: • by giving details of the proposed mega-dairy in Lincolnshire, the writer reminds us of her earlier point that the British countryside faces a similar fate to that of Central Valley • the writer reminds us of the ludicrous size of these factory farms by revealing the enormous number of cows planned for this mega-dairy • by including the ridiculous claim that “cows do not belong in fields” the writer forcefully reminds us that those who practise intensive farming have scant regard for nature or natural processes • the writer concludes the passage with a warning that factory farms are getting larger in a rather surreptitious way, suggesting that we are being duped by the unscrupulous owners of these farms • the writer’s rather poignant final sentence reminds the readers of the unnatural nature of this transition from the outdoors to indoors

Question		Expected Answer(s)	Max Mark	Additional Guidance
9.		Candidates should identify three key areas of agreement in the two passages. Candidates can use bullet points in this final question, or write a number of linked statements. Key areas of agreement shown in grid below on the next page. Other answers are possible.	5	The following guidelines should be used: Five marks — identification of three key areas of agreement with detailed/insightful use of supporting evidence Four marks — identification of three key areas of agreement with appropriate use of supporting evidence Three marks — identification of three key areas of agreement Two marks — identification of two key areas of agreement One mark — identification of one key area of agreement Zero marks — failure to identify any key area of agreement and/or misunderstanding of task N.B. A candidate who identifies only two key areas of agreement may be awarded a maximum of four marks, as follows: • two marks for identification of two key areas of agreement • a further mark for appropriate use of supporting evidence to a total of three marks OR • a further two marks for detailed/insightful use of supporting evidence to a total of four marks A candidate who identifies only one key area of agreement may be awarded a maximum of two marks, as follows: • one mark for identification of one key area of agreement • a further mark for use of supporting evidence to a total of two marks

Area of Agreement		Passage 1	Passage 2
1.	Intensive farming is a highly productive process.	- size and fertility of the farms in Central Valley - high yields from dairy cows in Central Valley - farmers “churn out more or less”	- increased productivity of farms following introduction of intensive methods after Second World War - higher numbers of chickens raised in less space - shorter time taken for animals to reach “edible size”
2.	Intensive farming yields affordable food for everyone.	- meat, fish and dairy products from factory farms are much cheaper - whole chickens sell for ridiculously low prices - farmers are under pressure to produce cheaper food	- factory farming fulfilled post-war policy of “cheap meat, eggs and cheese for everyone” - intensive farming allowed poorer people to have a much richer diet
3.	Intensive farming has brought about a change in people’s dietary habits.	- previously expensive foods are now within the reach of everyone - exotic foods are now widely available - cheap meats contain more fat	- we have switched from a diet which was based on cereals/vegetable to one which is high in animal fats
4.	Intensive farming damages the environment and wildlife.	- nature is almost absent in Central Valley - bee populations are in decline - bird populations are in decline - natural habitats are disappearing - the UK countryside is increasingly barren - “desecration” of countryside - Central Valley is heavily polluted	- traditional, attractive farms are disappearing - hedgerows and wildlife are being lost - rivers and streams are being polluted

Area of Agreement		Passage 1	Passage 2
5.	Intensive farming causes undue stress and suffering to farm animals.	- factory farm animals are treated like machines rather than living creatures - these farm animals have shorter lifespans - conditions are very poor for these animals	- too many animals crammed into small spaces - unnatural for animals to be indoors all of the time - animal growth rates are unnatural - our misguided view that farm animals and pets have different needs causes suffering
6.	People who live beside or work in factory farms are adversely affected.	- property values are affected by industrial farms - people become ill because of pollution from these farms - air quality in Central Valley is worse than that of a big city - ruined aesthetics of Central Valley - farmers are under constant pressure to produce "more with less"	- introduction of intensive farming in the UK caused thousands of job losses in rural areas - the livelihoods of many traditional farmers have been badly affected
7.	We need to restrict/oppose this development of intensive farming in the UK.	- the writer argues that factory farming is not the only way to produce affordable food - Central Valley is presented as a warning about what could happen in the UK - the writer notes that the movement of farm animals indoors is insidious and unnatural	- in the final paragraph, the writer provides us with a set of guidelines on what "we need to" do in order to return to the "environmentally friendly, humane and healthy" farming methods of the past
8.	Intensive farming may have a negative impact on human health	- cheap meats contain more fat - meat contaminated with drugs - quality of produce is low - health problems linked to pollution produced by intensive farms	- contaminated meat enters the human food chain - degenerative diseases connected to a high fat diet

Area of Agreement		Passage 1	Passage 2
9.	The unnatural nature of intensive farming	- limited lifespan of animals - animals prevented from living naturally outdoors - natural processes subject to human intervention	- animals denied natural living conditions - farm animals' lives considerably shortened in recent years - detrimental effects of unnatural animal diets

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]