DESCRIPTORS FOR EVALUATING RESPONSE DETERMINED BY MARK ALLOCATION AND COGNITIVE SKILL

A 5-mark question that requires extended abstract thinking. The response demonstrates understanding, application, analysis, complex inference and/or synthesis, evaluation or appreciation.	
Marks	**Skills**
5	The excellent response: • is complete and detailed, making specific reference to more than one element of the required text(s) • makes insightful links between the question and the text(s) • provides evidence that understanding can be transferred to a new context/new contexts • integrates all elements, making connections and demonstrating a clear understanding of how the parts contribute to the whole
4½–4	The very good response: • makes specific reference to the required text(s) • makes accurate links between the question and the text(s) • provides evidence that understanding can be applied to familiar contexts • integrates the key elements, making connections and demonstrating a clear understanding of how the parts contribute to the whole
3½–3	The average response: • refers to the required text(s) in a general way without addressing all aspects • makes simple, underdeveloped links between the question and the text(s) • could be complete, without the required references or evidence • does not demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the whole determined (does not clarify/establish the significance of the whole)
2½–2	The incomplete response: • refers to the text(s) in a general way • is inaccurate or simplistic • demonstrates concrete thinking and an incomplete understanding of the elements
1½–0	The inadequate response: • refers to the text(s) • does not answer the question because of a lack of understanding

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A 4-mark question that requires relational thinking. **Demonstrates understanding, application, analysis, complex inference or synthesis. This answer could require evaluation or appreciation.**	
Marks	**Skills**
4	The excellent response: • is complete, addressing all aspects of the question and drawing them together accurately • links all the ideas and provides the required evidence • demonstrates understanding applied to familiar contexts • integrates all elements, making connections and demonstrating a clear understanding of how the parts contribute to the whole
3½–3	The good response: • shows that the significance of each element is understood, but an aspect of the answer is not clearly explained **or** • addresses each element, but does not successfully link them • is not entirely convincing and/or does not convey a clear understanding of how the parts contribute to the whole
2½	The average response: • is multi-structural, but addresses the elements in an incomplete or flawed way • does not link elements or does not demonstrate an understanding of the significance of the elements • omits or misunderstands a key element
2	The incomplete response: • is one-dimensional, omitting more than one element • indicates a flawed understanding of the question and/or the text
1½–0	The inadequate response: • attempts to address aspects of the question, but indicates only partial understanding

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A 3-mark question that requires multi-structural thinking. Demonstrates understanding, application, analysis, inferential comprehension of implied and figurative meanings.	
Marks	**Skills**
3	The excellent response: • engages with all aspects of the question and provides the required evidence • indicates a clear understanding of the significance of each element
2½	The good response: • is multi-structural, but not integrated **or** • is convincing but incomplete • provides evidence if required
2	The average response: • is either one-dimensional, without sufficient evidence, or is superficial and general • does not provide enough relevant justification • demonstrates that the candidate understands the issue
1½	The incomplete response: • demonstrates a flawed or incomplete understanding of what has been asked • indicates an understanding of the text • attempts to use the text to answer the question, but reasoning is concrete or simplistic
1–0	The inadequate response: • indicates only partial understanding of this aspect of the text

A 2-mark question that requires uni-structural thinking. Demonstrates understanding and application, literal comprehension and reorganisation.	
Marks	**Skills**
2	The excellent response: • is complete and accurate
1½	The good response: • is partially complete and accurate **or** • is complete and mostly accurate
1–0	The incomplete response: • is inaccurate or only includes one half of the required response

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