

MARK SCHEME for the May/June 2009 question paper
for the guidance of teachers

0544 FOREIGN LANGUAGE ARABIC

0544/03

Paper 3 (Speaking), maximum raw mark 100

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.

CIE is publishing the mark schemes for the May/June 2009 question papers for most IGCSE, GCE Advanced Level and Advanced Subsidiary Level syllabuses and some Ordinary Level syllabuses.



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TABLE A – Test 1: Role Plays (30 marks)

This part of the examination is primarily a test of the candidate's ability to communicate needs, information, requests, etc, in plausibly life-like situations. Intelligibility is therefore of greater importance than grammatical or syntactic accuracy. However, verbal communication only will be assessed: credit will not be given for gestures, facial expressions or other non-verbal forms of communication. The use of appropriate register and correct idiom will be rewarded. The teacher/examiner will play the part of a patient and well-disposed foreigner with no knowledge of the candidate's first language.

Each of the ten tasks to be performed in the examination will be assessed on the scale below.

Candidates will be required to give natural responses, not necessarily in the form of 'sentences': short answers, if appropriate to the task, could be awarded 3 marks.

Marks are awarded as follows:

An accurate utterance which not only conveys the meaning but which is expressed in native idiom and appropriate register. Minor errors (adjective endings, use of prepositions, etc) are tolerated. The utterance is intelligible and the task of communication is achieved.	3
The language used is not necessarily the most appropriate to the situation and may contain inaccuracies which do not obscure the meaning.	2
Communication of some meaning is achieved, but the native speaker would find the message ambiguous or incomplete.	1
The utterance is unintelligible to the native speaker.	0

NB 1 Teacher/examiners are reminded that if there are two elements in a task and only one is completed, then a maximum of one mark only may be awarded.

2 When awarding marks, teacher/examiners should start at the bottom of the mark scheme and work upwards:

0 = nothing of worth communicated

1 = partial communication

2 = all points communicated – but with some linguistic inaccuracies – meaning clear

3 = meaning clear and accurately conveyed.

3 Short utterances, if appropriate, can be worth three marks – especially true in Role Play A.

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TABLE B – Tests 2 and 3: Topic Conversation and General Conversation (2 x 30 marks)

Scale (a) Comprehension/responsiveness. This assesses the candidate's response in terms of comprehension of the teacher/examiner, immediacy of reaction/response, fluency of response, presentation of material in the topic.

Scale (b) This assesses the linguistic content of the candidate's answers in terms of the accuracy, complexity and range of structures, vocabulary and idiom.

NB This table is used for Tests 2 AND 3.

Category		Mark
Outstanding	(a) Not necessarily of native speaker standard. (b) The highest level to be expected of the best IGCSE candidates.	14–15
Very good	(a) Generally understands questions first time, but may require occasional re-phrasing. Can respond satisfactorily to both straightforward and unexpected questions. (b) Wide range of structures, vocabulary and idiom.	12–13
Good	(a) Has no difficulty with straightforward questions and responds fairly well to unexpected ones, particularly when they are re-phrased. (b) Good range of structures, varied vocabulary.	10–11
Satisfactory	(a) Understands straightforward questions but has difficulty with some unexpected ones and needs some re-phrasing. Fairly fluent, but some hesitation. (b) Adequate range of structures and vocabulary. Can convey past and future meaning; some ambiguity.	7–9
Weak	(a) Has difficulty even with straightforward questions, but still attempts an answer. (b) Shows elementary, limited vocabulary and faulty manipulation of structures.	4–6
Poor	(a) Frequently fails to understand the questions and has great difficulty in replying. (b) Shows very limited range of structures and vocabulary.	0–3

TABLE C – Impression (10 marks)

Very good pronunciation, intonation and fluency; an occasional slight mistake or hesitation. Not necessarily of native speaker standard.	9–10
Good pronunciation and fluency; makes a fair attempt at correct intonation and expression; some mistakes and/or hesitation.	7–8
A fair degree of fluency and accuracy in pronunciation despite quite a number of errors; some attempt at intonation and expression.	5–6
Conveys some meaning despite a lack of fluency and many errors; pronunciation strongly influenced by first language.	3–4
Many gross errors; frequently incomprehensible.	0