

Diploma Programme language acquisition: examination question types and rubrics (for first examinations 2020)

The following links provide the rubrics for Group 2 language acquisition examination papers.

- [Arabic](#)
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Please note that there may be minor differences in the presentation of these rubrics in the actual examination papers, for example, the use of bold fonts, symbols etc.

The pages below also provide an **example** of each question type which may feature in Paper 2: Receptive skills – Listening comprehension and Paper 2: Receptive skills – Reading comprehension examinations, together with additional **guidance** for responding to each question type.

It is expected that teachers will share the list of rubrics in the appropriate target language(s) and the contents of this document with their students.

Paper 1: Productive skills – writing

There will be a choice of three text types given under each task. Not all listed text types will be equally appropriate for the task. Candidates must choose the text type that is most suitable for the context, audience and purpose stated in the task.

Students are marked against three assessment criteria: Language, Message, and Conceptual understanding.

1. Ab initio

Section A

Complete **one** task. Use an appropriate text type from the options below the task you choose. Write 70-150 words.

Section B

Complete **one** task. Use an appropriate text type from the options below the task you choose. Write 70-150 words.

2. Language B SL

Complete **one** task. Use an appropriate text type from the options below the task you choose. Write 250-400 words.

3. Language B HL

Complete **one** task. Use an appropriate text type from the options below the task you choose. Write 450-600 words.

Paper 2: Receptive skills – Listening comprehension

Question types

The following applies for language ab initio SL, language B SL and language B HL examinations.

The following five question types may appear in the Listening comprehension examination paper:

1. Multiple choice questions
2. Identify true statements
3. Matching statements with their sources
4. Short answer questions
5. Gap-filling exercise

For listening comprehension audio texts B and C, two of the above question types will be used: one question type based on the information before the natural pause in the audio text and a different question type based on the information after the natural pause.

Rubrics and examples

1. Multiple choice questions

There will be three options, only one of which will be correct according to the audio text. Candidates must write the appropriate letter in the answer box provided. At ab initio, images may be used in the options instead of words.

Choose the correct answer.

1. When Kate says she does not like action films, John is...

- A. glad.
B. annoyed.
C. disappointed.

2. Identify true statements

Candidates must identify the statements that are true according to the audio text. Candidates must write the appropriate letters in the answer boxes provided. Answers can be given in any order.

1. Choose the **four** true statements.

[4]

- A. The speaker intends to address gender inequality.
B. The speaker highlights linguistic bias as the focus of her speech.
C. The speaker believes English is not biased.
D. The speaker thinks terms like “chairman” are still commonly used.
E. The speaker’s name is Andy.
F. The speaker played on the school’s football team.
G. The speaker would like more politically correct terms to be created.
H. The speaker would like us to understand the origins of stereotypes.

3. Matching statements with their sources

The statements will be preceded by a question (e.g. "Whose opinion?", "Which festival?"). There will be three or more options to choose from. The options may be people, places, events, dates, items etc. Candidates must answer by placing a tick in the table. Candidates must tick only **one** option for each statement.

Tick [✓] **one** correct option for each of the following statements.

Whose opinion?	Stan	Hadia	Both
1. Young people do not tend to care much about dressing formally for work.			
2. Not all young members of staff borrow ties for interviews.			
3. What people are expected to wear to work should be clear on the website.			
4. A clear dress code will affect employees.			

4. Short answer questions

Questions may be answered using words heard in the audio text. Other words or phrases with the same meaning as the correct answers will be accepted. Spelling and grammatical errors will be accepted provided they do not change the meaning of the answer. Candidates should provide one answer only, unless the question specifically asks for more.

Answer the following questions.

1. How does the Principal of the school feel about the project?

.....

5. Gap-filling exercise

A short piece of text linked to the audio text will be presented with several gaps in it. Answers may be words or numbers. Questions may be answered using words heard in the audio text. Other words or phrases with the same meaning as the correct answers will be accepted, including answers that are more than three words. Spelling errors are accepted provided they do not change the meaning of the answer. However, the answers must fit grammatically into the gaps.

Complete the following gaps using no more than three words for each answer.

Alice's application form:

About you:

Name: *Alice Johnson*

Address: *24 Riley Street, Surrey Hills, Sydney*

Age (when the course begins): [- 1 -]

About the course you are applying for:

- Name of course: [- 2 -]
- Location of course: [- 3 -]
- Starting time: [- 4 -]

I have enclosed a cheque for [- 5 -].

1. [- 1 -]

2. [- 2 -]

etc.

Paper 2: Receptive skills – Reading comprehension

Question types

The following applies for language ab initio SL, language B SL and language B HL examinations.

The following 13 question types may appear in the Reading comprehension examination paper:

1. Multiple choice questions
2. Identify true statements
3. Matching questions with answers in the text
4. Matching headings with paragraphs in the text
5. Matching vocabulary exercise
6. Matching statements with people
7. Matching two halves of a sentence
8. Gap-filling exercise
9. Short answer questions
10. Finding words in the text
11. True or false with justification questions
12. Complete sentences using words from the text
13. Identifying to whom or to what words refer

Rubrics and examples

1. Multiple choice questions

There will be four options, only one of which will be correct according to the reading text. Candidates must write the appropriate letter in the answer box provided.

Choose the correct answer.

2. The author's style in the text is...

- A. academic.
- B. encouraging.
- C. entertaining.
- D. professional.

2. Identify true statements

Candidates must identify the statements that are true according to the reading text. Candidates must write the appropriate letters in the answer boxes provided. Answers can be given in any order.

Choose the four true statements.	[4]
<input type="checkbox"/>	A. Singaporeans keep themselves informed of current affairs.
<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Unlike his countrymen, Lauw reads the news both in print and online.
<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Lauw is upset about the lack of reliability in online news sources.
<input type="checkbox"/>	D. Lauw observes that mainstream media are more trustworthy than online ones.
	E. When more people read online news, its reliability becomes more questionable.
	F. When more people read online news, its trustworthiness increases.
	G. When News editors in the past valued both precision and objectivity.
	H. Social media nowadays are not used solely for their original purpose.

3. Matching questions with answers in the text

The questions in the reading text, such as from an interview, will be removed and replaced by gaps. Candidates must identify the appropriate question for each answer given in the reading text. Candidates must write the appropriate letter in the answer boxes provided.

Choose an appropriate question from the list that completes each gap in the text.		
1. [- 4 -]	<input type="checkbox"/>	A. What is the mission of the organization?
2. [- 5 -]	<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Will the organization be offering free training?
3. [- 6 -]	<input type="checkbox"/>	C. How long is the training course?
		D. What is the organization's view on funding?
		E. Will the organization pay for some expenses?
		F. Will there be a test at the end of the course?

4. Matching headings with paragraphs in the text

The headings in the reading text, such as from articles, will be removed and replaced by gaps. Candidates must identify the appropriate heading for each gap. Candidates must write the appropriate letter in the answer boxes provided.

Choose an appropriate heading from the list that completes each gap in the text.

4. [- 1 -]	<input type="checkbox"/>	A. The protocol of eating on trains
5. [- 2 -]	<input type="checkbox"/>	B. Moving around on trains
6. [- 3 -]	<input type="checkbox"/>	C. Priority to pass
		D. Use of technology on trains
		E. Seating on trains
		F. Where not to sit on trains

5. Matching vocabulary exercise

The words tested will be taken from the reading text. The words tested may be a single word or multiple words. Candidates must identify what the words mean in the context of the reading text. Candidates must write the appropriate letter in the answer boxes provided. At ab initio, images may be used in the options instead of words.

What do the following words mean in the text? Choose the appropriate words from the list.

1. location (line 3)	<input type="checkbox"/>	A. hotel
2. variety (line 18)	<input type="checkbox"/>	B. boat
3. ferry (line 23)	<input type="checkbox"/>	C. place
4. forest (line 31)	<input type="checkbox"/>	D. large wood
		E. short holiday
		F. work
		G. range
		H. accommodation

6. Matching statements with people

Candidates must identify the statement that applies to each person, based on the information in the reading text. Candidates must write the appropriate letter in the answer boxes provided.

Choose the appropriate statement from the list for each person.		
1. Barbara	<input type="checkbox"/>	A. I live in a small town.
2. Peter	<input type="checkbox"/>	B. I love swimming in the sea.
3. Benjamin	<input type="checkbox"/>	C. There are many flowers in my garden.
4. Kim	<input type="checkbox"/>	D. I love a balcony.
		E. I love long walks in the forest.
		F. I don't enjoy hot weather.
		G. I live on a big farm.
		H. I don't like small towns.

7. Matching two halves of a sentence

Candidates must identify the appropriate ending for each sentence. The completed sentence must create a meaning that reflects the content of the reading text. Candidates must write the appropriate letter in the answer boxes provided.

Choose an appropriate ending from the list that completes each sentence.		
1. The Prime Minister...	<input type="checkbox"/>	A. has passed a new law.
2. The main party...	<input type="checkbox"/>	B. is opposing the new law.
3. Parliament...	<input type="checkbox"/>	C. is taking a long time to decide.
		D. will make a statement in the morning.
		E. has not yet decided what to do.
		F. will have to make a decision soon.

8. Gap-filling exercise

Candidates are presented with a summary of a reading text with several gaps in it. The summary may be based on a part or whole of the reading text. Candidates must identify which words from the options go in each gap. The answer must fit the summary text grammatically and create a meaning that is contained in the reading text. Candidates must write the appropriate letter in the answer boxes provided.

Choose an appropriate word from the list that completes each gap in the following text.

This text feature Viney who invented an application called PART. It also explains that [- 20 -] Vineys' PART, drivers had up to around 14 seconds to react to sirens. With this invention, drivers will be able to tell [- 21 -] emergency vehicles are within 800 metres. It is likely that this invention will benefit not only drivers, but also emergency workers, [- 22 -] will be able to do their jobs more effectively.

20. [- 20 -]

21. [- 21 -]

22. [- 22 -]

- A. which
- B. after
- C. before
- D. who
- E. whether
- F. how

9. Short answer questions

Questions can be answered using words in the reading text. Other words or phrases with the same meaning as the answers will be accepted, unless the question asks candidates to identify the exact words used in the reading text. Spelling and grammatical errors are accepted provided they do not change the meaning of the answer. Candidates should provide only one answer, unless the question specifically asks for more.

Answer the following questions.

2. What online source does Mr Williams trust most?

10. Finding words in the text

The answer may be a word or a phrase. The answer must appear within the line or paragraph reference given in the rubric. At ab initio, images may be used in the questions instead of words.

Find the word or phrase in lines 10-21 which mean the following.

1. stunning

.....

11. True or false with justification questions

Candidates must indicate whether each statement is true or false by ticking the appropriate box. Candidates must also provide a “justification”: a quotation from the reading text which proves the statement as true or false. The justification must support all parts of the statement, but it should not include any additional information that is irrelevant to the statement. Both the tick and the justification must be correct to receive the mark. No half marks will be given.

The following statements are either true or false. Tick [✓] the correct option, then justify it using words as they appear in the text. Both parts are required for [1 mark].

1. Readers of online news items will develop better awareness in the future.

True Justification:

False

12. Complete sentences using words from the text

The question will present the start of a sentence. Candidates must answer with a continuous quote from the reading text that completes the sentence. The quote must be taken from the line or paragraph reference given in the rubric. The quote must fit grammatically with the start of the sentence and create a meaning that is contained in the reading text.

Find the words that complete the following sentences. Answer using the words as they appear in lines 10-20.

1. Equipment does not normally operate in that...

.....

13. Identify to whom or to what words refer

The question will be a short quote taken from the text with one or more words underlined. Candidates must identify to whom or to what each underlined word(s) refers. Candidates must give the answer as stated in the reading text; synonyms and paraphrases will not be accepted. Answers may be a single word, or multiple words.

To whom or to what do the underlined words refer? Answer using words as they appear in the text.

1. to get to this... (line 8)