External assessment criteria—SL & HL

Paper 1

Section A

Paper 1 section A consists of three short-answer questions using AO1 and AO2 command terms.

All three questions are compulsory. Each question is marked out of 9 marks using the rubric below, for a total of 27 marks.

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| Markband | Level descriptor |
| 0 | The answer does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below. |
| 1–3 | The response is of limited relevance to or only rephrases the question. Knowledge and understanding is mostly inaccurate or not relevant to the question. The research supporting the response is mostly not relevant to the question and if relevant only listed. |
| 4–6 | The response is relevant to the question, but does not meet the command term requirements. Knowledge and understanding is accurate but limited. The response is supported by appropriate research which is described. |
| 7–9 | The response is fully focused on the question and meets the command term requirements. Knowledge and understanding is accurate and addresses the main topics/ problems identified in the question.  The response is supported by appropriate research which is described and explicitly linked to the question. |