

EXAMPLE OF A RUBRIC FOR MARKING AN ESSAY

Criteria	Exceptional	Skilful	Moderate	Elementary	Inadequate
CONTENT Interpretation of topic. Depth of argument, justification and grasp of text. 15 MARKS	12–15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outstanding response: 14–15 Excellent response: 12–13 In-depth interpretation of topic Range of striking arguments extensively supported from text Excellent understanding of genre and text 	9–11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows understanding and has interpreted topic well Fairly detailed response Some sound arguments given, but not all of them as well motivated as they could be Understanding of genre and text evident 	6–8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mediocre interpretation of topic; not all aspects explored in detail Some good points in support of topic Some arguments supported, but evidence is not always convincing Partial understanding of genre and text 	4–5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scant interpretation of topic; hardly any aspects explored in detail Few points in support of topic Very little relevant argument Little understanding of genre and text 	0–3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very little understanding of the topic Weak attempt to answer the question Arguments not convincing Learner has not come to grips with genre or text
STRUCTURE AND LANGUAGE Structure, logical flow and presentation. Language, tone and style used in the essay. 10 MARKS	8–10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coherent structure Excellent introduction and conclusion Arguments well-structured and clearly developed Language, tone and style mature, impressive, correct 	6–7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear structure and logical flow of argument Introduction and conclusion and other paragraphs coherently organised Logical flow of argument Language, tone and style largely correct 	4–5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some evidence of structure Logic and coherence apparent, but flawed Some language errors; tone & style mostly appropriate Paragraphing mostly correct 	2–3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Structure shows faulty planning. Arguments not logically arranged Language errors evident Inappropriate tone and style Paragraphing faulty 	0–1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of planned structure impedes flow of argument Language errors and incorrect style make this an unsuccessful piece of writing Inappropriate tone and style Paragraphing faulty
MARK RANGE	20–25	15–19	10–14	5–9	0–4

Note: If you ignore the Content completely and write a creative essay instead, you will be awarded 0 marks for both Content and Structure and Language.

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