



National
Qualifications
2023

2023 ESOL

Reading

Higher

Finalised Marking Instructions

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2023

These marking instructions have been prepared by examination teams for use by SQA appointed markers when marking external course assessments.

The information in this document may be reproduced in support of SQA qualifications only on a non-commercial basis. If it is reproduced, SQA must be clearly acknowledged as the source. If it is to be reproduced for any other purpose, written permission must be obtained from permissions@sqa.org.uk.



General marking principles for Higher ESOL Reading

Always apply these general principles. Use them in conjunction with the detailed marking instructions, which identify the key features required in candidates' responses.

- (a) Always use positive marking. This means candidates accumulate marks for the demonstration of relevant skills, knowledge and understanding; marks are not deducted for errors or omissions.
- (b) If a candidate response does not seem to be covered by either the principles or detailed marking instructions, and you are uncertain how to assess it, you must seek guidance from your team leader.
- (c) Use your professional judgement, subject knowledge and experience, and understanding to award marks to candidate responses.
- (d) The marking instructions indicate the essential idea that a candidate should provide for each answer and there may be variation in candidate responses. Award marks according to the accuracy and relevance of a candidate's answers.
- (e) The answers for each question must come from the text. Award marks where the candidate's answer is accurate but expressed in their own words. For open questions requiring short answers, candidates must not lift large chunks of text from the passage. If specific words or phrases from the text are required, candidates must not use paraphrasing.
- (f) Where questions require a response of, for example, 'no more than three words', do not penalise candidates if they use an additional word, provided that the essential idea required by the question is correct.
- (g) Do not penalise candidates for spelling mistakes so long as the meaning is clear.
- (h) Where there is a multiple choice question and the candidate ticks more boxes than required, award **0 marks** where a candidate ticks all boxes. If two answers are required and the candidate ticks three boxes with two correct answers, award **1 mark**. If two answers are required and a candidate ticks three boxes with one correct answer, award **0 marks**.
- (i) For overall purpose questions, candidates must draw meaning from their overall understanding of the text.

Marking instructions for each question

Text 1

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.		rearranges (itself)/ builds up	1	No more than two words
2.		scan/look at	1	No more than two words
3.		moods	1	No more than two words
4.		inadequate	1	No more than two words
5.		C	1	
6.		B	1	
7.		A	1	
8.		(the) attractiveness halo (effect)	1	No more than four words
9.		a (friend's/new) haircut	1	No more than four words
10.		(time) lag	1	No more than four words
11.		A	1	

Text 2

Question			Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
12.			A	1	
13.			B	1	
14.			B	1	
15.			C	1	
16.			C	1	
17.		(i)	E	1	
		(ii)	C	1	
		(iii)	D	1	
		(iv)	A	1	
18.			frown on	1	Must have ON
19.			take issue (with)	1	
20.			A	1	

Text 3

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
21.		implications	1	No more than three words
22.		notorious	1	No more than three words
23.		(jolly) (little) tone	1	No more than three words
24.		(Education/educational) barriers	1	No more than three words
25.		Language experts	1	No more than three words Must have Language
26.	(i)	B	1	
	(ii)	D	1	
	(iii)	C	1	
	(iv)	A	1	
27.		C	1	
28.		B	1	
29.		A	1	

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]