

Marking notes
Remarques pour la notation
Notas para la corrección

November / Novembre / Noviembre de 2025

English A: literature
Anglais A : littérature
Inglés A: Literatura

Higher level and standard level
Niveau supérieur et niveau moyen
Nivel Superior y Nivel Medio

Paper / Épreuve / Prueba 1

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General marking instructions

These notes to examiners are intended only as guidelines to assist marking. They are not offered as an exhaustive and fixed set of features which all answers must include.

Answers which do not follow the approach suggested in the guiding question, but have provided an alternative formal or technical focus should be rewarded appropriately in line with the assessment criteria.

Instructions générales pour la notation

Ces notes ne sont que simples lignes directrices pour aider les examinateurs lors de la notation. Elles ne peuvent en aucun cas être considérées comme un ensemble fixe et exhaustif de caractéristiques que les réponses doivent présenter.

Les réponses qui ne suivent pas l'approche suggérée dans la question d'orientation, mais qui ont adopté un autre angle technique ou formel doivent être récompensées de manière appropriée, conformément aux critères d'évaluation.

Instrucciones generales para la corrección

El objetivo de estas notas para los examinadores es servir de directrices a fin de ayudar en la corrección. No deben considerarse un conjunto fijo y exhaustivo de características que deban estar presentes en todas las respuestas.

Las respuestas que no sigan el enfoque recomendado en la pregunta de orientación, pero posean un enfoque alternativo, de carácter formal o técnico, también deberán ser valoradas de acuerdo con los criterios de evaluación.

1.

Literary form
Drama
Elements of the text significant for analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• stage directions show the relationships among the characters and help establish Novelette and how she dominates the scene• use of exclamatory punctuation to communicate that Novelette is a powerful and assertive woman• the use of tableau places the focus on Novelette and indicates the importance of this character and the salon to the play (she also creates the movement and energy in the play which is further accentuated by this dramatic convention) and contrasts with the tableau coming to life and bringing energy into the play.• the use of the tableau suggests both celebration and ritual, the two aspects of hairdressing and possibly dramatizes the role of women• imagery of the opening scene used to describe the hair dressing shop indicates the importance of hair and contrasts how it has been both a source of pain and pride (metaphor of hair as source of empowerment and strength)• repetition and use of aside (talking to plant) to bring our attention to the business of Novelette and her central role in the community of black women represented in the play. Her interaction with the plant also shows how Novelette is a nurturer who brings life to the community (human and non-human).• Novelette’s dialogue shows she is aware of her importance and her demand for respect• Novelette’s presentation is also that of a feisty character, particularly evident in her in interaction with Milly• informal language helps to develop Novelette’s voice and character• Novelette’s energy as produced by syntax and diction• metaphor of hair coil is prominent in opening tableau until torn apart by dancers• aside/direct address to audience helps to break the fourth wall and brings the reader into the play/the community, and the long aside also helps to establish Novelette’s importance• diction and syntax create energy and a sense of urgency• the allusion to the Griot (footnoted) as a West African historian or storyteller situates the story in black culture to communicate that the experiences of black women will be a central focus

2.

Literary form
Prose Fiction, novel
Elements of the text significant for analysis
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• imagery creates a sense of gloominess that permeates the passage and makes use of contrast (as with lights and amusement) to accentuate the gloom (gloomy homes and songs)• through contrast, the writer develops a sense of the potential dangers of the sea, the shadowy nature of the land, and the isolation of the main character• the use of contrast between Hamza’s isolation and the camaraderie of the crew• the contrast between Hamza’s inability to sleep and the crew who fall asleep “almost in unison” further accentuating his isolation• the contrast between the “meagre ration of rice and saltfish” versus the “heavily laden” boat highlighting the lack of comfort the crew are afforded• the use of lighting (“setting sun,” “huge moon,” “elongated shadows,” a road that “ran out to darkness”) to create a sense of unease or foreboding mood• use of repetition brings us into Hamza’s mind and communicates a dismal state• figurative language of nature communicates a sense of unrest/unease/instability• lack of dialogue and pattern of silence further communicates the somber mood• the use of diction creates a sense of melancholy, darkness, and caution• the description of water creates a sense of uncertainty and uneasiness that reflects Hamza’s state of mind• the use of sibilance further emphasizes uncertainty and creates a solemn mood• the heavy currents represent the challenges Hamza has faced and the difficulty of his journey.
