

IB Diploma Programme — English B Paper 1

Official Assessment Mark Scheme & Exemplar Model Answers

Total Marks: 30 Marks

1. IB English B Assessment Criteria

Paper 1 writing is assessed against three criteria totaling **30 marks**.

Criterion	Max Marks	Focus & Assessment Principles
Criterion A: Language	12 Marks	Command, accuracy, and variety of grammatical structures; range and appropriateness of vocabulary; spelling, punctuation, and layout accuracy.
Criterion B: Message	12 Marks	Fulfillment of task requirements; relevance, development, and support of ideas; logical organization and cohesive structures.
Criterion C: Conceptual Understanding	6 Marks	Choice and consistent maintenance of appropriate text type/genre conventions; awareness of audience, purpose, context, register, and tone.

2. Task 1: Domestic Holiday Experience

Task 1 Prompt: You recently read an article in a youth magazine about the benefits of taking a holiday in your own country instead of abroad. You have a recent experience of such a holiday and want to share your thoughts with others. Write a text in which you describe your holiday and explain if you would recommend it to young people.

Text Options: Blog | Letter to the Editor | **Review** (Selected: Review)

Task 1 Mark Scheme Breakdown

- **Audience:** Youth magazine readers / fellow young people.
- **Purpose:** Describe a recent domestic holiday experience and evaluate/recommend it.
- **Required Points:**
 1. Description of the domestic holiday (location, activities, unique features).
 2. Clear evaluation and explicit recommendation/advice for young people.
- **Text Type Conventions (Review):** Catchy title, rating system/summary, descriptive language, balanced evaluation, and clear concluding recommendation.

Model Answer — Text Type: Review

Word Count: 338 words

Rediscovering Paradise at Home: A Coastal Escape to Cornwall
Rating: 4.5 / 5 Stars

Like many students, I used to assume that a real holiday required catching an international flight to a distant tropical resort. However, after reading a compelling feature on staycations in last month's youth magazine, I decided to test the theory by spending a week exploring the rugged coastline of Cornwall in southwest England. To say I was pleasantly surprised would be an absolute understatement.

My trip was centered around St Ives, a vibrant seaside town known for its dramatic cliffs, golden beaches, and rich artistic history. Over seven days, my friends and I stayed at an affordable youth hostel overlooking

Porthmeor Beach. Our days were filled with surfing lessons, hiking along breathtaking sections of the South West Coast Path, and exploring local art galleries such as the Tate St Ives. Instead of spending hours trapped in airport security or struggling with foreign currencies, we were immersed in adventure within three hours of leaving home.

What truly made this staycation exceptional was the sheer convenience and sustainability. We traveled by train, which drastically cut our carbon footprint and allowed us to relax and enjoy the scenery along the way. Furthermore, eating fresh local fish and chips while watching sunsets over the Atlantic proved that world-class coastal beauty exists right on our doorstep.

Would I recommend a domestic holiday to young people? Absolutely, without hesitation. Staycations offer an unbeatable combination of affordability, flexibility, and environmental responsibility. You do not need to spend thousands of pounds or deal with long travel fatigue to recharge your batteries. Exploring your own country provides a fresh perspective on your heritage while supporting local communities. For any student looking for an unforgettable yet wallet-friendly getaway, look no further than your own backyard.

Examiner Commentary (Task 1): Scores Top Band (12/12/6). Language is precise with engaging descriptive vocabulary ("dramatic cliffs", "sustainability", "recharge your batteries"). Both description and recommendation requirements are thoroughly developed. Format perfectly follows review conventions (title, star rating, personal experience, verdict).

3. Task 2: Assisting an Elderly Person

Task 2 Prompt: While on your way to school, you were stopped by an elderly person asking for help. You were able to support that person and you want to share the experience with other students at the school. Write a text in which you describe what happened and give advice on what to do in such situations.

Text Options: Article | Interview | **Speech** (Selected: Speech)

Task 2 Mark Scheme Breakdown

- **Audience:** School students / peers (e.g., school assembly or club presentation).
- **Purpose:** Narrate a personal experience of helping an elderly individual and advise peers on responding to similar situations safely and compassionately.
- **Required Points:**
 1. Narrative account of encountering and helping the elderly person on the way to school.
 2. Practical advice and guidelines for students faced with similar circumstances.
- **Text Type Conventions (Speech):** Direct opening address, engaging hook, oral tone (rhetorical questions, inclusive language), clear structure, and inspiring concluding sign-off.

Model Answer – Text Type: Speech

Word Count: 332 words

Good morning, teachers and fellow students. Today, I want to take a few minutes to share a quick story about something that happened to me last Tuesday on my way to school—an experience that completely changed how

I view my daily routine.

I was walking near the central bus stop, reviewing notes for a history test, when an elderly woman named Mrs. Evans approached me. She looked visibly disoriented and distressed. She explained that she had missed her regular bus line and could not read the small font on the new digital timetable schedule. Realizing she was feeling anxious and overwhelmed, I immediately put my phone away and took a deep breath. I walked her over

to a bench, helped her sit down, and checked the bus app on my phone. Not only did I find her correct connection, but I also stayed with her for fifteen minutes until her bus safely arrived. Yes, I arrived at school ten minutes late—but helping her made it the most valuable ten minutes of my week.

This encounter taught me an important lesson, and I want to offer a few practical pieces of advice if you ever find yourself in a similar situation:

First, always lead with patience and empathy. Elderly people may feel vulnerable asking strangers for assistance, so maintain a calm and friendly posture. Second, prioritize their immediate safety and comfort. If they seem dizzy or lost, help them find a safe place to sit down before taking further action. Third, use your technology wisely. Our smartphones can instantly check transit routes, locate addresses, or call emergency services if medical attention is required. Finally, if a situation feels unsafe or beyond your ability to manage, do not hesitate to involve a nearby shopkeeper or school authority.

As students, we are often in a rush to get to class, but taking a moment to show kindness can transform someone's entire day. Thank you for listening.

Examiner Commentary (Task 2): Scores Top Band (12/12/6). Language is fluent, engaging, and appropriate for oral delivery. Clear narrative arc followed by organized, actionable advice for students. Adheres fully to speech conventions (greeting, personal connection, direct address, concluding remark).

4. Task 3: Failed Electronic Device Repair Complaint

Task 3 Prompt: You collected your electronic device from a repair shop, but when you got home you noticed the repair was unsuccessful. You returned to get it fixed again, but the staff refused to help you. You are very unhappy about the situation. Write a text for the repair shop management in which you explain why you are unhappy and describe what action you expect from them.

Text Options: Blog | **Letter of Complaint** | Report (Selected: Letter of Complaint)

Task 3 Mark Scheme Breakdown

- **Audience:** Repair shop management / store director.
- **Purpose:** Formal complaint regarding failed service, poor customer support, and demands for resolution.
- **Required Points:**
 1. Detailed explanation of dissatisfaction (unsuccessful repair & unhelpful staff behavior).
 2. Clear specification of expected corrective actions (refund, re-repair, apology).
- **Text Type Conventions (Letter of Complaint):** Formal salutation/sign-off, professional and firm tone, clear details (dates, device type, receipt numbers), structured grievance, and explicit deadline/next steps.

Model Answer — Text Type: Letter of Complaint

Word Count: 334 words

Customer Relations Manager
TechFix Solutions, Main Street Branch
May 18, 2026

SUBJECT: Formal Complaint Regarding Unsuccessful Repair and Poor Service (Receipt #TF-88421)

Dear Management,

I am writing to formally express my extreme dissatisfaction with the service I received at your Main Street branch regarding the repair of my laptop (Model: Zenith Pro 15, Repair Ticket #TF-88421).

On May 12, I submitted my device to your shop to replace a malfunctioning screen backlight, paying an upfront fee of \$150. When I collected the laptop on May 16, I was assured by your technical team that the issue had been entirely resolved. However, upon returning home and turning on the device, I discovered that the screen flickered continuously before turning completely black—the exact defect I paid to have repaired.

Regrettably, my experience worsened when I returned to your store yesterday morning to seek assistance. Rather than inspecting the device or offering a solution, the desk staff dismissively claimed that the issue must have been caused by mishandling after I left the store. They refused to re-examine the laptop unless I paid an additional diagnostic fee. This refusal to honor your 30-day repair guarantee is unacceptable and demonstrates a complete disregard for customer service standards.

To resolve this matter satisfactorily, I expect your management team to take the following actions immediately:

1. Re-repair my laptop at no additional cost under your service warranty by a qualified technician.
2. Alternatively, provide a full refund of \$150 if your shop is unable to repair the device correctly.
3. Issue a formal apology for the unprofessional treatment extended by your front-desk personnel.

I request a written response outlining your proposed resolution within five business days. If this matter is not addressed promptly, I will be forced to escalate this grievance to the Consumer Protection Bureau. Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Yours faithfully,
Alex Taylor

Examiner Commentary (Task 3): Scores Top Band (12/12/6). Outstanding formal administrative register ("formally express my extreme dissatisfaction", "disregard for customer service standards"). Logical layout with numbered expectations and firm escalation timeline. Adheres perfectly to formal complaint letter conventions.