



National
Qualifications
2024

2024 English

**Reading for Understanding, Analysis
and Evaluation**

Higher

Question Paper Finalised Marking Instructions

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2024

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 English: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation

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) We use the term 'possible answers' to allow for any variation in candidate responses. Award marks according to the accuracy and relevance of the candidate's response.

Passage 1

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
1.	<p>Candidates must use their own words. No marks for straight lifts from the passage.</p> <p>For full marks two reasons must be identified.</p> <p>Marks awarded 1 + 1</p>	2	<p>Possible answers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for limiting the number of cars in the country ('curbing') • car ownership was very low relative to the population ('one billion people...few million vehicles') • bikes were widely used ('bicycle was king') • city roads were free from traffic danger ('safe') • no problems with pollution ('air mostly clean')
2.	<p>For full marks candidates should show clear understanding of the function: these lines signal the transition from China's eco-friendly past to the present car-dominated situation and/or reverse the expectations set up in the first paragraph.</p> <p>2 marks may be awarded for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference.</p> <p>1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/reference.</p> <p>0 marks for quotation/reference alone.</p> <p>Marks may be awarded: 2 or 1+1</p>	2	<p>Possible answers include:</p> <p>Note that there are a number of approaches (including a traditional 'link question' approach) that candidates may take.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • these lines act as a bridge between China's eco-friendly past ('bicycle was king') and its car-dominated present ('choked with traffic') • instead of developing the benefits of China's low car ownership from paragraph 1, these lines defy expectations by showing its desire to quickly increase car ownership • links the discussion from the positive aspects of China's low car ownership to outlining the rise of car ownership which effectively wiped out all previous benefits <p>NB Candidates may choose to select quotation from and/or make reference to elsewhere in the passage.</p>

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
3.	<p>2 marks may be awarded for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference.</p> <p>1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/reference.</p> <p>0 marks for quotation/reference alone.</p> <p>Marks may be awarded 2 + 2, 2 + 1 + 1 or 1 + 1 + 1 + 1</p>	4	<p>Possible answers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘breakneck development’ suggests the country changed very rapidly <i>and/or</i> in a reckless fashion • ‘(has been) led by’ suggests the automobile industry was instrumental in China’s advancement • ‘mass (car ownership)’ suggests the sheer scale/enormous number of those who have a car • ‘kingdom’ suggests the previous supremacy of bicycles/idyllic nature of pre-car China has gone • ‘land of’ suggests China is now defined by its car ownership • use/accumulation of statistics ‘300 million’/‘20-lane’/‘100,000’ suggests the extraordinary extent to which cars have transformed/damaged China • balanced sentence structure ‘once ... now ...’ suggests the contrast between past and present • ‘towering (scrap metal yards)’ suggests dominating/intimidating presence • list ‘20-lane motorways...petrol stations’ suggests the scale/variety of the changes to the landscape/ domination of the car • ‘choked’ suggests the cities are so congested it is harmful • ‘worst (in the world)’ suggests just how damagingly extreme the traffic pollution is • ‘full of (children...diseases)’ suggests the overwhelming nature of the problem • list ‘choked...diseases’ suggests the scale/variety of damaging consequences of car use

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
4.	<p>For full marks candidates must deal with both imagery and sentence structure, but not necessarily in equal measure.</p> <p>2 marks may be awarded for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference.</p> <p>1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/reference.</p> <p>0 marks for quotation/reference alone.</p> <p>Marks may be awarded 2 + 2, 2 + 1 + 1 or 1 + 1 + 1 + 1</p>	4	<p>Possible answers include:</p> <p>Imagery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘love affair...is over’ suggests that cars have fallen out of favour with those who were once entranced by them • ‘pushed aside’ suggests cars became so popular they caused the coach and horse to be forcibly dismissed as the main means of transport • ‘evicted’ suggests the car is now so undesirable it is being forcibly removed for the good of society • ‘curse’ suggests the car is now viewed as evil/the root of many problems • ‘erodes’ suggests decreasing social/shared areas • ‘fractures’ suggests the shattering damage done by cars • ‘suffocating’ suggests that cars are now so many in number, they are oppressing/smothering people across the globe • ‘savoured’ suggests that we previously relished the benefits cars brought and sets up the contrast with current thinking

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
			<p>Sentence structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • parenthesis ‘-which promised...freedom-’ emphasises the previous benefits/selling points of car ownership no longer apply • list ‘convenience, status and freedom’ suggests the variety of benefits car ownership no longer offers • balanced sentence structure ‘A century ago/In this century’ suggests the rise and fall of the car • parallel structure/list of ‘Inverness to Istanbul, from Lagos to Lahore’ suggests how widespread the problems are • short, blunt sentence(s) eg ‘It disconnects people’ emphasises the condemnation of the damage that cars cause (NB: if more than one short sentence dealt with individually, reward only one example) • repetition of ‘It’ emphasises the writer’s direct attack on the damage caused by the car • list of three short, blunt sentences ‘It disconnects...local economies.’ suggests the scale/variety of damage caused by cars • balanced structure/positioning of ‘Once ... Now’ suggests disadvantages of car use far outweigh advantages • list ‘personal danger...energy crisis’ suggests the scale/ variety of the problems caused by cars

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
5.	<p>Candidates must use their own words. No marks for straight lifts from the passage.</p> <p>2 marks may be awarded for detailed/insightful comment.</p> <p>1 mark for more basic comment.</p> <p>0 marks for reference alone.</p> <p>Marks may be awarded 2+1 or 1+1+1</p>	3	<p>Possible answers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • other forms of travel have been made more affordable/cost nothing ('cut public transport fares by as much as 90%...free train travel') • number of people buying cars/with cars has decreased ('declining in many major countries'/'now fallen') • people want traffic-free urban streets ('car-free streets are popular'/'more liveable') • owning a car costs too much money ('surest and best way to save money'/'little economic...sense') • traffic-free urban streets are good for people's wellbeing ('improve health') • more people predicted to live in urban areas so they won't need a car ('70% of people are expected to live in built-up areas')

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
6.	<p>2 marks may be awarded for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference.</p> <p>1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/reference.</p> <p>0 marks for quotation/reference alone.</p> <p>Marks may be awarded 2 + 2, 2 + 1 + 1 or 1 + 1 + 1 + 1</p>	4	<p>Possible answers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Thankfully’ suggests delight that car usage is in decline • ‘saturated’ suggests the world cannot tolerate/absorb any more cars • parenthesis ‘and cities...by them’ emphasises the damaging impact cars are having on people • ‘(so) disillusioned’ suggests people have had enough of cars • ‘(financially) stretched’ suggests people are at breaking point/really struggling to afford cars • ‘voluntarily given up’ suggests a willingness to make a change • ‘death by a thousand breakdowns’ suggests an increasingly frustrating/painful process • short, blunt sentences ‘Recently, UK petrol...£2 a litre’/‘It cost...a tank’ emphasise financial burden of running a car • ‘staggering’ suggests cost of petrol is beyond belief • ‘coughing up’ suggests paying for a car is painful/unpleasantly unavoidable • accumulation of financial data/statistics ‘£2 a litre’, ‘£100 to fill up’, ‘thousands of pounds’ emphasises great financial cost • rhetorical question ‘Is it any wonder...transport?’ suggests a shared understanding that young people’s dismissal of cars is not in any doubt • ‘rejecting’ suggests young people’s absolute dismissal of cars • ‘embracing’ suggests young people’s enthusiasm for/belief in other forms of transport • ‘auto-magic’/‘entranced’ suggests the spell cars cast on society has lost its power • summative final sentence/definitive nature of ‘has gone’ emphasises that cars’ period of dominance is completely finished

Question		Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
7.		<p>Candidates must use their own words. No marks for straight lifts from the passage.</p> <p>2 marks may be awarded for detailed/insightful comment.</p> <p>1 mark for more basic comment.</p> <p>0 marks for reference alone.</p> <p>Marks may be awarded 2+1 or 1+1+1</p>	3	<p>Possible answers include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making it illegal to have cars in the main part of the city ('outlawing cars from their centres') • making it so costly to use a car that it puts people off ('prohibitively expensive') • citizens/campaigners are seeking change ('open door' / 'City leaders...calling for it') • people travelling together is becoming more popular ('car-sharing') • increased use of more environmentally-friendly transport ('e-bikes and scooters') • making it simple and cheap not to use/own a car or making public transport more accessible/cheaper ('easy and affordable') • (re)designing cities so that essential services can be reached without cars ('reimagined...bike')

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
8.	<p>2 marks may be awarded for detailed/insightful comment plus quotation/reference.</p> <p>1 mark for more basic comment plus quotation/reference.</p> <p>0 marks for quotation/reference alone.</p> <p>Marks may be awarded 2 + 1 or 1 + 1 + 1</p>	3	<p>Possible answers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (positioning of) ‘It is time’ suggests the urgent need for action to be taken • repetition of ‘it is time’ emphasises/drives home the need for immediate action • contrast/balance of ‘not...but’ in opening sentence emphasises alternative ways to travel must now take precedence • ‘worship the car’ mocks how highly some people view cars • ‘aggressively assert’ criticises the entitled views of some car owners • parenthesis of ‘and its divine right to road space’ emphasises that the dominance of cars should not be accepted as a given in society • ‘a page has been turned’ suggests it is undeniable there is a new beginning • balanced sentence ‘The sooner...will be.’ suggests the inevitability of making a change in society • ‘extinct’ suggests cars’ total decline/demise • ‘relic’/‘former age’ suggests cars belong in the past/have no future • ‘Sitting in a traffic jam’ suggests the frustrating, unproductive nature of car-driving • ‘ton of metal’ suggests the car is an extravagant waste of raw materials • ‘belches’ suggests cars’ unpleasant, grotesque emissions • ‘pollution’ suggests the damaging nature of cars’ emissions • ‘(costs a) fortune’ suggests the high cost of running a car • escalation of ‘not just stupid, but criminal’ suggests the dominance of the car is not merely foolish but immoral and inexcusable • ‘stupid’ suggests the foolishness/misguidedness of society in allowing the dominance/continued use of cars • ‘criminal’ suggests the morally indefensible nature of society in allowing the dominance/continued use of cars

Passage 2

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
9.	<p>You may answer this question in continuous prose or in a series of developed bullet points.</p> <p>Key areas of agreement are shown in the grid.</p>	5	<p>Candidates can use bullet points in this final question or write a number of linked statements.</p> <p>The following guidelines should be used:</p> <p>Award 5 marks for identification of three key areas of agreement with detailed/insightful use of supporting evidence.</p> <p>Award 4 marks for identification of three key areas of agreement with appropriate use of supporting evidence.</p> <p>Award 3 marks for identification of three key areas of agreement.</p> <p>Award 2 marks for identification of two key areas of agreement.</p> <p>Award 1 mark for identification of one key area of agreement.</p> <p>Award 0 marks for failure to identify any key areas of agreement and/or misunderstanding of the task.</p>

Question	Expected response(s)	Max mark	Additional guidance
			<p>NB: A candidate who identifies only two key areas of agreement may be awarded up to a maximum of 4 marks, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 marks for identification of two key areas of agreement plus: either • a further mark for appropriate use of supporting evidence to a total of 3 marks <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a further 2 marks for detailed/insightful use of supporting evidence to a total of 4 marks <p>A candidate who identifies only one key area of agreement may be awarded up to a maximum of 2 marks, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 mark for identification of one key area of agreement, plus a further mark for use of supporting evidence to a total of 2 marks

Area of Agreement		Passage 1	Passage 2
1	environmental damage	emissions from cars are major contributors to the air pollution in many cities ('their air is some of the worst in the world')	car emissions and the burning of fossil fuels are significant factors in the world's environmental crisis ('Transport...is now the major factor driving us towards climate breakdown')
2	health	car emissions are responsible for illness in society, especially among children ('their hospitals are full of children with respiratory diseases')	car emissions are a particular threat to the health of young people ('the world's most significant threat to children's health')
3	dominance/influence	cars are everywhere and some people believe that cars should have priority over everything else ('its divine right to road space')	people are obsessed with cars and our cities have been designed to accommodate the needs of cars ('places in which children could play...are reserved instead for parking')
4	effect on movement	persistent traffic jams in major cities are caused by an excess of cars ('sitting in a traffic jam in a ton of metal')	non-drivers' ability to move freely is seriously compromised because priority is given to cars ('streets are modeled to maximise the flow of cars')
5	communities	communities are hard to develop as cars drive people apart, take up public spaces and pose a danger to people ('It disconnects people. It erodes public space.')	people spend more time indoors and have less social interaction because so much social space is given over to cars ('noise, danger and pollution in busy streets drive people indoors')
6	resources	cars are expensive to run ('It cost £100 to fill up a tank')	important resources are being used up to power electric cars ('Electric cars still require a vast expenditure of energy and space')

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]