



IDASARA ACADEMY

General Certificate of Education (Ord. Level) Examination, 2026

31 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE I (MARKING SCHEME)*For Examiners' Use Only | Total: 40 Marks***GENERAL PRINCIPLES FOR MARKING PAPER I**

- Check all sections carefully. Ensure every item is marked and totals are transferred accurately to the cover grid.
- In objective cloze and matching tests (Tests 1, 2, 3, 4, 7), award marks strictly according to the specified key.
- In Test 5 (Information Transfer), do not penalize minor spelling or capitalization slips if the extracted fact is clear and unambiguous.
- In writing tests (Tests 6 and 8), evaluate Content and Language separately. **Crucial Rule:** If 0 (zero) mark is awarded for Content, 0 must be awarded for Language.

• Test 1 — Signs Matching (1 × 5 = 5 Marks)

(1) A (given) (2) B (3) D (4) F (5) E (6) C

• Test 2 — Dialogue Cloze (1 × 5 = 5 Marks)

(1) b (project - given)
(2) f / collected (3) e / posters (4) a / display (5) c / recycle (6) d / exhibition
(Accept either the letter or the correctly spelled word)

• Test 3 — Picture Description ($\frac{1}{2} \times 10 = 5$ Marks)

(1) standing (given) (2) counter (3) smiling (4) queue (5) shelves
(6) baskets (7) selling (8) colourful (9) under (10) behind (11) buying
(Award $\frac{1}{2}$ mark per correct item. Deduct for incorrect spelling only if meaning becomes unrecognizable)

• Test 4 — Prepositions and Functional Cloze (1 × 5 = 5 Marks)

(1) about (given) (2) from (3) to (4) with (5) their (6) because

• Test 5 — Information Transfer (1 × 5 = 5 Marks)

Item	Expected Information / Acceptable Responses	Marks
(1)	World Heritage Site (given)	-
(2)	Sabaragamuwa and Southern (provinces) [Award 1 mark if both named; accept minor spelling slips]	1
(3)	between 3,000 and 5,000 mm / 3,000 - 5,000 millimeters	1
(4)	Over 60% / more than 60 percent	1
(5)	Sri Lanka Blue Magpie OR Red-faced Malkoha [Award 1 mark for either]	1
(6)	Illegal gem mining OR encroachment (along peripheral boundaries) [Either is acceptable]	1

• **Test 6 — Writing a Notice (Total: 5 Marks | Content: 2, Language: 3)**

Criterion	Marks	Scoring Descriptors
Content (Required: Date/Time/Venue, Purpose, Cleaning items)	2	All three required points included with clear, relevant facts.
	1	Only one or two points included.
	0	Prompt copied without additions, or totally irrelevant. <i>(If 0 for Content, 0 for Language).</i>
Language (Grammar, prepositions, spelling, layout)	3	High accuracy; well-constructed sentences; appropriate notice register; correct prepositions (<i>at, on, in</i>).
	2	Minor language errors; meaning remains completely clear.
	1	Only 1–2 correct sentences; heavy grammatical and spelling slips.
	0	All sentences incorrect or unintelligible.

Benchmark Model Answer (Full 5/5 Marks):**NOTICE – Dengue Prevention Cleaning Campaign**

A Dengue Prevention and Cleaning Campaign organized by the Environmental and Health Society will be held on Friday, 24th October 2026, from 8.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. in the school premises. All Grade 10 and 11 students are kindly requested to assemble near the main hall. Please bring cleaning equipment such as garden hoes, brooms, and rubber gloves. Your active participation is greatly appreciated.

18th October 2026
(Secretary)

Shanuki Jayawardena

• **Test 7 — Reading Comprehension (1 × 5 = 5 Marks)**

(1) **b** (*Lightweight balsa and kaduru*)

(2) **c** (*natural extracts from turmeric and bark*)

(3) **a** (*his vehicle had broken down nearby during the rain*)

(4) **He believed that only human hands can give wood a heartbeat / He refused to compromise on quality.** (*Accept direct line lifting*)

(5) **He set up a free weekend carving school for them.** (*Accept: He established a carving school for unemployed youth*)

• **Test 8 — Paragraph Writing (Total: 5 Marks | Content: 2, Language: 3)**

Criterion	Marks	Scoring Descriptors
Content	2	Points fully developed; logical flow; required length (50–60 words).
	1	Topic partially addressed; few details. <i>(If word count < 20 words, overall marks cannot exceed 2).</i>
	0	Totally off-topic or prompt copied. <i>(If 0 for Content, 0 for Language).</i>
Language	3	Almost no grammatical errors; good variety of vocabulary; clear cohesive transitions.
	2	Some errors in language; meaning is clear throughout.
	1	Only 1–2 correct sentences; heavy errors.
	0	All sentences incorrect.

Benchmark Model Answer for Option (a) — Tree Planting (Score: 5/5):

"Trees play an indispensable role in maintaining ecological balance on Earth. They absorb dangerous carbon dioxide and release fresh oxygen for living beings. In addition, their deep root systems prevent topsoil erosion during heavy rains. Furthermore, trees provide nutritious fruits, timber, and cooling shade. By planting trees today, we protect biodiversity and safeguard our planet for future generations." (58 words)