



IDASARA ACADEMY

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

31 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE II (MARKING SCHEME)*For Examiners' Use Only | Total Marks: 60 | Model Paper 3***PAPER II SPECIFICATIONS & MARKS DISTRIBUTION**

Q. No.	Skill / Competency Tested	Cognitive Domain	Marks Distribution	Total
09	Vocabulary in context (collocations, word families)	Understand / Apply	1 × 5	05
10	Grammar & Language Functions (Verb inflections)	Apply grammatical rules	1 × 5	05
11	Reading: Banked Cloze (high-density syntax parsing)	Analyse / Synthesize	$\frac{1}{2} \times 14$	07
12	Grammar Functions (Conditionals, voice, reported speech)	Apply / Synthesize	1 × 5	05
13	Reading: Skimming & gist extraction from extracts	Understand / Analyze	1 × 5	05
14	Guided Writing: Informal Letter OR Bar Chart description	Create / Communicate	C:3, L:3, O:2, M:2	10
15	Extended Reading: Comprehension passage & inference	Analyze / Evaluate	(1) $\frac{1}{2} \times 4 = 2$, (2-6) $1 \times 6 = 6$	08
16	Extended Writing: Composition (Article, Essay, Speech, Story)	Create / Synthesize	C:5, L:5, O:2, M:3	15
Total Marks for Paper II:				60

CRITICAL EXAMINER GUIDELINES FOR WRITING TASKS (Tests 14 & 16)

- **The Zero-Content Gate:** If 0 (zero) mark is awarded to Content, do **NOT** award marks for Language, Organisation, or Mechanics.
- **The Language-Content Coupling:** If 0 (zero) mark is awarded for Language, do not award full marks for Content.
- **Word Count Gates:** In Test 16, if the word count is less than 50 words, the total mark for the answer must not exceed **5 marks**.
- **Prompt Copying:** If the prompt points are copied verbatim without creative or grammatical additions, award **0 for Content**.

• Test 9 — Vocabulary Selection (1 × 5 = 5 Marks)

- (1) advertisement (*given*) (2) entrance (3) properly
(4) useful (5) patient (6) permission

• Test 10 — Verb Inflections (1 × 5 = 5 Marks)

- (1) was held (*given*) (2) arrived (3) was playing
(4) were given (5) has won (6) supporting

• Test 11 — Banked Cloze ($\frac{1}{2} \times 14 = 7$ Marks)

- (1) useful (2) because (3) milk (4) cooking (5) water (6) shell (7) while
(8) ropes (9) thatch (10) trunk (11) building (12) exported (13) income (14) protect
(Unused distractor: slowly. Award $\frac{1}{2}$ mark per blank. Deduct for incorrect spelling only if ambiguity results).

• Test 12 — Grammar & Functions (1 × 5 = 5 Marks)

- (1) c (*work*) (2) a (*where*) (3) b (*is being built*)
(4) a (*would visit*) (5) c (*were*)

• Test 13 — Extract & Heading Matching (1 × 5 = 5 Marks)

- (1) B (*The Rock Fortress in the Sky*) (2) C (*Why the Oceans Are Rising*)
(3) A (*A Tiny Machine in Every Pocket*) (4) E (*The Train Ride Travellers Never Forget*)
(5) D (*Nature's Own Engineers*)

• **Test 14 — Guided Writing (Total: 10 Marks | C:3, L:3, O:2, M:2)**

Criterion	Marks	Performance Descriptors
Content (3 Marks) 14(a): 4 prompt points 14(b): Accurate data analysis	3	All required points developed with sufficient facts and details. Accurate interpretation of chart data.
	2	Most points addressed; description adequate but lacks depth.
	1	Only one point developed; factual information incomplete.
	0	Prompt copied without additions, or totally irrelevant. (<i>Zeros all other criteria</i>).
Language (3 Marks) Syntax, vocabulary, tenses	3	Almost no grammatical errors; good sentence variety; appropriate register for letter/report.
	2	Some grammatical slips, but meaning remains clear throughout.
	1	Frequent basic errors; only a few correct isolated sentences.
	0	Incomprehensible; all sentences incorrect.
Organisation (2 Marks) Paragraphing & cohesion	2	Well-organized; clear beginning, body, and conclusion; effective discourse connectors.
	1	Ideas loosely connected; paragraphing indistinct.
	0	No organization; chaotic sequence.
Mechanics (2 Marks) Spelling & punctuation	2	Accurate spelling, correct capitalization, clear punctuation.
	1	Some spelling and punctuation slips; handwriting decipherable.
	0	Severe mechanical errors obscuring comprehension.

Benchmark Model Answer for Option 14(a) — Informal Letter (Score: 10/10 | 95 words):

No. 25, Temple Road, Matale. | 20th June 2026

Dear Sajith,

How are you? I hope you like your new school. I am writing to tell you some good news about our old school.

A new playground was opened last Monday by the Provincial Director of Education. It has a volleyball court, a netball court and a 200-metre running track. There is also a small pavilion with changing rooms and drinking water taps.

Now we practise there every evening after school, and the younger students play there during the interval. Our volleyball team has already started training for the zonal meet, and everyone is very happy.

Please visit us during the August vacation. We can play a match together.

Your loving friend, Kasun.

Benchmark Model Answer for Option 14(b) — Bar Chart (Score: 10/10 | 104 words):

The bar chart shows how the 200 Grade 11 students of Gamini Maha Vidyalaya travel to school.

The largest group, 40 percent of the students, come by bus. Walking is the second most common way, as 25 percent of them come on foot. Fifteen percent ride bicycles, whereas 12 percent travel by school van. Only 8 percent are brought by their parents on motorcycles, which is the lowest proportion. In contrast to the bus, private vehicles are used by very few students.

Overall, the majority of the students depend on public transport or walk to school, and only a small number use private vehicles.

• **Test 15 — Reading Comprehension (Total: 8 Marks)**

Item	Expected Answer / Acceptable Variants	Marks
(1) T / F	(a) False (b) True (c) False (d) True [$\frac{1}{2}$ mark each]	2
(2) Observations	The stone step had disappeared under (brown, foaming) water / broken branches were rushing past [Both required; accept line-lifting]	1
(3) Reference	The flood	1
(4) Vocabulary	Alarmed	1
(5) Reason	The noise of the rain drowned his voice and only a few people came out, so he needed something louder. [Accept line-lifting]	1
(6) Title	(c) The Boy Who Listened to the River	1

• **Test 16 — Extended Composition (Total: 15 Marks | C:5, L:5, O:2, M:3)**

Criterion	Marks	Performance Descriptors
Content (5 Marks) Thoroughness, insight, prompt coverage	4–5	All prompt points addressed with depth and relevant examples; original insight; required length (~200 words).
	2–3	Addressed 1–2 points; descriptions adequate but not comprehensive.
	1	Attempted topic; inadequate content; under-length. (<i>Word count < 50 caps total at 5</i>).
	0	Copied question prompt, or totally irrelevant. (<i>Zeros all criteria</i>).
Language (5 Marks) Vocabulary range, sentence variety, accuracy	4–5	Almost no errors; rich vocabulary; sophisticated compound/complex sentence structures.
	2–3	Some errors; meaning clear throughout; good basic range of vocabulary.
	1	Only a few correct simple sentences; severe grammatical flaws.
	0	All sentences incorrect.
Organisation (2 Marks) Paragraphing & cohesion	2	Well-organized connected paragraphs; appropriate opening and ending; seamless discourse transitions.
	1	Ideas loosely connected; paragraphing weak.
	0	No discernible organization.
Mechanics (3 Marks) Spelling, punctuation, clarity	3	Flawless spelling; correct punctuation; clean presentation.
	2	A few minor spelling and punctuation slips.
	1	Frequent mechanical slips, but decipherable.
	0	Unintelligible writing.

Benchmark Model Answer for Option 16(c) — Speech (Score: 15/15 | 208 words):**Let Us Reduce Plastic**

Good morning, respected Principal, teachers and dear friends. Today is World Environment Day, and as the President of the Environment Club I would like to speak to you about a serious problem: plastic.

Look around you. The lunch sheets we unwrap, the bottles we drink from and the bags we carry from the shop are all made of plastic. We use them for a few minutes, but they remain on the earth for hundreds of years.

This waste causes great harm. Cattle and deer die after swallowing polythene bags. Plastic buried in the ground spoils the soil, and when it is burnt, it poisons the air we breathe. Much of it finally reaches the sea, where turtles and fish mistake it for food.

Fortunately, the solution is in our own hands. We can bring our meals in a lunch box instead of a lunch sheet. We can carry a cloth bag to the shop and use a steel or glass bottle for water.

Dear friends, let us not wait for others to begin. I request every one of you to give up at least one plastic item from today. If each of us takes one small step, our school will become a cleaner and greener place. Thank you.