Part C essay question marking criteria

Marking criteria

Key distinguishing criteria

Higher level indicators

- Understands the author’s main argument and relates this to question
- Chooses evidence selectively
- Shows insight and makes good connections between points in the text
- Does not impose judgements or draw inferences not based on evidence
- Writes clearly and organises material so it addresses the question, doesn’t just summarise the passage.

Lower level indicators

- Misunderstands some of the author’s arguments
- Repeats material from the passage without explaining the relevance
- Loses focus on the question
- Gives limited evidence from the text
- Writing is not clear and the argument poorly structured
Any material from other sources should be ignored.

0-5
A basic answer, with significant elements which are either inaccurate or irrelevant. Lack of focus on the question. Poorly written and poorly structured. Little or no reference to the substance of the text.

6-10
Understands the main argument of the text but misses out key points. More descriptive than analytical and depends too heavily on the structure of the passage to make the argument. May be overly dependent on using quotes from the text without significant explanation of the point being made. Some inaccuracies or irrelevant material. Offers opinions on the author’s views or argument which are not directly supported from text.

11-15
Impressive, well-balanced answer which addresses the question directly and makes selective and appropriate use of evidence from the text. A cautious response which identifies any ambiguities or contradictions in the text. Covers all of the substantive points made by the author. Clearly written and well organised.