



IDASARA ACADEMY

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

31 - ENGLISH LANGUAGE II (MARKING SCHEME)

For Examiners' Use Only | Total Marks: 60

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	½ × 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: Formal 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) ½×4=2, (2-6) 1×6=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) conservation (*given*) (2) informative (3) extinction
(4) responsibly (5) significant (6) approval

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

(1) was organized (*given*) (2) were displayed (3) were examining
(4) had guided OR guided (*accept both*) (5) was awarded (6) to participate

• Test 11 — Banked Cloze (½ × 14 = 7 Marks)

(1) clean (2) essential (3) health (4) because (5) causes (6) diseases (7) regularly
(8) Boiling (9) filter (10) daily (11) pure (12) safe (13) prevent (14) drinking
(Unused distractor: contaminate. Award ½ mark per blank. Deduct for incorrect spelling only if ambiguity results).

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

(1) b (*will avoid*) (2) c (*which*) (3) b (*had extinguished*)
(4) b (*should not be thrown*) (5) c (*had bought*)

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

(1) B (*Ancient Engineering: Water Management*) (2) D (*Safeguarding Marine Turtles*)
(3) C (*Exploring the Cosmos with Space Telescopes*) (4) E (*Cultural Evolution of Postage Stamps*)
(5) A (*Harnessing the Sun for Sustainable Agriculture*)

• **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) — Formal Letter (Score: 10/10 | 102 words):

English Literary Association, Vidyaloka Maha Vidyalaya, Galle. | 10th October 2026

The Principal, St. Mary's Convent, Galle.

Dear Madam,

Invitation to Inter-School Debating Championship 2026

The English Literary Association of our school has organized the Annual Inter-School Debating Championship on Friday, 14th November 2026, commencing at 9.00 a.m. in the College Main Auditorium. The debates will be conducted in the English medium.

The preliminary rounds will focus on current themes including "Artificial Intelligence in Modern Classrooms" and "The Expansion of Renewable Energy in Developing Nations."

We cordially invite your senior debating team to participate in this contest. Kindly confirm your school's participation by returning the enclosed entry form on or before 30th October 2026.

Thank you. Yours faithfully, Kavindu Rajapaksa (Secretary).

Benchmark Model Answer for Option 14(b) — Bar Chart (Score: 10/10 | 108 words):

The given bar chart illustrates the preferred weekend leisure activities of 120 Grade 11 students at Vidyaloka Maha Vidyalaya.

According to the data, playing sports is the most popular activity, chosen by the highest percentage of students at 35%. Surfing the internet and mobile applications ranks second, accounting for 25% of the cohort. In contrast, 20% of the students prefer reading books during their free time. Gardening is favored by 12% of the surveyed participants. Watching television shows represents the lowest proportion, chosen by only 8% of the students.

Overall, the chart clearly shows that physical outdoor activity is the preferred weekend pastime among the majority of Grade 11 students.

• **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) Equipment	An anemometer (to measure wind speed) and a compass [<i>Accept either or both</i>]	1
(3) Reference	The natural rock pipes / The hollow, narrow cylindrical tubes	1
(4) Vocabulary	half-concealed [<i>Accept: concealed</i>]	1
(5) Mechanism	Air was forced through the narrow limestone tubes under high atmospheric pressure, acting like an organ and creating acoustic resonance. [<i>Accept line-lifting</i>]	1
(6) Title	(b) How Science Solved a Cave Mystery	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(a) — Article (Score: 15/15 | 210 words):**The Role of Youth in Community Development**

Youth constitute the most dynamic and inventive segment of any nation. In Sri Lanka, young people possess abundant energy and creative problem-solving abilities that can revitalize local communities. When channeled effectively, this potential can transform our villages and towns into prosperous, self-reliant environments.

There are numerous practical domains where youth can volunteer their services. During seasonal monsoons, youth clubs can lead disaster mitigation initiatives by clearing blocked drainage canals, organizing blood donation campaigns, and establishing emergency relief distribution centers. In the field of education, senior school students can conduct weekend peer-tutoring circles for underprivileged children, helping them improve their literacy and numeracy skills. Furthermore, young people can spearhead environmental conservation drives by planting native trees, managing recycling depots, and eradicating mosquito breeding grounds.

Community service offers profound reciprocal benefits to the volunteers themselves. By collaborating on civic projects, youth develop vital life skills such as empathetic leadership, conflict resolution, and financial accountability. These practical competencies enhance their personal maturity and bolster their career employability.

In conclusion, the progress of our communities depends on the proactive involvement of its rising generation. Let us mobilize our collective talents and actively construct the progressive society we envision.