



Cambridge IGCSE™

URDU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

0539/01

Paper 1 Reading and Writing

May/June 2026

MARK SCHEME

Maximum Mark: 60

Published

This mark scheme contains the instructions and marking guidance that our examiners used to mark candidate responses for this component.

Before they start marking, examiners complete a standardisation process. They review a range of candidate responses and discuss the mark scheme in detail to agree which answers can and cannot be accepted. Examiners award marks where it is clear that candidate responses have met the requirements of the mark scheme. These requirements may vary between different components or different versions of the same component, depending on the exact requirements of the question and the candidate responses seen during the standardisation process.

Sometimes, our mark schemes may allow marks to be awarded to responses which contain elements that are factually incorrect or for content not covered by the syllabus. We do this in response to the demands of a specific question to support candidates and make sure that our assessments are fair. However, these allowances should not be used as a guide for teaching and learning.

We cannot discuss the mark scheme with schools, and we recommend that schools read the mark scheme together with the assessment material and the Principal Examiner Report for Teachers.

This document consists of **13** printed pages.

General marking principles

All examiners must apply these marking principles when marking candidate responses.

1	Examiners must award marks for each response in line with: - the specific content defined in the mark scheme - the specific skills defined in the mark scheme or in the level descriptions - the standard of response required as exemplified by the standardisation scripts.
2	Examiners must award whole marks (not half marks, or other fractions).
3	Examiners must award marks positively . This means that: - marks are not deducted for errors or omissions - marks are awarded for correct/valid answers as defined in the mark scheme and also for other valid answers which go beyond the scope of the syllabus and mark scheme referring to your team leader as appropriate - the quality of spelling, punctuation and grammar are judged only when the mark scheme indicates that these features are specifically assessed in the question. However, the meaning of all responses must be unambiguous.
4	Examiners must consistently apply the requirements of the mark scheme and any rules for what to do when candidates have not followed instructions correctly.
5	Examiners must use the full range of marks defined in the mark scheme, unless limited by the quality of the candidate responses seen.
6	Examiners must award marks according to the mark scheme and must not award marks with grade thresholds or grade descriptions in mind.

Annotations guidance for centres

Examiners use a system of annotations as a shorthand for communicating their marking decisions to one another. Examiners are trained during the standardisation process on how and when to use annotations. The purpose of annotations is to inform the standardisation and monitoring processes and guide the supervising examiners when they are checking the work of examiners within their team. The meaning of annotations and how they are used is specific to each component and is understood by all examiners who mark the component.

We publish annotations in our mark schemes to help centres understand the annotations they may see on copies of scripts. Note that there may not be a direct correlation between the number of annotations on a script and the mark awarded. Similarly, the use of an annotation may not be an indication of the quality of the response.

The annotations listed below were available to examiners marking this component in this series.

Annotations

Annotation	Meaning
	Credit for good language or content point
	Incorrect
	Omission
	Meaning unclear or illegible
	If the examiner considers the answer to be more correct than incorrect, then 'benefit of doubt' is given.
	Harmless addition: used if the candidate extends their answer, without contradicting or invalidating the response.
	To show the end of word count
	Repetition
	Invalidate: used if the candidate includes material in their answer which contradicts the correct answer, and therefore invalidates their response.
	Used to show that blank pages have been seen and any creditworthy material has been awarded
Highlighter	Highlight
Off-page Comment	Used to make a holistic comment about the script

Question	Answer	Marks
QUESTIONS 1–6 and 16–19		
RM Marking Instructions: Q 1–6 and 16–19 For all 1 mark questions, enter a mark 1/0 or NR for each item in the mark input box and for 2 or 3 mark questions put a tick in front of each right answer and enter marks. Annotate the script where necessary by using BOD (benefit of doubt), INVL (invalid response) etc. Any word underlined or its equivalent must be present in the given answer.		
1	سب سے بڑا شہر / میلوں تک پھیلا ہوا	1
2	نرم چٹانوں میں تعمیر کیا گیا تھا / سادہ اوزاروں سے کھودنا آسان تھا	1
3	• 1923 میں • یونانیوں نے ترکوں سے شکست کے بعد اس علاقے کو چھوڑ دیا۔	2
4	مرغیوں کی کھوج کرتے ہوئے / کھدائی کرتے ہوئے	1
5	• داخلی راستے کو خطرے کی صورت میں اندر سے بند کیا جاسکتا تھا۔ • کنوؤں کو بھی لوگوں کی نظروں سے پوشیدہ رکھا جاسکتا تھا۔	2
6	انہوں نے صدیوں سے طاقتور سلطنتوں کے حملوں کا لگاتار سلسلہ دیکھا تھا	1
7	C	1
8	B	1
9	D	1
10	A	1
11	B	1
12	C	1
13	A	1
14	D	1
15	C	1

Question	Answer	Marks
16	تحقیق کے لیے / سائنسدان وہاں جاتے ہیں سیاحت کے لیے / سیاح وہاں جاتے ہیں	2
17	کشتی رانی، غوطہ خوری اور ہیلی کاپٹر کی سواری (کم از کم دوسر گر میاں) ٹور آپریٹرز کے درمیان مقابلے میں تیزی	2
18	کم کاربن ڈائی آکسائیڈ خارج کرنے والے جہاز اپنے پیچھے کوڑا کرکٹ نہ چھوڑنا سوار یوں سے پڑنے والے گڑھے بھرنا / برف پر پڑنے والے گڑھے بھرنا	3
19	Any 2 for 2 marks گھاس کی ایک قسم کی موجودگی جو پہلے وہاں نہیں تھی / ایک نئی گھاس اُگ آئی ایوین فلو کے اثرات کاربن کے اثرات	2

Question	Answer	Marks
QUESTION 20 Additional Marking Guidance: Summary <u>Q20 – Content marks:</u> If the answer exceeds 120 words, insert a slash (/) after 120 words. Annotate each point with a tick up to maximum of 4 marks. Two points from each aspect given in the mark scheme should be addressed for 4 content marks. Put a maximum of 2 ticks for 2 points for the 1st aspect on right hand side and maximum of 2 ticks on the left-hand side for the 2nd aspect. <u>Q20 – Language marks:</u> Please follow the MS criteria (up to 6 marks maximum) Less than 80 words will be considered too short for the highest mark of 6. If the content mark is 3, the full range of content marks are available. If the content mark is 2, the max. available language mark is 5. If the content mark is 1, the max. available language mark is 3. If there are no content marks, no language marks can be awarded		

20	Award up to 10 marks based on, up to 4 marks for content and up to 6 marks for accurate and concise language. Content: 4 marks Makes 4 clear points that answer the question. 3 marks Makes some clear points that answer the question. 2 marks Makes one or two points relevant to the question. 1 mark Content has limited relevance to the question. 0 marks No response <u>List of possible main points:</u> <u>انٹارکٹیکا میں بڑھتی ہوئی سیاحت کے نقصانات:</u> • گھاس کی ایک قسم کی موجودگی جو پہلے وہاں نہیں تھی • /ایک نئی گھاس آگ آئی • ایوین فلو کے اثرات • کاربن کے اثرات <u>سیاحوں کی تعداد کو کم کرنے کی راہ میں حائل مشکلات:</u> • کسی حکومت کا یہاں نہ ہونا • ٹور آپریٹرز کا روباہی سوچ رکھتے ہیں • انٹارکٹیکا کی سیر فیشن کے طور پر مقبول ہو رہی ہے /سیاحوں کی تعداد بڑھ رہی ہے (both aspects of the question should be equally addressed) Language 6 marks Very good attempt to use own words and to organise and sequence points cohesively. A concise summary. Wide range of vocabulary and grammatical structures used accurately. Assured control of punctuation and spelling. 5 marks Good attempt to use own words and to organise and sequence points cohesively. Good range of vocabulary and grammatical structures used accurately. Good control of punctuation and spelling. 4 marks Reasonable attempt to use own words and to organise and sequence points cohesively. A range of vocabulary and grammatical structures used mostly accurately. Some inaccuracies of punctuation and spelling but these do not obscure meaning.	10
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Question	Answer	Marks
	3 marks Some reliance on language from the text, but with an attempt to organise and sequence points. Satisfactory use of language, although sometimes inaccuracies obscure the meaning.	
20	2 marks Mainly reliant on language from the text with no attempt to organise and sequence points cohesively. Inaccuracies of vocabulary, grammatical structures, punctuation and spelling make the meaning frequently unclear. 1 mark Copying entirely from text with little or no use of own words. Multiple language inaccuracies. 0 marks No response worthy of credit.	

Question	Answer	Marks
QUESTION 21 Additional Marking Guidance: Email <u>Q21 – Content marks:</u> Put up to three ticks for any bullet points which are covered. Check blank pages for any content out of place. Use the SEEN annotation to indicate that you have read the content and given credit where it is due. Candidates should address all three points; however, it is not necessary to elaborate all three points equally. <u>Q21 – Language marks:</u> All generic band criteria should be kept in mind when deciding on the band. Less than 100 words will be considered too short for the highest mark of 5. In terms of the paragraphing criteria, for the top band (5 marks), there must be evidence of well-constructed and linked paragraphs. However, apply it as a 'best fit' logic if a candidate has met all the other criteria in the 4 marks or 3 marks band. In the top band (5 marks) complex structures involves using linking words such as 'because', 'but', 'therefore' and more than one clause. High accuracy means, almost all correct spelling of vocabulary and grammar. There may be a few minor errors. The appropriate address / register for email e.g. dear friend can be also considered as a 'best fit' for top band/bands if other relevant criteria is also available.		

Question	Answer	Marks
21	Award up to 3 marks for content and up to 5 marks for the style and accuracy of language. Content: - Reason to choose your city آپ کے شہر کو منتخب کرنے کی وجہ - Details of the match that will be played in your city جو میچ آپ کے شہر میں کھیلا جائے گا، اس کی تفصیل - Invitation to a friend to watch this match دوست / سہیلی کو یہ میچ دیکھنے کی دعوت Language (style and accuracy) 5 marks Uses a wide range of language including complex structures effectively. High level of accuracy, very good control of language. Consistently appropriate style and register. Uses well-constructed and linked paragraphs. 4 marks Uses a range of structures appropriately. Attempts to use more ambitious language. Mostly accurate with a good control of language. Any errors do not impede meaning. Appropriate style and register. Uses reasonably well-constructed paragraphs with some linking words. 3 marks Uses mainly simple structures and vocabulary. Sometimes attempts to use more ambitious language. Uses simple structures with a good degree of control. Inaccuracies occur when attempting more ambitious language. Meaning is generally clear. Some attempt to use appropriate style and register and to organise writing into paragraphs. 2 marks Uses simple structures and vocabulary. Some degree of control. Meaning is sometimes in doubt. Style and register may be inconsistent or inappropriate. Limited or no use of paragraphs. 1 mark Uses very simple structures and vocabulary. Lack of control of simple structures makes meaning mostly difficult to understand. Inappropriate style and register. No use of paragraphs. 0 marks No response worthy of credit.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
QUESTION 22 Additional Marking Guidance: Essay <u>Q22 – Content marks:</u> No annotations are required in the body of the essay. There are no word limit restrictions for more than 200 words. However, where the content is repeated, that content should not be considered for the word count. REP stamp should be used to indicate those lines. Similarly, if the written piece or part of it is not relevant to the essay topic, the Invalid (INVL) stamp should be used. For Q22 (Essay) considering top band content marks (7–8). (i) Clear relevance to the topic. In topic idea/statement, own viewpoint for/against should be present to award the top band of 7–8 marks. (ii) There should be some evidence of the candidate's own ideas apart from addressing the two exemplary dialogue points provided in the paper. (iii) To credit the full 8 marks in the top band, there should be some evidence of paragraphing in the written piece. (iv) Less than 180 words will be considered too short for the top band 7–8 mark. Development of ideas should be kept in mind when deciding on bands. 'Development of ideas' means giving any opinion or expressing an idea and then providing additional detail or explanation. <u>Q22 – Language marks:</u> Follow the language marking criteria table. In the top band (7–8 marks) 'complex structures' includes using linking words such as 'because', 'but', 'therefore', more than one clause and use of expressive phrases/proverbs. 'High accuracy' means almost all correct spellings of vocabulary and grammar. There may be a few minor errors for 7–8 marks. Put the SEEN stamp at the end of Q22 on the blank pages.		

Question	Answer	Marks
22	Award up to 8 marks for content and up to 8 marks for the style and accuracy of language. Content: relevance and development of ideas Level 4 [7–8 marks] Fulfils the task, with consistently appropriate register and a very good sense of purpose and audience. Ideas are well developed and communicated effectively, at appropriate length. Effectively organised and coherent. Consistently appropriate style and register. Uses well-constructed and linked paragraphs. Level 3 [5–6 marks] Fulfils the task, with appropriate register and a good sense of purpose and audience. Ideas are well developed at appropriate length. Well organised and coherent. Appropriate style and register. Uses reasonably well-constructed paragraphs with some linking words. Level 2 [3–4 marks] Fulfils the task reasonably well with mostly relevant points. The register may not be consistent. Demonstrates a reasonable sense of purpose and audience. Ideas are satisfactorily developed at appropriate length. Generally, well organised and coherent. Some attempt to use appropriate style and register and to organise writing into paragraphs. Level 1 [1–2 marks] Limited engagement with the task with few relevant points. Inappropriate register and insufficient awareness of purpose and/or audience. There is some development of ideas, although in places this is incomplete and/or repetitive. Organisation may lack coherence. Style and register may be inconsistent or inappropriate. Limited or no use of paragraphs. Level 0 [0 marks] No response worthy of credit.	8

Question	Answer	Marks
22	Language: style and accuracy Level 4 [7–8 marks] Uses a range of language, including complex structures and less common words and phrases, effectively. High level of accuracy; excellent control throughout. Any errors are related to less common words and structures. Level 3 [5–6 marks] Uses a range of structures and words and phrases, generally appropriately. Mostly accurate with a good degree of control. There may be slight awkwardness when attempting to use more ambitious language. Level 2 [3–4 marks] Uses mainly simple structures and vocabulary. Demonstrates a reasonable degree of control. Grammatical errors occur when attempting more ambitious language. Meaning is generally clear. Level 1 [1–2 marks] Uses simple structures and vocabulary. Some lack of control of simple structures. Meaning is often obscured. Level 0 [0 marks] No response worthy of credit.	8