

MARKING SCHEME
MID-TERM 2 EXAM 2026
ENGLISH LANGUAGE GRADE 10

SECTION A: FUNCTIONAL WRITING (20 MARKS)

The candidate is required to write an official Investigative Report as the Academic Captain exploring the root causes of academic decline in Grade 10 and offering strategic recommendations.

1. Format and Layout Mark Allocations (Total: 6 Marks)

- **Report Title:** A fully completed formal header block must specify the exact focus of the exploration. Award 1 mark.
- **Terms of Reference / Introduction:** Must state the authorization parameters (The Principal), the explicit scope, and the timeline boundaries. Award 1 mark.
- **Investigation Methodology:** Must identify practical metrics used for extracting data (e.g., student questionnaires, staff focus panels). Award 1 mark.
- **Structural Subheadings:** Content must be systematically organized under clear subheadings: Findings, Conclusions, and Recommendations. Award 1 mark.
- **Official Sign-Off Block:** Must feature a signature, printed name, and the explicit designation 'Academic Captain' at the bottom. Award 2 marks.

2. Content and Cognitive Insights (Total: 8 Marks)

- **Findings Analysis:** Must outline a minimum of three logical, contextual root causes for academic failure (such as screen-time distractions, poor weekend remedial attendance, or inadequate revision kits). Award 4 marks.
- **Conclusions:** Must provide deductive deductions drawn cleanly from the recorded facts (e.g., matching unmonitored devices to low assignment returns). Award 2 marks.
- **Recommendations:** Actionable, professional countermeasures must map perfectly back to the findings. Award 2 marks.

3. Language, Expression, and Tone (Total: 4 Marks)

- **Perspective Tone:** Absolute enforcement of an objective, formal third-person perspective (e.g., 'The committee observed...' instead of 'I saw...'). Award 2 marks.
- **Syntactic Fluency:** Use of elevated vocabulary registers, clean sentence linkages, and sophisticated reporting verbs. Award 2 marks.

4. Mechanics of Writing (Total: 2 Marks)

Deduct 0.5 marks up to a maximum ceiling of 2.0 marks for persistent faults in basic punctuation, sentence run-ons, spelling slips, or improper casing of official titles.

SECTION B: COMPREHENSION (15 MARKS)

Question a) Suitable Text Title: The title must use appropriate title capitalization rules. Acceptable options include 'The Dual-Edged Sword of AI in Education', 'Artificial Intelligence and the Evolution of Modern Classrooms', or 'Balancing Technological Utility and Cognitive Development'. Do not accept uncapitalized lines or single words like 'AI'. Award 1 mark.

Question b) Mechanisms of Educational Democratization: AI personalizes instruction paths to align perfectly with independent learner speeds and profiles (Award 1 mark). It successfully deconstructs long-standing socio-economic and geographical limitations that historically cut off marginalized student demographics (Award 1 mark).

Question c) Explanation of 'Double-Edged' Analogy: The integration offers immense systemic advantages (tailored lessons, resource scaling) while simultaneously bringing about deep intellectual risks (cheating patterns, critical thinking decline). Award 1 mark for the positive dimension and 1 mark for the negative dimension.

Question d) Three Core Risks Raised by Educators: Award 1 mark for each correctly identified risk up to a maximum of 3 marks: 1) The proliferation of academic dishonesty through automated cheating systems; 2) The generation of cognitive atrophy due to systematic reliance; 3) The suppression of organic critical thinking capacities.

Question e) Proposed Mitigation Countermeasures: Schools must build robust regulatory policy matrices (Award 1.5 marks) that explicitly balance automated technological utility with authentic, human-centric evaluation strategies (Award 1.5 marks).

Question f) Contextual Vocabulary Explanations: Award 1 mark for each contextually accurate response. Definitions outside the scope of the comprehension text receive zero marks.

- i) Pedagogy: The systematic method, practice, or operational science of teaching.
- ii) Atrophy: Progressive wasting away, decline, or structural degradation due to disuse.
- iii) Proliferation: Rapid, unchecked expansion, escalation, or multiplication.
- iv) Robust: Comprehensive, highly resilient, strong, and operationally rigorous.

SECTION C: SUMMARY (15 MARKS)

Question a) Paragraph 1 Summary (AI Positives): Award 1.5 marks for noting that AI customizes classroom learning speeds, and 1.5 marks for stating that it expands premium study materials to marginalized demographics. The prose statement must stay under 25 words. Deduct 1 mark if it spans 26–30 words; award zero marks for the point if it exceeds 30 words. Notes form is rejected. Total: 5 Marks.

Question b) Paragraph 2 Summary (Dangers & Solutions): Award 1.5 marks for stating that AI promotes cheating and declines critical thinking, and 1.5 marks for noting that schools must

create balancing policies. The block must stay under 35 words. Deduct 1 mark for every 3 words above the limit. Separate notes receive an automatic zero. Total: 5 Marks.

Question c) Language Mechanics and Coherence Allocation: Award 5 marks for clear sentences with fluid transition markers and no grammatical slips. Award 3–4 marks for minor spelling or punctuation lapses that do not block readability. Award 1–2 marks for gross syntax fractures or direct copy-pasting. Total: 5 Marks.

SECTION D: GRAMMAR (40 MARKS)

Question a) Silent Consonants: In 'Solemn', the silent character is 'n' (1 Mark). In 'Aisle', the core silent consonant is 's' (1 Mark). Total: 2 Marks.

Question b) Punctuation Framework: The correct rendering is: The Principal said, "Cleanliness is next to godliness. Doesn't everyone agree?"
Allocation: Capital 'T' and 'P' (0.5M); comma after said (0.5M); quotes opened and closed (1M); punctuation period after godliness and capital 'D' (0.5M); question mark within the quote (0.5M). Total: 3 Marks.

Question c) Clause Type Structural Identification: Clause i) [Although she felt thoroughly exhausted] is a Subordinate or Dependent Clause (1.5 Marks). Clause ii) [before the guests gathered] is a Subordinate or Dependent Clause (1.5 Marks). Total: 3 Marks.

Question d) Passive Voice Conversion: 'A spectacular signature meal is prepared by the senior chef every Friday evening.' Reject if the tense shifts to past ('was prepared') or continuous forms. Total: 2 Marks.

Question e) Relative Clause Synthesis: 'The young programmer whose father works as a pilot won the international hackathon.' Do not permit enclosing commas, as this functions as a defining relative clause. Total: 2 Marks.

Question f) Question Tag Application: Phrase i) matches with '... do you?' (1 Mark) because the prompt contains the negative modifier 'hardly'. Phrase ii) matches with '... shall we?' (1 Mark) because encouragement statements beginning with 'Let us' call for 'shall we'. Total: 2 Marks.

Question g) Indirect Speech Conversion: 'The auditor noted that he/she would thoroughly inspect the science laboratory equipment the following day (or the next day).'
Allocation: Shift of 'will' to 'would' (1M); shift of 'tomorrow' to 'the following day' (1M); core pronoun adjustments (1M). Total: 3 Marks.

Question h) Inversion Construction: 'No sooner had the school bell rung than the excited students rushed out of the classrooms.' Award 1 mark for the auxiliary inversion layout 'had the school bell rung', and 1 mark for the matching correlative connector 'than'. Total: 2 Marks.

Question i) Preposition Insertion: Element i) requires the preposition 'to' (1 Mark). Element ii) requires the preposition 'of' (1 Mark). Total: 2 Marks.

Question j) Subject-Verb Concord Correction: 'Neither the subject teacher nor the student leaders were present during the briefing.' The proximity rule mandates that the plural subject closest to the verb ('student leaders') forces the plural form 'were'. Total: 2 Marks.

Question k) Conditional Rewrite with 'Unless': 'Unless you dedicate sufficient hours to self-study, you will not pass the finals.' The clause inside 'Unless' must be positive because 'Unless' matches 'If... not'. Total: 2 Marks.

Question l) Grammatical Part of Speech Identification: Sentence i) treats 'fast' as an Adjective modifying the noun 'runner' (1 Mark). Sentence ii) treats 'fast' as an Adverb modifying the verb 'ran' (1 Mark). Total: 2 Marks.

Question m) Phrasal Verb Alternative: The appropriate substitute is 'put off' (2 Marks). It must maintain the bare infinitive format to match 'to postpone'. Total: 2 Marks.

Question n) Irregular Noun Pluralizations: i) Commanders-in-chief (1M); ii) Criteria (1M); iii) Oases (1M). Total: 3 Marks.

Question o) SPOCA Sentential Syntax Parsing: The correct parsing breakdown is:

- Subject (S): The high court judge (1 Mark)
- Predicator (P): found (1 Mark)
- Object (O): the young suspect (0.5 Marks)
- Complement (C): guilty (0.5 Marks)
- Adverbial (A): yesterday afternoon (1 Mark). Total: 4 Marks.

SECTION E: (10 MARKS)

Question a) Linguistic Register Identification: Legal Register / Courtroom Variety / Forensic Discourse. Reject broad descriptions like 'formal public language' or 'official registry'. Total: 2 Marks.

Question b) Textual Jargon Selection: Award 1 mark for each accurate jargon item extracted verbatim from the text, up to 4 marks. Examples include: 'Your Honor', 'cross-examination', 'learned defense counsel', 'hearsay evidence', 'inadmissible', 'objection sustained', and 'material facts'. Total: 4 Marks.

Question c) Sociolinguistic Determinants: Award 1 mark for each correctly discussed social determinant up to 4 marks:

1. Setting/Environment: Takes place inside a formal judicial courtroom during an active legal trial.
2. Participants & Social Roles: Learned legal practitioners (Judge and Prosecutor) operating within authorized codes.
3. Discourse Target: Enforcing procedural statutory law, organizing evidence parameters, and determining legal truth.
4. Systemic Discourse Rules: Strict code-mandated turn-taking habits, absolute honorific addresses, and rigid syntax structures. Total: 4 Marks.