Assessment sheet 8.3: Assessing the specimen Paper 2 sample student response (HL)

This resource supports the sample student response to specimen Paper 2 (HL), in Unit 8.4, on pages 306–08 of the *IB English B* coursebook.

Within the 90 minutes allowed for Paper 2, in addition to Section A, higher level students are also required to write a personal response, of 150–250 words, to a stimulus statement or question that relates to the core topics (Section B).

The assessment criteria are stricter at higher level. For example, standard level students must have a 'good and effective' command of the language to gain top marks on Criterion A (Language), whereas higher level students must have a 'very effective' command to earn the same top marks.

- Sit quietly and allow yourself 90 minutes to write a response to the specimen Paper 2 on page 305 of the coursebook, as if it were the real exam.

- Use the copy of the Paper 2 assessment criteria below to assess and mark the sample response to the specimen Paper 2 on pages 306–07 of the coursebook. A copy of the sample response is provided on pages 3 and 4 of this resource, for you to mark up or highlight with your comments.

- Then mark your own response using the assessment criteria, and compare your work to the sample response you have assessed. Do you feel your work deserved a higher or a lower mark than you awarded to the sample response?

- Against which criteria did you score best, and against which did you do less well? Use the grid on pages 2–3 of this resource to produce a checklist of the points you need to improve on for next time, in order to gain higher marks.

Assessment criteria for Section A

Criteria	Summary of descriptors	Marks awarded
Criterion A: How effectively and accurately does the student use language?	*Language* For maximum marks you must use English effectively and accurately. Your ability to use a range of vocabulary and complex sentence structures is tested.	**/10**
Criterion B: How clearly can the student develop and organise relevant ideas?	*Message* For maximum marks you must develop and organise relevant ideas in a coherent and effective way, including supporting details.	**/10**
Criterion C: • How correctly does the student produce the required text type? • To what extent are the conventions of text types appropriate?	*Format* For maximum marks you must use stylistic and structural conventions that are characteristic of the text type required by the task.	**/5**
	Total	**/25**

Assessment criteria for Section B

Criteria	Summary of descriptors	Marks awarded
Criterion A: How effectively and accurately does the student use language?	*Language* For maximum marks you must use English effectively and accurately. Your ability to use a range of vocabulary and complex sentence structures is tested.	**/10**
Criterion B: How skillfully does the student develop ideas? • How clear and convincing is the argument? • To what extent does the student react to the stimulus?	*Argument* For maximum marks you must develop your ideas methodically and convincingly. Your response should be coherent, organised, engaging and relevant to the stimulus.	**/10**
	Total	**/20**

Assessing your own work: How well did you do?

Section A

	Things I did well:	Points for improvement:
Criterion A /10	• • •	• • •
Criterion B /10	• • •	• • •
Criterion C /5	• • •	• • •

Section B

	Things I did well:	Points for improvement:
Criterion A /10	 ● ● ●	 ● ● ●
Criterion B /10	 ● ● ●	 ● ● ●

Sample student response to specimen Paper 2

Section A – Question 5

Thank you for inviting me here today to talk to the school of medicine graduates. Today I want to tell you about my research and maybe you will, through this talk, be inspired.

As many of you know, my name is Dr Zanos and I try to clone humans. I know, you think, what can he tell us about ethics and science? Please, I am not Dr Frankenstein. I try to help people who cannot have children have children. Other people may tell you that I am playing God by cloning embryos, but in science, we are all playing God. When you leave school today, please know that we doctors, including you, are all changing the natural world like little Gods. Without us, there would be more disease, more death and shorter lives. Can we improve the world and be ethical at the same time? Yes, we can! I will tell you how I do this with my experiments.

People think I want to clone rich and famous people, like movie starts or the President. I think this is unethical and silly. On the contrary, I once tried to clone an ordinary woman who had no ovaries but wanted a baby. And she did not want to adopt. She was very sad and all I wanted to do was make her happy again. Even though the procedure did not work, I briefly gave her hope. One day, women like her will be lining up for successful treatment.

People also think I just want fame for being the first person to clone humans. That is also a wrong, unethical reason to do research. I want to create a healthy cloned baby. The DNA must be good or I will not insert the embryos into a woman. I think scientists must put quality before fame and fortune. It is better to take longer to make one healthy cloned baby, than to make deformed cloned babies tomorrow and win the publicity race.

Finally people say I should not clone humans because it is illegal. Stem cell research was also illegal in a lot of countries for a long time. IVF too, but that did not stop good science. Good doctors want to help the most people possible at the smallest cost. That is why we test on animals and not humans, for example. If governments make something illegal, it will happen anyways. It is better to let it happen in the open, with controls and proper help. If we cannot clone here, we will go to other more friendly countries. You cannot sweep an elephant under the carpet.

I hope you all do many experiments that are both ethical and good for people and improve science. Thank you for asking me to talk here today. Now go and improve the world!

Section B

Change is unstoppable. In the past 30 years, information technology has exploded. People have stopped buying books and started buying e-readers. People do not go to stores anymore. They shop online. We tweet, blog and email instead of talking face-to-face. While this makes many people angry, we should learn to accept change and be a part of the IT revolution.

There are complaints that there is no work for young people today. But the IT sector needs more engineers and specialists. I think that we should teach computer programming and engineering at high school. There should be re-schooling programmes for shop owners who want to sell online. There could be more attention on computers in schools and e-learning. If we give people the right education, then they are prepared for the changes that are coming and already here even.

Today it is not enough to know a trade like welding or dentistry. You also have to be online and communicate effectively. Many people today are confused by technology. Not just older people, but also younger people. If we are no longer afraid of it, then we can master it, and use it as a tool to be more successful.