

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Candidate 1

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The comment 'one of disappointment' is a basic own words explanation of 'astronomically underwhelming' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The comment 'that was supposed to be so huge was actually rather insignificant' is a basic own words explanation of 'You really had...underwhelming'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The final comment is an attempt to explain the idea of frustration due to technical failure. The comment is not clear enough to gain a mark at Higher. The candidate has already gained the 2 marks maximum for this question.

Question 2

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The first bullet point is an attempt to comment on 'relentlessly' but is not linked clearly to the context of the passage. It was awarded **0 marks**.

The second bullet point, 'like the whole world was put into a coma', is a basic comment on 'anaesthetic slumber'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point, 'that such a huge development ...watching the film Star Wars', is a detailed/insightful comment on 'nothing like as exciting'. It was awarded **2 marks**.

The fourth bullet point, 'not at all worth the money and hype', is a basic comment on 'billing' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 3

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first bullet point correctly identifies one reason for the great interest in space exploration in the 1960s. The expression 'a way of promoting business and

making money' is an acceptable own words comment on 'exploited by people who wanted to sell things' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point correctly identifies another reason: 'at the peak of its interest' which is an acceptable, own words comment on 'hitting its golden age.' It was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 4

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'just more ways humanity could pollute the wider universe', is a basic own words explanation of 'a gift from us to whoever, or whatever, might be out there in space.' It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'superficial displays of humanity', is a basic own words comment on 'representing us as a kind of space-age Barbie and Ken.' It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point, 'a poor display of humanity and not enough thought was put into what we actually wanted to represent us to other forms of life', is a basic own words comment on 'impossible to know how much serious thought'. It was awarded **1 mark**. Note that, although the word 'thought' is lifted from the passage, there is enough own words explanation in the answer to merit 1 mark.

Question 5

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'more about government furthering their own position', is a basic comment on 'ego-ridden vanity' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'our litter or waste as if we are like a disease', is a basic comment on 'junk' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point, 'mocks the amount of money and hype put into the space race as it was comical', is a basic comment on 'laughable' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point, 'nothing good really came of it', is a basic comment on 'pointless' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 6

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first point, 'suggest the space race has not brought much for humanity as the writer has to question its significance', is a basic comment on the question, 'So what has it left us with?' It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, on the list 'space stations...school project experiments', was awarded **0 marks** as the candidate did not analyse how the list conveys the writer's 'criticism of space exploration', but only asserted that it did.

The third bullet point, 'just another opportunity for humanity to expand their influence and power', is a basic comment on 'colonise' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point, 'just as products are no longer 'trending' or 'useful' rockets and the space race are no longer significant', is a basic comment on 'obsolete'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first point, 'how...insignificant earth is compared to the massive universe out there', is a basic own words explanation of 'vulnerable' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second point, 'we need to take care...climate change movement', is a basic own words explanation of 'did more than anything...environmental movement' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third point, 'showed earth as a community', is a basic own words explanation of 'our great group photo' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 8

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'urges people to take action', is a basic comment on 'fight for the future' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'the end goal is not light years away but instead here on earth', is a basic comment on 'final frontier' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point, 'gives the reader the impression that solving the climate crisis can save the world', is a basic comment on 'heroes' and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The first bullet point accurately identifies the disagreement about 'the effect the space race had on humanity', an acceptable reference to 'achievements so far'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point accurately identifies the disagreement about 'the value of space exploration', an acceptable reference to 'damaging or productive?' It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point accurately identifies the disagreement about whether 'humanity's future could be beyond the earth', an acceptable reference to 'future priorities' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point is a second reference to 'achievements so far' and so would not have been awarded a further mark. The candidate had already been awarded the maximum 3 marks for identifying key areas of disagreement.

The fifth bullet point is a further correct identification of a key area of disagreement, 'international relations.' However, the candidate had already been awarded the maximum 3 marks for identifying key areas of agreement.

The evidence supporting these points is detailed/insightful and was awarded **2 marks**.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **29/30 marks** for this paper.

Candidate 2

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first comment, 'much less exciting than expected', is a basic own words explanation of 'You really had ...underwhelming'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second comment, 'looked almost like an everyday scene', is a basic own words explanation of 'like an old person getting off a bus'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third comment, 'rather laughable', is a basic own words explanation of 'big wellies in the dust'. This would have been awarded 1 mark; however, the candidate has already been awarded the maximum 2 marks for this question.

Question 2

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'enough to send someone to sleep', is a basic comment on 'slumber' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'could not live up to these expectations', is a basic comment on 'anti-climax' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point, 'boring outcome was...years spent leading up to it', is a basic comment on 'all the years' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point, 'you could have dozed off watching it', could have been awarded 1 mark, but the candidate had already been awarded 1 mark for 'slumber'.

The fifth bullet point on 'Star Wars' is too limited for Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

The sixth bullet point, which is later in the candidate's paper, is 'a made-up story...moon landing'. This is a basic comment on 'nothing like as exciting' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The seventh bullet point, 'slow and time-consuming; not as exciting as was imagined', could have been awarded 1 mark, but the candidate had already been awarded 1 mark for 'hours.' The candidate had already been awarded the maximum 4 marks for this question.

The eighth bullet point is an inappropriate selection as the quotation 'one...mankind' is in paragraph 1. This was awarded **0 marks**.

Question 3

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first bullet point correctly identifies one reason for the great interest in space exploration in the 1960s. The expression 'allowed companies and countries to make themselves known on a massive scale' is an acceptable own words comment on 'international brand promotion'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point correctly identifies another reason. The expression 'marketable for companies and was eaten up by consumers' is an acceptable own words comment on 'exploited by people who wanted to sell things'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 4

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'takes away any remaining importance and seriousness that could be associated with exploring the universe', is a detailed/insightful comment on 'any dignity space might have had left was lost'. It was awarded **2 marks**.

The second bullet point, 'in reality it was a stupid idea', is a basic comment on 'absurd' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point, 'poor representation of the human race', is a basic comment on 'representing us as a kind of space-age Barbie and Ken'. It could have been awarded 1 mark; however, the candidate has already gained the maximum 3 marks for this question.

The fourth bullet point is too limited for Higher level and was awarded **0 marks**.

Question 5

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'self-appreciation, of narcissism...need to be the first and best', is a detailed/insightful comment on 'ego-ridden'. It was awarded **2 marks**.

The second bullet point, 'humanity is obsessed with itself', could have been awarded 1 mark, but the candidate had already been awarded 2 marks for comment on 'ego-ridden.'

The third bullet point, 'humanity discards anything it deems irrelevant', is a basic comment on 'nobody went back'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point, 'left a mess behind', is a basic comment on 'wasteful' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The fifth bullet point, on the list 'ugly...laughable', could have been awarded 1 mark; however, the candidate had already gained the maximum 4 marks for this question.

The final three bullet points, on 'power' and, later in the candidate's paper, 'viewed ourselves' and 'junk', are too limited for Higher level. They were awarded **0 marks**.

Question 6

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'we should be ashamed of the space race' is a basic comment on 'embarrassment'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'rubbish and waste...leaving such a mess behind', is a basic comment on '(cosmic) junk'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point, 'barely helpful or relevant now', is a basic comment on 'obsolete'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point is an inappropriate selection as the list 'chipped, filthy and overgrown' is not used by the writer to criticise space exploration. It was awarded **0 marks**.

The fifth bullet point, 'creates an accusing tone...provided by space exploration', is a basic comment on the use of the question, 'So what has it left us with?'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The sixth bullet point, which is later in the candidate's paper, is a limited comment on 'fossil fuel'. It was awarded **0 marks**.

The seventh bullet point, on the anti-climax in 'space stations...school experiments', could have been awarded 1 mark; however, the candidate had already been awarded the maximum 4 marks for this question.

Note that, to achieve full marks for this question, candidates must comment on both word choice and sentence structure. This candidate has been awarded 3 marks for word choice and 1 mark for sentence structure.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first bullet point, 'catalyst in the fight to preserve our planet', is a basic own words explanation of 'did more than anything...environmental movement'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'encompassed every person on earth, bringing them together', is a basic own words explanation of 'our great group photo'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point, 'incredible to look at', is a basic own words explanation of 'astonishing'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The fourth bullet point, 'nice-to-look-at', is a basic own words explanation of 'aesthetically beautiful.' It could have been awarded 1 mark; however, the candidate had already been awarded the maximum 3 marks for this question.

Question 8

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The first bullet point is a basic comment on the general use of inclusive language and was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point, 'the people who will save us...in front of us on the planet', is a basic comment on 'heroes' and was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point is a limited comment on 'on Earth'. It was awarded **0 marks**.

The fourth bullet point, 'emphasises the writer's belief...no deliberation on this matter', is a detailed/insightful comment on the short, dramatic sentence 'The excitement is on earth.' It could have been awarded 2 marks; however, the candidate requires only **1 mark** to achieve full marks for this question.

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The first bullet point accurately identified the disagreement about 'the impact of new technology (from space exploration)', an acceptable reference to 'achievements so far'. It was awarded **1 mark**.

The second bullet point accurately identified the disagreement about 'the wants of new generations', an acceptable reference to 'future priorities.' It was awarded **1 mark**.

The third bullet point accurately identified the disagreement about 'how space exploration is achieved', an acceptable reference to 'international relations.' It was awarded **1 mark**.

The evidence supporting these points is detailed/insightful and was awarded **2 marks**.

Overall, the candidate was awarded **30/30 marks** for this paper.