

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 candidate offers the idea that ‘the writer would rather do their job occupation as an app rather than in real life’ which was awarded **1 mark** (bullet 1 of the marking instructions).

The candidate’s second point (‘they found it was satisfying to benefit those who ordered food but did not really enjoy doing this with real people’) was also awarded **1 mark** as it addresses bullet 7 of the marking instructions.

The candidate has now achieved the maximum marks for the question but goes on to offer further material. The comment ‘she found it difficult’ would have been worth 1 mark as a gloss of ‘hard’ (bullet 2 of the marking instructions).

‘She would leave her job quickly to go do the same thing online’ again would have been worth 1 mark (bullet 1 of the marking instructions).

The candidate adds more responses at the end of the script. The candidate’s first point here would have gained no marks as there is no mention in the passage that the game’s levels become progressively more difficult. This would also not be considered ‘strange.’

The second comment, that she found ‘it too difficult in real life’ would, however, have been awarded 1 mark (bullet 2 of the marking instructions).

Question 2

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The selection “uncertain” was awarded **1 mark**. The comment which followed the reference ‘had no official plans’ was also awarded **1 mark** (bullet 3 of the marking instructions).

The candidate’s second selection, “staring out of the window at pigeons” was given **1 mark**. The comment, ‘so much free-time but nothing to do’ was awarded **1 mark** for the idea of boredom (bullet 10 of the marking instructions).

Maximum marks for the question have been achieved, but the candidate again continues the response at the end of the script. Here the reference to “acute anxiety” (and the alliteration involved) would have gained 1 mark, as would the associated comment (bullet 6 of the marking instructions).

Question 3

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The candidate’s first point was given **1 mark** for a successful gloss of the idea of ‘control’ (bullet 9 of the marking instructions).

In the candidate’s second point, the word ‘create’ is lifted from the passage, but there is sufficient understanding of the idea of revenge for **1 mark** to be awarded (bullet 11 of the marking instructions).

The candidate’s third point was given **1 mark** for the idea of playing out fantasies (bullet 12 of the marking instructions). The key words here are ‘experience love’, as this gets across the idea of the game allowing players to live out their romantic dreams.

The candidate’s fourth point was awarded **1 mark** for showing an understanding of the idea of leaving troubles behind (bullet 13 of the marking instructions).

The candidate’s fifth bullet point was given **1 mark** for the idea of compulsion/habit-forming (bullet 5 of the marking instructions).

At this stage, the candidate has achieved full marks for this question, but has again offered more material.

The candidate’s sixth point would have been awarded 1 mark for the idea of mischief (bullet 15 of the marking instructions), as would ‘turn dream to reality’ (bullet 12 of the marking instructions – already awarded).

The candidate’s seventh point would have been given 1 mark for ‘make places to live’ (bullet 1 of the marking instructions).

As with previous questions, the candidate provides more answers at the end of the script.

The candidate’s point that (the game) ‘allows people to be in charge’ would have been given 1 mark (bullet 9 of the marking instructions – already awarded). The word ‘creative’ is a lift from the passage – no marks here. The final point, ‘do things they would never be able to do in real life’ is the idea of playing out fantasies, and would have been given 1 mark (bullet 12 on the marking instructions – already awarded).

Question 4

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The candidate makes a correct selection and identifies the correct direction: “its-close-to-real-life-ness links forward.” This was given **1 mark**. The candidate goes on to indicate what this links to: “you pay bills.” This was awarded **1 mark**. The explanation that follows is not necessary, but had the candidate not already gained 1 mark for ‘you pay bills,’ then ‘a task that is part of real life’ would have been given 1 mark.

The candidate offers a valid second selection: “the game’s appeal” links back’ (1 mark), to “beautiful” (1 mark), but again full marks have already been achieved.

Question 5

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

‘Highest point’ was given **1 mark** as a correct gloss of ‘peak.’

‘Putting things off’ was given **1 mark** as an acceptable gloss of ‘procrastination.’ Note that the expression ‘putting back’ is close by in line 32 and would not be accepted; however, ‘putting things off’ is an appropriate and commonly-used alternative for ‘procrastination,’ and therefore gains the mark.

There would have been a further 1 mark for ‘avoid doing the hard-ships of life,’ but full marks have already been achieved.

Question 6

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The candidate offers a correct selection “floated away” (**1 mark**), and the comment that follows ‘allowed her to take her mind off things that were bothering her’ was also given **1 mark** (bullet 13 of the marking instructions). The comment ‘made her stress free’ would also have gained 1 mark, as would ‘acted like therapy.’

The second selection “it excited me” was given **1 mark**, and **1 mark** was also awarded to the comment ‘allowed her to feel a positive emotion.’ The further comment ‘look forward to the effect of having nice fresh clothes’ strengthens the answer but is not required.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The candidate was given **1 mark** for the reference “precious” and **1 mark** was also awarded to the comment ‘should be treasured’ (bullet 3 of the marking instructions).

1 mark was given for “escapism” and **1 mark** for the comment ‘get way from...worries’ Note that the mark was given for ‘get away from’ as a comment on ‘escapism.’

The selection of ‘relaxing’ and the comment ‘act as therapy’ would also have been awarded marks. It is worth noting that the candidate here has confused the word ‘distress’ with ‘de-stress,’ which would not have gained a mark as the word ‘stress’ is in the question. Likewise, the comment ‘can totally calm people down rather than cause anxiety’ would not have been awarded a mark (had it been needed) as it relies heavily on words from the passage: ‘calm’ and ‘anxiety.’

Question 8

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The candidate’s first point is worth 0 marks. There appears to be a misunderstanding here: most likely of ‘offer us a safe place to interrogate and test the emotional consequences of our actions’ (bullet 3 of the marking instructions). It might be tempting to award a mark for ‘they give an escape,’ but this does not show sufficient understanding of the idea of ‘offer us a safe place,’ and is possibly based on other parts of the passage where escapism is discussed.

The candidate’s second point was awarded **1 mark** as an acceptable gloss of ‘far from being a meaningless waste of time’ (bullet 4 of the marking instructions).

The candidate’s third point was given **1 mark** for a gloss of ‘games help us explore what it means to be human’ (bullet 5 of the marking instructions). The candidate has used the word ‘meanings’ and ‘means’ is in the quotation but looking at the answer holistically the candidate has clearly shown sufficient understanding of the idea.

The candidate’s fourth point was awarded **1 mark** for ‘lets people experience caring for someone’ (bullet 6 of the marking instructions), and **1 mark** for ‘lets people experience...them passing away’ (bullet 7 of the marking instructions).

The candidate’s fifth point was given **1 mark** for a gloss of ‘travel to far-off incredible places’ (bullet 9 of the marking instructions).

The candidate’s sixth point offers a gloss of the idea of ‘achieve some positive outcomes in our lives’ (bullet 13 of the marking instructions) and would have gained 1 mark if the maximum marks had not already been achieved.

Similarly, the candidate's seventh point would have gained a mark for an understanding of the idea of accessibility (bullet 11 of the marking instructions).

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

This candidate offers a correct reference "with some laundry thrown in for good measure" (bullet 13 of the marking instructions). This was given **1 mark**. The candidate then relates this to an earlier mention of laundry ('I became obsessed with laundry'). This was also awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate's second selection of 'manageable' and the accompanying reference back would also have gained marks.

In total this candidate was awarded **30/30 marks** for this paper.

Candidate 2

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The candidate's first point was awarded **1 mark** for an understanding of the idea that the game mirrored her real life (bullet 1 of the marking instructions).

The candidate's second point was given **1 mark** for 'difficult' (bullet 2 of the marking instructions). It is worth noting that 'not enjoyable' would also been worth 1 mark (bullet 3 of the marking instructions).

Question 2

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The candidate's first selection "worry" was given **1 mark**. The comment was also given **1 mark** (bullet 5 of the marking instructions).

The candidate then offers a second selection, "anxiety," but this is an alternative in the marking instructions to 'worry,' and both cannot be given marks.

Question 3

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The first point made by the candidate was given **1 mark** for the idea that it allows you to become another person (bullet 10 of the marking instructions).

The candidate's second point was awarded **1 mark** for showing sufficient understanding of the idea that you can get your own back on people you don't like (bullet 11 of the marking instructions).

The candidate's third point is an attempt to address bullet 12, but the approach taken is too literal and insufficient understanding is shown. (The candidate also lifts key words 'kiss' and 'name.')

The candidate's fourth point is another attempt to address bullet 11 of the marking instructions. The mark has already been awarded earlier in the candidate's response, and the response here is too reliant on words lifted from the passage.

No marks were awarded to the candidate's fifth point. The word 'created' is lifted from the passage and the candidate possibly misinterprets 'haven' as meaning 'heaven' (bullet 7 of the marking instructions).

Question 4

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

“Appeal” links back’ was given **1 mark** for a correct selection and identification of direction. The comment, ‘to the previous paragraph where the writer talks about what she liked about the game’ was also awarded **1 mark**. Quotation or paraphrase are both acceptable here.

The candidate goes on to offer an appropriate selection and comment for a forward link. This would have been given 2 marks if full marks had not already been achieved.

Question 5

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The candidate was given **1 mark** for ‘anything other than what they were meant to be doing’ which is an acceptable explanation of ‘procrastination.’

The ‘highest point of that’ was given **1 mark** as an appropriate gloss of ‘peak.’

Question 6

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The candidate’s first reference “achievable” was given **1 mark**. The associated comment was also given **1 mark** (bullet 4 of the marking instructions).

The candidate’s second selection “disappeared” was awarded **1 mark**. The comment was also given **1 mark** (bullet 13 of the marking instructions). Although the candidate has chosen to quote the word ‘disappeared’ only, it is clear from the comment ‘it helped her forget what was going on in her real life’ that the candidate has understood that it is negative thoughts that have gone.

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The candidate was given **1 mark** for the reference “distraction” (bullet 4 of the marking instructions), but the comment relies too heavily on lifts from the passage.

The second selection “manageable” was awarded **1 mark**. The comment – on set tasks being achievable – was also given **1 mark** (bullet 7 of the marking instructions).

Question 8

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The candidate's first point was given **1 mark** for a correct understanding of 'place you at the centre of the story' (bullet 1 of the marking instructions).

The candidate's second point was awarded **1 mark** for the idea of 'taking part' (bullet 2 of the marking instructions).

The candidate's third point contains enough to show understanding of 'explore what it means to be human' and was awarded **1 mark** (bullet 5 of the marking instructions).

The candidate's fourth point 'You can go to places which you would never get to visit in real life' covers the idea of broadening your horizons (bullet 9 of the marking instructions) and was given **1 mark**.

The candidate's fifth point addresses the idea of accessibility (bullet 11 of the marking instructions) and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **1 mark**.

The candidate was awarded **1 mark** for a relevant selection, but the comment on humour does not address 'effective conclusion' in any detail and was awarded 0 marks.

In total this candidate was awarded **23/30 marks** for this paper.

Candidate 3

Question 1

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The candidate's first point was awarded **1 mark** for the comment 'but didn't enjoy it' (bullet 3 of the marking instructions).

1 mark was awarded for 'playing a phone game that was an overcrowded food place' as it shows sufficient understanding of the idea of onerous work (bullet 4 of the marking instructions).

Question 2

The candidate was awarded **4 marks**.

The candidate's first selection is the word "uncertain." This was given **1 mark**, and **1 mark** was awarded to the accompanying comment 'she isn't sure about going into the world with no job' (bullet 3 of the marking instructions).

The candidate then quotes "Hollow, feeling of worry," and refers to a short sentence. This is not a short sentence, but the candidate's comment clearly offers analysis of the word choice of 'hollow' and therefore **1 mark** can be given for the selection of 'hollow' and **1 mark** for the comment 'she is feeling empty' (bullet 19 of the marking instructions).

Note that 'worry' is also an acceptable selection (bullet 5 of the marking instructions). But the candidate's comment on 'worry' would not gain a mark as it is reliant on 'anxious' which is a lift from the passage. The selection alone would have been awarded 1 mark had full marks not already been achieved.

Question 3

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The candidate's first point is an attempt to address bullet 12 of the marking instructions. This is not successful as no understanding of the key idea of playing out your own fantasy is shown.

In the candidate's second point there is an attempt made to address getting your own back (bullet 11 of the marking instructions). At the beginning of the candidate's explanation, the word 'create' is a lift, but this could be overlooked if the remainder of the explanation shows sufficient understanding. The candidate comes very close with the idea of 'you can create a very well-known girl and stop her from being in a relationship,' but the candidate's third point 'chuck people she hates...in a big heap of water' confirms understanding, and **1 mark** was awarded.

The candidate's fourth point covers the idea of 'control; and was given **1 mark** (bullet 9 of the marking instructions).

The candidate's final point 'You can get very attached to it' shows understanding of the idea of 'addictive' (bullet 5 of the marking instructions) and was awarded **1 mark**.

Question 4

The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

The candidate's response is incorrect in terms of structure here, and 0 marks were awarded.

Question 5

The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

The candidate does not provide an acceptable explanation of 'peak procrastination' and 0 marks were awarded.

Question 6

The candidate was awarded **2 marks**.

The candidate was given **1 mark** for the reference "achievable goal" (bullet 4 of the marking instructions), but the comment relies on the word 'achievement' which is too close to achievable.

The candidate was given **1 mark** for the selection "floated away" (bullet 13 of the marking instructions), but again 0 marks were awarded to the accompanying comment as it relies on words lifted from the passage ('anxious' and 'thought').

Question 7

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

The candidate's first reference "manageable" was given **1 mark**, and **1 mark** was awarded for the comment that the games were not too difficult (bullet 7 of the marking instructions).

The candidate's second selection "distraction" was given **1 mark** (bullet 4 of the marking instructions), but the associated comment was too vague and not close enough to the relevant meaning to gain any marks.

Question 8

The candidate was awarded **5 marks**.

The candidate's first point demonstrates understanding of the idea of being 'at the centre of the story' and was given **1 mark** (bullet 1 of the marking instructions).

The candidate's second point addresses the idea of being directly involved (bullet 2 of the marking instructions) and was given **1 mark**.

In the candidate's third point, the statement 'Helps find the reasons to be human' relies on lifts from the passage and was awarded 0 marks. But, 'Helps...find the reasons for relationships' is a sufficient gloss of 'explore notions of love' (bullet 6 of the marking instructions) and was given **1 mark**. The mention of 'death' does not carry enough explanation of the idea expressed in bullet 7 of the marking instructions and was awarded 0 marks.

The candidate's fourth point covers the idea of visiting amazing destinations (bullet 9) and was given **1 mark**.

In the candidate's fifth point, 'Excites you' is an appropriate gloss of 'buzz you get' and was awarded **1 mark**. Note that the candidate goes on to say, 'when you finish another level.' The word 'level' is a lift from the passage, but this can be ignored because the mark was achieved for 'Excites you.'

There would also have been 1 mark for 'proud of yourself when you finish it' (bullet 15 of the marking instructions), but full marks have already been awarded.

Question 9

The candidate was awarded **0 marks**.

The candidate does not offer a selection; therefore 0 marks can be awarded.

In total this candidate was awarded **19/30 marks** for this paper.