

A sample answer

1. Read the following answer which is a response to question 2b on the AQA spec A GCSE English Paper (Higher) 2008.
2. Use the mark scheme below the answer to identify where the candidate has written something worth a mark and highlight, underline, or tick where they have done this.
3. Decide an overall mark for the answer.

Q2b) Compare the ways in which words are used for effect in each item.

(6 marks)

The language in item one is quite informal and chatty to a certain extent. The ideas in the item are serious, but they are presented in a less serious way. This makes the article easy to read and more interesting. The writer often describes her own experiences or a detailed account of the experiences of someone else. Hanson used light-hearted casual language to describe these with words and phrases like “fiddling about with chickens.”

In contrast, the language used in item 2 is much more serious and formal. There is a tone of anger and at the same time disbelief about how much packaging is being used. The article uses some very persuasive words such as “absurd” and “excessive” to clearly make its point. These words are also in red to make them more emphatic. Unlike item 1, item 2 does not just express a view – it tries to convey a sense of urgency to make people act against unnecessary packaging. “the urgent need for... the campaign against waste”. The words in this quote are also rather forceful – “campaign” and “urgent” give the item a sense of rebellion against current state of rubbish, a reform against packaging. This contrasts with Hanson’s campaign against people who “needlessly fritter away”.

0	Nothing relevant written
1	Some simple supported comment Some reference to words
2	Attempts to engage Tends to paraphrase Some identification of words used <u>in each item</u>
3-4	Clear attempt Selects and comments using appropriate terminology At least <u>one example from each item</u> with a clear attempt to engage (L1 C L2 ü)*
5-6	Detailed Absorbed and shaped Integrated references Compares how words are used for effect in each item

* L1 = a language point from item 1; L2 = a language point from item 2; ü = a comment about the effect; C = a comparison