Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION

Iphondo leMpuma Kapa: Isebe leMfundo
Provinsie van die Oos Kaap: Department van Onderwys
Porafensie Ya Kapa Botjahabela: Lefapha la Thuto

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE

GRADE 12

SEPTEMBER 2026

ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE P1
MARKING GUIDELINE

MARKS: 70

TIME: 2 HOURS

This marking guideline consists of 10 pages.

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NOTE:

- **This marking guideline is intended as a guide for markers.**
- **It is by no means prescriptive or exhaustive.**
- **Candidates' responses should be considered on merit.**
- **Answers should be assessed holistically and marks awarded where applicable. The marking guideline should be discussed before the commencement of marking.**

INSTRUCTIONS TO MARKERS

Marking the comprehension:

- Because the focus is on understanding, incorrect spelling and language errors in responses should not be penalised unless such errors change the meaning/understanding. (Errors should still be indicated.)
- If a candidate uses words from a language other than the one being examined, disregard those words, and if the answer still makes sense, do not penalise. However, if a word from another language is used in a text and required in an answer, this will be acceptable.
- For **open-ended questions**, no marks should be awarded for YES/NO or I AGREE/I DISAGREE. The reason/substantiation/motivation is what should be considered.
- No marks should be awarded for TRUE/FALSE or FACT/OPINION.
  The reason/substantiation/motivation/quotation is what should be considered.
- For questions which require quotations from the text, do not penalise candidates for omitting the quotation marks or for an incorrect spelling within the quotation.
- When one-word answers are required and the candidate gives a whole sentence, mark correct provided that the correct word is underlined/highlighted.
- When two/three facts/points are required and a range is given, mark only the first two/three.
- Accept dialectal variations.
- For multiple-choice questions, accept BOTH the letter corresponding to the correct answer AND/OR the answer written out in full.

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SECTION A: COMPREHENSION

QUESTION 1: READING FOR MEANING AND UNDERSTANDING

QUESTIONS: TEXT A

1.1 Reservoir levels had dropped alarmingly ✓ because of a severe drought. ✓ / Authorities had insufficient fresh water to supply residents,✓ because they were experiencing a drought. ✓

(Any TWO ideas) (2)

1.2 The region was experiencing a severe water shortage, ✓ yet the proposed data centre would require large amounts of fresh water daily. ✓ (2)

1.3 Because AI is most probably going to continue growing, ✓ it seems likely that AI may require very large quantities of water in the future. ✓

OR

The expansion of AI ✓ could lead to significant water consumption globally**.** ✓

OR

As AI infrastructure will undoubtedly grow, ✓ it may place increasing pressure on water resources**.** ✓

OR

The comparison emphasises the magnitude of potential water demand**,** ✓ as AI infrastructure seems likely to increase. ✓ (2)

1.4 This line shows that AI technology requires substantial energy and infrastructure to operate, ✓ because servers produce large amounts of heat during computation and need cooling systems to prevent equipment failure. ✓ (2)

1.5 It implies that evaporative cooling systems may be unsustainable in the long term, ✓ because they rely on large quantities of water that are lost through evaporation ✓ and cannot easily be retrieved. This suggests that continued reliance on such systems could place increasing pressure on water resources, ✓ particularly in areas where water is scarce. (3)

1.6 The question draws attention to the issue of using drinkable water in data centres. ✓ It encourages the reader to think critically about the problem before the explanation is provided. ✓ / It guides the reader into the next section of the argument: ✓ the reasons that are presented in the following paragraphs for using clean/drinkable water. ✓ (2)

1.7 Using recycled water is not always practical because it can cause chemical problems such as scaling and corrosion. ✓ It may require expensive and complex treatment processes, ✓ which implies that companies may prefer potable water because it is more economically viable. ✓ (3)

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1.8 Potable water is cheaper than installing complex treatment systems./ Electricity costs are significantly higher, making water a less prioritised expense./ There is limited infrastructure for recycled water, making alternatives impractical. ✓

Continued use of potable water may place strain on public water resources./ It may be environmentally unsustainable in the long term. / Companies may be prioritising cost over environmental responsibility. ✓

Justifications are practical in the short term, but questionable in terms of sustainability and equity. ✓

[This is a L4 question, which learners should be able to answer as follows: Identify/explain economic and infrastructure reasons, provide some limitations or implications AND give a balanced evaluation with clear judgement.] (3)

1.9 Yes, no new information is introduced ✓ and the paragraph serves as a suitable conclusion because it summarises the central idea ✓ that data centres remain dependent on water despite technological advances. ✓ / It ends on a reflective note, suggesting that while improvements may occur in the future, ✓ the problem still exists, ✓ leaving the reader to consider the ongoing environmental impact. ✓

[Although a NO response is unlikely, mark on merit.]

[Accept valid alternatives.] (3)

1.10 The fishbowl represents the limited supply of public water resources available ✓ and that water is a shared resource that must be used by both data centres and local communities. ✓ (2)

1.11 The smaller fish (local residents) looks **worried/distressed**, ✓ because there is very little space and water left for it. ✓

This suggests that local residents are negatively affected by the large amount of water used by AI data centres. (message) ✓ (3)

1.12 Paragraphs 11 and 12 of Text A suggest solutions such as liquid cooling systems, which reduce water loss through evaporation. Other strategies (e.g. location choices, efficient design) may lower water consumption. ✓

Text B shows that AI data centres already consume a disproportionate amount of water, affecting communities. ✓

The passage states that these solutions are **still developing**, meaning current systems still rely heavily on water. ✓ Therefore, the problem of unequal resource use may continue in the short term. / The solutions may be effective in the long term, but they are not yet sufficient to fully resolve the issue shown in the cartoon. ✓

[Candidates must focus on Text A AND Text B.
Accept valid alternatives for the CRITICAL EVALUATION.] (3)

TOTAL SECTION A: 30

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SECTION B: SUMMARY

QUESTION 2: SUMMARISING IN YOUR OWN WORDS

Use the following main points that the candidate should include in the summary as a **guideline**.

Any seven valid points are to be credited in paragraph form.

(Sentences and/or sentence fragments must be coherent.)

QUOTATIONS		POINTS	
1	'True leadership demands more than bold declarations or dramatic gestures.'	1	Leadership is more than daring or exaggerated actions.
2	'It requires a calm presence in moments of uncertainty, … that inspires confidence in others'	2	Leaders must remain calm and composed to inspire confidence.
3	'… captured attention through passionate, outspoken resistance; … through quiet consistency, discipline, and patient example.'	3	Leadership can be expressed in different ways, including quiet discipline.
4	'Leadership is less about commanding recognition than about cultivating respect.'	4	Leadership is about earning respect rather than commanding attention.
5	'listening attentively to differing perspectives'	5	Effective leaders listen to different opinions.
6	'and acting with discernment'	6	Effective leaders have good judgement.
7	'Self-mastery emerged as another indispensable quality.'	7	Leaders must have self-control.
8	'Anger and resentment are natural reactions to oppression, … can compromise judgement.'	8	Leaders must control emotions such as anger and resentment.
9	'… composure was vital; personal bitterness could not overshadow the broader objective.'	9	Emotional restraint is essential, (especially in negotiation or conflict).
10	'Leadership, I discovered, is inseparable from sacrifice.'/ 'The pursuit of justice often exacts heavy personal costs'	10	Leadership involves personal sacrifice and service to others.
11	'progress depends on collective courage, unity, and the steadfast commitment of many ordinary people.'	11	Meaningful change requires collective effort, unity, and shared commitment.
12	'the essence of leadership resides … in the judicious exercise of courage, the control of emotion, the capacity to listen and inspire, and the willingness to place the welfare of others above personal interest.'	12	Core leadership qualities include discipline, humility, and service to a greater cause than mere personal interest.

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PARAGRAPH FORM

NOTE: What follows is merely an example. It is not prescriptive and must be used very carefully as 12 points are possible, but only 7 are allowed.

Leadership is more than daring or exaggerated actions, requiring calm, composure, and the ability to inspire confidence while earning respect. Leaders demonstrate patience, humility, and discernment, listening to differing perspectives and controlling emotions that could cloud judgement. Effective leadership often demands personal sacrifice and prioritising the welfare of others. Meaningful change depends on collective effort, unity, and shared commitment, and requires core qualities such as discipline, dedication, and unwavering service to a greater cause. [82 words]

Marking the summary

The summary must be marked as follows:

- **Mark allocation:**
  - 7 marks for 7 points (1 mark per main point)
  - 3 marks for language
  - Total marks = 10

- **Distribution of language marks when candidate has not quoted verbatim:**
  - 1–3 points correct: award 1 mark
  - 4–5 points correct: award 2 marks
  - 6–7 points correct: award 3 marks

- **Distribution of language marks when candidate has quoted verbatim:**
  - 6–7 quotes: award no language mark
  - 1–5 points quoted: award 1 language mark

NOTE:

Format:
- Even if the summary is presented in the incorrect format, it must be assessed.

Word count:
- Markers are required to verify the number of words used.
- Do not deduct any marks if the candidate fails to indicate the number of words used, or if the number of words used is indicated incorrectly. If the word limit is exceeded, read up to the last sentence above the stipulated upper limit and ignore the rest of the summary.

TOTAL SECTION B: 10

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SECTION C: LANGUAGE STRUCTURES AND CONVENTIONS

Marking SECTION C:

- Spelling:
  - One-word answers must be marked correct even if the spelling is incorrect, unless the error changes the meaning of the word.
  - In full sentence answers, incorrect spelling should be penalised if the error is in the language structure being tested.
  - Where an abbreviation is tested, the answer must be punctuated correctly.
- Sentence structures must be grammatically correct and given in full sentences/as per instruction.
- For multiple-choice questions, accept BOTH the letter corresponding with the correct answer AND/OR the answer written out in full as correct.

QUESTION 3: ANALYSING ADVERTISING

3.1 B – pun ✓ (1)

3.2 This year a gas gauge has been installed (by us) to help you remember. ✓ (1)

3.3 The advertiser wants to create humour and highlight an unlikely situation. ✓ It suggests that the car rarely runs out of petrol, reinforcing its fuel efficiency and reliability. ✓

OR

The advertisement shows a man pushing a car, which is usually negative. ✓ However, it is presented humorously to suggest that the car is efficient and easy to manage. ✓

OR

The advertiser presents a negative situation – pushing a car – as a positive feature. This reflects Volkswagen's "Think Small" campaign, which deliberately turned perceived weaknesses, such as the car's size, into strengths. ✓ By doing so, the advertisement challenges traditional expectations and highlights the car's efficiency and practicality in an intelligent, humorous way. ✓ (2)

3.4 The tone is **understated and factual**, ✓ which makes the advertisement seem honest and trustworthy. ✓ By avoiding exaggeration and focusing on practical benefits, it appeals to logical consumers and enhances credibility. ✓

OR

The tone can be interpreted as **humorous / ironic**. ✓ This engages the reader and makes the message memorable, ✓ as it treats a possibly negative scenario casually and rationally. ✓

OR

The tone creates **dry humour/understatement**, ✓ almost as if the advertiser is saying: "Even our worst-case scenario isn't a big deal." ✓ This is typical of Volkswagen's classic advertising style: intelligent, subtle humour rather than exaggerated claims. ✓

[Candidates need to identify tone and critically discuss how the tone of the written text influences the reader's perception of the car. Some stronger candidates might refer to the reader's response to the advertisement (instead of the car), which should also be credited.] (3)

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3.5 The bigger and flashier the car, the more desirable it is to the average consumer.

The image: The minimalist design removes distractions and focuses attention on the key idea – the small car that is directly opposed to the conventionally desired big car. The simplicity makes the advertisement memorable and mirrors the car's no-frills, practical design. It celebrates smallness as a strength.

The copy: This advertisement redefines consumer values by promoting efficiency ('13,6 km per litre'), affordability ('repairs are few and far between'), and practicality ('You'll never need water or anti-freeze because the engine is air-cooled ') over status and excess. The advert encourages the reader to rethink what makes a car desirable.

Instead of exaggerating, it uses understatement and irony to build trust. This approach appeals to a more thoughtful audience and positions the car as a sensible, reliable choice in contrast to the flashy, status-driven cars of the time.

[Candidates need to refer to BOTH the minimalist image AND the copy to motivate why conventional thinking is challenged.]

[Assess globally.] (3)

[10]

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QUESTION 4: UNDERSTANDING OTHER ASPECTS OF THE MEDIA

4.1 Madam said that she ✓ still couldn't/could not believe ✓ they✓ ✓ were moving out. (4 x ½) (2)

4.2 It suggests the stereotype of a wealthy, privileged woman who drinks frequently. ✓✓ / It suggests she lives a luxurious and indulgent lifestyle. ✓✓ (2)

4.3 Satire humorously criticises society and politics. ✓ It exposes issues such as political scandals, corruption, and social inequalities (as seen in the reference to Zuma, Malema, Commissions of Inquiry, Eskom, etc). ✓ Readers laugh, but the humour also encourages reflection on serious issues. ✓ / The reference to readers laughing at their satire highlights the role of humour in social commentary. ✓ (3)

4.4 Visual techniques in the 'Farewell Selfie' frame:

- Characters are smiling and posing, (suggesting joy/happiness).
- The selfie pose (creates a sense of togetherness and farewell).
- Their close grouping (indicates friendship and shared memories).
- The exaggerated expressions (create humour and warmth).

All these reinforce the joy/happiness/sense of unity/warmth that are synonymous with /indicative of celebration.

[Candidates must identify two visual techniques ✓✓– the question explicitly states 'visual techniques' – and then critically analyse how these techniques 'create a celebratory tone' ✓.] (3)

[10]

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QUESTION 5: USING LANGUAGE CORRECTLY

5.1	5.1.1	quitely – quietly ✓	(1)
	5.1.2	Not only does gardening improve air quality and beautify otherwise dull spaces, but it also provides a sense of accomplishment. ✓	(1)
5.2	5.2.1	this – these ✓	(1)
	5.2.2	encourage – encourages ✓	(1)
5.3	5.3.1	colon (:) ✓	(1)
	5.3.2	water ✓ (hydroponics = hydro (water) + ponics (from Greek 'ponos', i.e.laboour/work)	(1)
	5.3.3	gerund / verbal noun ✓	(1)
	5.3.4	Despite these difficulties, the movement continues to grow, <u>which inspires</u> a healthier and more sustainable urban lifestyle. ✓	(1)
	5.4.1	… to expand rapidly… ✓	(1)
	5.4.2	Its ✓	(1)
			[10]

TOTAL SECTION C: 30
GRAND TOTAL: 70

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