Mark	AO	Typical features	How to arrive at a mark
Level 6 Convincing, critical analysis and exploration	AO1	 Critical, exploratory conceptualised response to task and text Judicious use of precise references to support interpretation(s) 	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be a critical, exploratory, well-structured argument. It takes a conceptualised approach to the task supported by a range of judicious references. There will be a finegrained and insightful analysis of language and form and structure supported by judicious use of subject terminology.
exploration 21–24 marks	AO2	Analysis of writer's methods with subject terminology used judiciously Exploration of effects of writer's methods on reader	At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have level 5 and be starting to demonstrate elements of exploratory thought and / or analysis of writers' methods.
Level 5 Thoughtful, developed consideration	AO1	Thoughtful, developed response to task and text Apt references integrated into interpretation(s)	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to include be thoughtful, detailed and developed. It takes a considered approach to the task with references integrated into interpretation; there will be a detailed examination of the effects of language and/or structure and/or form supported by apt use of subject terminology.
17–20 marks	AO2	 Examination of writer's methods with subject terminology used effectively to support consideration of methods Examination of effects of writer's methods on reader 	At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have level 4 and be starting to demonstrate elements of thoughtful consideration and / or examination of writers' methods.
Level 4 Clear understanding	AO1	Clear, explained response to task and text Effective use of references to support explanation	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be clear, sustained and consistent. It takes a focused response to the task which demonstrates clear understanding. It uses a range of references effectively to illustrate and justify explanation, there will be clear explanation of the effects of a range of writer's methods supported by appropriate use of subject terminology.
13–16 marks	AO2	 Clear explanation of writer's methods with appropriate use of relevant subject terminology Understanding of effects of writer's methods on reader 	At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have level 3 and be starting to demonstrate elements of understanding and / or explanation of writer's methods.
Level 3 Explained, structured comments	AO1	Some explained response to task and text References used to support a range of relevant comments	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be explanatory in parts. It focuses on the task with a range of points exemplified by relevant references from the text; there will be identification of effects of a range of writer's methods supported by relevant use of subject terminology.
9–12 marks	AO2	Explained/relevant comments on writer's methods with some relevant use of subject terminology Identification of effects of writer's methods on reader	At the bottom of the level, a candidate will level 2 and be starting to explain and / or make relevant comments on writer's methods.
Level 2 Supported, relevant comments 5–8 marks	AO1	Supported response to task and text Comments on references Identification of writers' methods	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be relevant and supported by some explanation. It will include some focus on the task with relevant comments and some supporting references from text. There will be identification of effects of deliberate choices made by the writer with some
		Some reference to subject terminology	reference to subject terminology. At the bottom of the level, a candidate will have level 1 and be starting to focus on the task and /or show awareness of the writer making choices.
Level 1 Simple, explicit comments	AO1	Simple comments relevant to task and text Reference to relevant details	At the top of the level, a candidate's response is likely to be narrative and/or descriptive in approach. It may include awareness of the task and provide appropriate reference to text; there will be simple identification of method with possible reference to subject terminology.
1–4 marks	AO2	Awareness of writer making deliberate choices Possible reference to subject terminology	At the bottom of the level, a candidate's response will show some familiarity with the text.
0 marks	Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written		

Mark	AO	Typical features of response
Level 4 7–8 marks	AO2	 Exploratory comparison of writers' use of language, structure and form with subject terminology used judiciously Convincing comparison of effects of writers' methods on reader
Level 3 5–6 marks	AO2	 Thoughtful comparison of writers' use of language and/or structure and/or form with subject terminology used effectively to support consideration of methods Comparative examination of effects of writers' methods on reader
Level 2 3–4 marks	AO2	 Relevant comparison of writers' use of language and/or structure and/or form with some relevant use of subject terminology Some comparison of effects of writers' methods on reader
Level 1 1–2 marks	AO2	 Some links between writers' use of language or structure or form Some links between effects of writers' methods on reader
0 marks	Nothing worthy of credit/nothing written	