**In focus: Example candidate responses**

These booklets use examples of candidates’ work to show how different levels of performance (high, middle and low) relate to the subject’s curriculum and assessment objectives. They will help you understand the standard required to achieve marks, beyond the guidance of the mark scheme. Here is how to use the booklets.

**Answers** by real candidates in exam conditions. These show you the types of answers for each level. Discuss and analyse the answers with your learners in the classroom to improve their skills.

**Examiner comments** are alongside the answers, linked to specific part of the answer. These explain where and why marks were awarded.

**Improving the response:** This explains how the candidate could have improved the answer given. This helps you to interpret the standard of Cambridge exams and helps your learners refine exam technique.

**Common mistakes:** a list of the common mistakes made in answering each question is provided. This will help your learners avoid these mistakes in the exam and give them the best chance of achieving a high mark.

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**Example candidate response – high**

Mr. Gillard’s speech is characterised by strong precise language and accurate quoting. It is written in an engaging manner and employs the pace of the opposition.

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**Examiner comments**

1. Immediate and purposeful assessment of the tone of the passage.
2. A perceptive and effective language.
3. A developed account, albeit imperfectly expressed, of the effect of one phrase in diminishing Mr. Abbott’s authority.

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**How the candidate could have improved the answer**

There was some engagement with the passage but an understanding of aspects of its style and layout was variable. The focus was disconnected and prevented any clear examination of the progression of the passage.

**Common mistakes candidates made in this question**

The examiner expected candidates to:

- Identify language examples and features which they considered significant in establishing the theme of the passage.
- Comment on specific effects of the chosen language examples and consider their contribution to the overall effect of the passage as a whole.
- Support their comments with an economical use of quotations.

The majority of candidates approved of Mr. Gillard’s outrage at Mr. Abbott’s behaviour and this was evident in a lack of critical distance and focus in approaching the passage. This was manifested in some responses which listed the success and justice of the accusations without examining the rhetorical devices employed.