5. Curriculum content

Candidates may follow either the Core curriculum only or the Extended curriculum which includes both the Core and Supplement. Candidates aiming for grades A* to C must follow the Extended curriculum.

Reading

Core

- Demonstrate understanding of words within extended texts
- Scan for and extract specific information
- Identify main and subordinate topics, summarise, paraphrase, re-express
- Show some sense of how writers achieve their effects
- Recognise and respond to simple linguistic devices including figurative language

Extended

- Show a more precise understanding of extended texts
- Recognise the relationship of ideas
- Draw inferences, evaluate effectiveness, compare, analyse, synthesise
- Show understanding of how writers achieve their effects
- Recognise and respond to more sophisticated linguistic devices

Writing

Core

- Express thoughts, feelings and opinions in order to interest, inform or convince the reader
- Show some sense of audience
- Demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar
- Exercise care over punctuation and spelling
- Write accurate simple sentences
- Attempt a variety of sentence structures
- Recognise the need for paragraphing
- Use appropriate vocabulary

Extended

- Show a wider and more varied sense of different styles to interest, inform or convince the reader
- Show a clear sense of audience
- Demonstrate a sophisticated use of vocabulary and structures
- Demonstrate accuracy in punctuation and spelling
- Write accurate complex sentences
- Employ varied sentence structures
- Write in well-constructed paragraphs
- Use imaginative and varied vocabulary

Speaking and Listening

Core

- Understand and convey both simple and detailed information
- Present facts, ideas and opinions in an orderly sequence
- Make relevant comments on what is heard, seen or read
- Describe experience in simple terms and express intelligibly what is thought and imagined
- Recognise and give statements of opinion and attitude
- Speak audibly and intelligibly with appropriate tone, intonation and pace

Extended

- Understand and convey more complex information in an interesting and authoritative way
- Consciously order and present facts, ideas and opinions for a particular audience
- Evaluate and reflect on what is heard, seen or read
- Describe and reflect on experience, and express effectively what is thought and imagined
- Discuss statements of opinion and attitude, discerning underlying assumptions and points of view