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Grade 9 English HL · Language Practice · Paper 2 — Marking Memorandum

MARKING GUIDELINES · NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION TO LEARNERS

Total Marks: 42

Grade: 9 Subject: english · Language Practice

These marking guidelines are prepared for teacher/examiner use only.

Credit valid alternative responses where meaning is correct.

Q	Answer / Marking Points	Marks
1	✓ Priya had scrolled through Instagram and had seen a negative comment about her appearance. (Alternative: After Priya scrolled through Instagram, she had seen a negative comment.)	
2	✓ Dangling participle. The phrase "After posting her selfie" modifies "the comments" instead of "Zinhle." Correction: "After Zinhle posted her selfie, the comments were overwhelming."	
3	✓ If Rohan had realised the harmful effects of social media earlier, he would have spent less time online.	
4	✓ "consistant" should be spelled "consistent."	
5	✓ While scrolling through Instagram for hours, Liezel's grades dropped significantly. (Alternative: As Liezel scrolled through Instagram for hours, her grades dropped significantly.)	
6	✓ Coordinating conjunction (or: conjunction of coordination). The word "and" joins two independent clauses of equal weight.	
7	✓ Teenagers use social media to feel connected with their friends despite physical distance. (Or: Social media allows teenagers to maintain connections with friends when they cannot meet in person.)	

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8	✓ Anaphora is the repetition of "social media" at the beginning of three successive clauses. This device creates rhythm and emphasis, building a cumulative argument that social media has multiple negative effects. It makes the message more memorable and persuasive.
9	✓ "Addiction" suggests a compulsive, uncontrollable dependency that is difficult to break, implying a serious psychological condition. "Habit" is milder and suggests a voluntary, repeatable behaviour that can be changed more easily. The author chose "addiction" to emphasise the severity and involuntary nature of excessive social media use.
10	✓ (b) "If I were Chloe, I would delete my accounts." In formal writing and subjunctive mood, "were" is used in conditional clauses (Type 2 and 3 conditionals) regardless of whether the subject is singular or plural. This is the subjunctive mood, which expresses hypothetical or contrary-to-fact situations.
11	✓ Error: Dangling participle. "Having received thousands of likes" appears to modify "self-worth," but it should modify the teenager. Correction: "Having received thousands of likes, the teenager's self-worth became dependent on social validation." (Or: Because the teenager received thousands of likes, her self-worth became dependent on social validation.)
12	✓ Antithesis: "connects us globally" vs. "isolates us locally." This contrast highlights the paradox of social media--it brings distant people together while pushing nearby people apart. The effect is to make the reader question the true value of social media and recognise its contradictory nature. It is persuasive and thought-provoking.
13	✓ Tshepiso posted a video online that quickly attracted negative comments. Feeling hurt and unsupported, she realised that social media was damaging her mental health. Determined to prioritise her wellbeing, she deleted the app and never looked back. (Accept similar versions with improved coherence, varied sentence structure, and logical flow.)
14	✓ A rhetorical question is a question asked for effect, not to elicit an answer. Here, the author uses it to challenge the reader to acknowledge the impossible standard that social media sets for teenagers. The purpose is to persuade the reader that maintaining healthy self-esteem is nearly impossible in the age of filtered social media. It engages the reader emotionally and makes them reflect on the problem.

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15	✓ Tense: Simple past. Rewrite in present perfect continuous: "Aryan has been struggling with social media anxiety for six months."
16	✓ The first sentence is more effective because it uses the present perfect continuous tense ("has been destroying"), which emphasises the ongoing, cumulative damage caused by comparison over time. This tense choice suggests a persistent problem with serious consequences. The second sentence uses simple present tense ("compares... destroys"), which is less forceful and does not convey the severity or duration of the harm. Additionally, the first version uses the passive voice structure, which focuses attention on the damage to Gadija rather than on her action, increasing emotional impact and cohesion. (Accept answers that identify tense, voice, and their stylistic effects.)
17	✓ When Kavya suffered from cyberbullying on WhatsApp, her parents did not initially know how to help her. The impact of online harassment is serious and can have lasting psychological consequences. If she had told them sooner, they could have intervened more quickly and protected her better. Social media is a double-edged sword: it offers connection and opportunity, yet it exposes users to cruelty and exploitation. (Accept similar edits that correct the dangling participle, subject-verb agreement error, Type 3 conditional, and improve the final sentence's formal tone and coherence.)

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