

LANGUAGE answer key

Copyediting questions (1–20)

- Marks awarded for each correct edit to a sentence are indicated for each question below.
- 0.25 marks are deducted for each error introduced to a sentence.
- Candidates should aim to make the minimum number of changes required to correct the errors in a sentence. Any sentence that is substantively rewritten such that it is impossible for the markers to tell whether the candidate understands the nature of the corrections required will be awarded 0 marks.

Q1

No sooner had Eva unpacked **that** she realised **several items missing** from her suitcase.

Marks: 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for changing that to than
0.5 mark for inserting the auxiliary verb were before missing

SOLUTION:

No sooner had Eva unpacked **than** she realised several items **were** missing from her suitcase.

Alternative edit:

No sooner had Eva unpacked **than** she **noticed** several items missing from her suitcase.

Other edits may be possible.

Q2

Mel and Ali bought their **third floor** apartment several **year** ago.

Marks: 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for inserting a hyphen in third floor
0.5 marks for adding s for years (plural)

SOLUTION:

Mel and Ali bought their **third-floor** apartment several **years** ago.

Q3

The **recently-announced** building program, includes an **over haul** of the Hardwick Memorial aquatic centre.

Marks: 4 × 0.25 marks. Each edit is worth 0.25 marks in this question.

0.25 marks for deleting the hyphen from recently-announced
0.25 marks for deleting the comma after program
0.25 marks for joining up over haul to make one word
0.25 marks for capitalising aquatic centre (no 0.25 mark if only one of the two words is capitalised)

SOLUTION:

The recently announced building program includes an **overhaul** of the Hardwick Memorial **Aquatic Centre**.

Q4

Although **there's less** sharks in our coastal waters, the number of shark attacks **seem** to be **more**.

Marks: 4 × 0.25 marks. Each edit is worth 0.25 marks in this question.

0.25 marks for changing there's to there are to agree with plural sharks
0.25 marks for changing less to fewer , since shark is a countable noun
0.25 marks for changing seem to seems to agree with singular number
0.25 marks for changing more to higher (or rising , or similar) to agree with the subject number

SOLUTION:

Although **there are fewer** sharks in our coastal waters, the number of shark attacks **seems** to be **higher**.

Other edits may be possible.

Q5

The light rail began operating in **2019, which stops** at the university on its way to the city.

Marks: 1 × 1 marks. Each edit is worth 1 marks in this question.

1 mark for moving the relative cause so that it clearly relates to the antecedent light rail

SOLUTION:

The light rail, **which stops at the university on its way to the city,** began operating in 2019.

Alternative edits:

The light rail, **which** began operating in 2019, stops at the university on its way to the city.

The light rail began operating in 2019, **and** stops at the university on its way to the city.

Other edits may be possible.

Q6

25 minutes by **Ferry** from Townsville **e** Magnetic Island offers beaches **s** hiking trails and lots of wildlife.

Marks: 4 × 0.25 marks. Each edit is worth 0.25 marks in this question.

0.25 marks for spelling out 25 at the start of the sentence (or moving its position to later in the sentence)
0.25 marks for changing Ferry to lower case
0.25 marks for inserting a comma after Townsville
0.25 marks for inserting a comma after beaches

SOLUTION:

Twenty-five minutes by **ferry** from Townsville, **e** Magnetic Island offers beaches, **s** hiking trails and lots of wildlife.

Alternative edit:

Magnetic Island, **25 minutes** by **ferry** from Townsville, **e** offers beaches, **s** hiking trails and lots of wildlife.

Other edits may be possible.

Q7

Reza has a superb collection of **mid twentieth century** furniture.

Marks: 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for inserting two hyphens into the compound adjective **mid twentieth century**

SOLUTION:

Reza has a superb collection of mid-twentieth-century furniture.

Alternative edit:

Reza has a superb collection of furniture from the mid twentieth century.

Q8

While the **minster** has made no secret of her views, details of the **G**overnment's proposed policy are shrouded in **it**.

Marks: 4 × 0.25 marks. Each edit is worth 0.25 marks in this question.

0.25 marks for correcting spelling of minster
0.25 marks for changing Government's to lower case
0.25 marks for changing it to secrecy (or for fixing the lack of a clear antecedent to it in some other way)
0.25 marks for inserting a full stop at end of sentence

SOLUTION:

While the minister has made no secret of her views, details of the government's proposed policy are shrouded in secrecy.

Q9

If Maria's grandfather hadn't **have** missed that train he might never **of** met her grandmother.

Marks: 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for deleting have from after hadn't
0.5 marks for changing of to have

SOLUTION:

If Maria's grandfather hadn't missed that train he might never have met her grandmother.

Note: insertion of a comma after "train" is neutral in terms of marking.

Q10

It's hard to predict **how** the final package will look **like**.

Marks: 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for changing **how** to **what** or for deleting **like**.

SOLUTION:

It's hard to predict how the final package will look.

Alternative edit:

It's hard to predict what the final package will look like.

Q11

He's not as helpless as he **portends**.

Marks: 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for changing portends to pretends .
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SOLUTION:

He's not as helpless as he **pretends**.

Q12

We'll introduce the changes **overcoming** weeks but we're under no **allusion of** the resistance we'll encounter.

Marks: 4 × 0.25 marks. Each edit is worth 0.25 marks in this question.

0.25 marks for breaking overcoming into two words
0.25 marks for changing allusion to illusion
0.25 marks for changing of to as to ; or for changing of to about if illusions is made plural
0.25 marks for changing comma to a full stop

SOLUTION:

We'll introduce the changes **over coming** weeks but we're under no **illusion as to** the resistance we'll encounter.

Alternative solution:

We'll introduce the changes **over coming** weeks but we're under no **illusions about** the resistance we'll encounter.

Note: insertion of "the" before "coming" is neutral in terms of marking.

Q13

Joey shouted, 'Catch me if you can, suckers!'; jumped up and darted out of the room.

Marks: 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for selecting OK to show that no change is needed

SOLUTION:

OK

Q14

From 2011-2018 the town's population declined by seven %.

Marks: 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for changing the hyphen to the word to ; or for changing to Between 2011 and 2018
0.5 marks for ensuring consistency with use of symbols and numbers, either by changing % to per cent (or percent) or by changing seven to 7

SOLUTION:

From 2011 **to** 2018 the town's population declined by seven **per cent**.

Alternative edit:

Between 2011 and 2018 the town's population declined by **7**%.

Q15

Unfortunately I'd left my new, walking boots behind in the hotel.

Marks: 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for deleting the comma from after **new**. Deleting **behind** is neutral (no mark; no deduction)

SOLUTION:

Unfortunately I'd left my **new walking** boots behind in the hotel.

Q16

It's clear that that most residents favour **to widen** the highway to a **duel** carriageway.

Marks: 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for changing **to widen** to **widening**

0.5 marks for changing **duel** to **dual**

SOLUTION:

It's clear that that most residents favour **widening** the highway to a **dual** carriageway.

Q17

Dates are delicious but they contain lots of sugar, **so hence** why I use them sparingly.

Marks: 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for changing **so hence** to **which is** (or other solution that resolves the redundancy)

SOLUTION:

Dates are delicious but they contain lots of sugar, **which is** why I use them sparingly.

Alternative edits:

Dates are delicious but they contain lots of sugar, **so** I use them sparingly.

Dates are delicious but they contain lots of sugar, **hence** I use them sparingly.

Q18

Sweet, virtually seedless and easy to peel, Doug recommends the Imperial as the ideal mandarin variety to grow in the backyard.

Marks: 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for fixing the misplaced modifier

SOLUTION:

Doug recommends the Imperial as the ideal mandarin variety to grow in the backyard. **Imperials are sweet, virtually seedless and easy to peel.**

Other edits may be possible.

Q19

The Seekers achieved major success in the 1960's, there were numerous reunions of the group in the following decades.

Marks: 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for deleting the apostrophe from 1960's
0.5 marks for fixing the comma splice

SOLUTION:

The Seekers achieved major success in the 1960s. There were numerous reunions of the group in the following decades.

Alternative edit:

The Seekers achieved major success in the 1960s, there were numerous reunions of the group in the following decades.

Other edits may be possible.

Q20

In the alpine areas of New Zealand's South Island, temperatures can go as low as –10 °C in winter.

Marks: 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for selecting OK to show that no change is needed

SOLUTION:

OK

Multiple-choice questions (21–24)

Marks: each correct choice is worth 1 mark.

Q21

Which sentence contains an example of a passive verb?

- A It's really regrettable that these mistakes occurred.
- B More than fifty people have died in the flu outbreak.
- C Management has decided to axe the incentive program.
- D She's never won an Oscar, though she's been nominated four times.**

Q22

Which sentence contains a spelling error?

- A The mayor's incumbency has been beset by controversy from the beginning.
- B There have been embarrassing allegations of staff harassment and favouritism.**
- C Now there's an overseas trip with lavish accommodation and exorbitant restaurant bills.
- D It was a wanton display of sheer profligacy and arrogance!

Q23

Which sentence does NOT contain an adverb?

- A 'If you want my honest opinion, it was a mean, spiteful thing to do,' Sienna declared.**
- B Construction work on the Eastern Bridge is almost complete.
- C The Treasurer was unable to attend so the Finance Minister went instead.
- D 'I have my sources,' he replied frostily.

Q24

Which sentence is correct?

- A Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), also known as potato vine, is an invasive plant native to South America.
- B Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), also known as potato vine, is an invasive plant native to South America.**
- C Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), also known as potato vine is an invasive plant native to South America.
- D Madeira vine (*Anredera cordifolia*), also known as potato vine is an invasive plant native to South America.