

USING EXAMPRO HIGHLIGHTS FOR GCSE ENGLISH

CPD for the department – a few starter ideas

A Trial Marking Exercise

1. Conduct a trial marking exercise with all English staff.
 - Print out the exemplar scripts and mark scheme for one of the key questions.
 - Issue them a week before the training session.
2. At the meeting discuss the grades that were awarded and then evaluate the reasoning.
3. Now look at the examiner-marked scripts in Exampro English Highlights.
4. Compare the outcomes and discuss the scripts that were most at variance or most in tune with the professional markers.
5. Discuss how you could use this exercise to moderate marking if you use these papers as a mock exam.
6. Finish the session by summing up the insights you have gained. Draw up a short list of tips for students about how to make the most of exams.
7. When working on the new specification, discuss similarities and differences between the old and new specs. Think about how you can use these similarities and differences to inform your planning and teaching.

B Assessment Objectives

1. Look at the assessment objectives that have been used for each question and then track how they are used to inform the writing and wording of the questions and, subsequently, the marking.
2. Would these insights be helpful for students? How could you share these ideas with your students effectively?

C Focus

1. Select a focus, like the use of quotations to support statements, from the framework used by examiners.
2. Switch off the highlights that are not relevant and go through the exemplar scripts with your chosen focus in mind.
3. Discuss how you could plan lessons based on your discoveries. You could look at two or more contrasting exemplars – one where the candidate was successful compared with one where the candidate found the skill challenging.
4. Try to identify these contrasting exemplars in the CPD session and evaluate if there is any advice to pass on that will improve your students' skills so they can respond more efficiently, keep their comments relevant, make effective vocabulary choices and so on.

D 'Translating' the Exampro English Highlights exemplars for use by students

1. Project and explore the *Summative comments* from a range of scripts.

The screenshot displays the Exampro English Highlights interface. On the left, a vertical navigation menu shows buttons for '1', '2', '3', '4', and 'all'. The main content area is titled 'Response 1' and contains three paragraphs of text. The first paragraph is a general agreement. The second paragraph quotes the text and highlights a specific semantic field of negativity. The third paragraph also discusses the semantic field of negativity. Below the text are buttons for '[COMMENT]' and '[MARK]'. On the right, a filter menu is visible with a 'show/hide all' checkbox and a 'Filter: All' dropdown. The filter menu lists several categories, all of which are checked: 'Evaluation of effect', 'Understanding of methods', 'Quotation/textual evidence', 'Response to statement', 'Summative comment', and 'Mark'. Below the filter menu, a yellow box contains a summative comment: 'Clear and relevant evaluation; clear understanding of writer's methods - although benefit of doubt given to candidate with "semantic field of negativity" consisting of "once".' This is followed by a paragraph of advice: 'This response could have been improved by an evaluation of a wider range of ideas and also a greater focus on writer's methods, especially by considering the effects of more than one example of a semantic field.' Below the advice, the text 'Level 3' is displayed.

2. Plan how you will convey the implicit rules and explicit advice to the classes you teach.
3. Organise how you will deploy Exampro English Highlights for your classes. Will you create a set of PowerPoint slides with hyperlinks to Highlights? Will you print A3 copies of the exemplars for pairs and groups to annotate, discuss and debate?
4. Look at other advice given in the rest of the annotations and work with students to translate the key information into language that they can assimilate and act upon.
5. Based on the examiners' comments, draw up a set of questions for students such as:
 - How do I work out what the question wants me to do?
 - How do I use quotations effectively?
 - How do I move from statements of fact, to interpretation, to perceptive comment?
 - How do I show sophisticated analysis without writing huge amounts?
 - How do I avoid writing irrelevant material and wasting time?

Using Exampro English Highlights with students

A DIY Marking Exercise – student focus

1. Print out an exemplar script, duplicate it and ask the class to work in pairs to assess it using the mark scheme. Each pair should give the response a mark.
2. Select a few pairs to come to the front and explain the rationale for their mark.
3. Now look at the same examiner-marked script in Exampro English Highlights.
4. Finish the lesson by discussing points of new or improved understanding.
5. Each student draws up a short list of things to remember and practise.
6. Share these and compile a whole class list on a whiteboard.

B Analysing the Question

1. Look at the language choices in the questions on the exam paper. Use Exampro English Highlights to track how various candidates have understood and responded to the key words in the questions – especially where they have been particularly successful or unsuccessful.
2. Compile a list of 'Dos and Don'ts' based on this exercise.

C Mocks

1. Set the paper as a mock exam.
2. Use the exemplars to ensure your own marking is to the AQA standard.
3. Use Exampro English Highlights to enliven the post-test analysis by looking at the way other students handled the same challenge.