

THE BLUEPRINT FOR A/L GENERAL ENGLISH

Progress Today. **Greatness** Tomorrow.

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THE FINAL GRADE EQUATION

$$[\text{Paper I (60)} + \text{Paper II (140)}] \div 2 = \text{Final Score (100)}$$

PAPER I

60

marks · raw weight

FINAL

100

/ 100 SCALE

PAPER II

140

marks · raw weight

THE EQUALISER EFFECT Paper II contains more than twice the total marks of Paper I, yet they contribute equally to your final grade. Excellence in one paper can strategically compensate for minor setbacks in the other.

TWO DISTINCT BATTLEGROUND

	PAPER I	PAPER II
Core Focus	Foundational Accuracy	Advanced Application
Total Marks	60	140
Time Allocation	120 minutes	180 minutes
Key Competencies	Technical grammar, precise vocabulary, basic comprehension	Complex reading analysis, practical communication, extended writing

STRATEGIC SHIFT Paper I tests your mechanics; Paper II tests your manoeuvres.

ANATOMY OF PAPER I

PAPER I 60 MARKS

PART A — GRAMMAR & VOCABULARY (35)

Q1

Fixed prepositions 5 marks

Q2

Verb forms & tenses 10 marks

Q3-Q4

Word choice & context 15 marks

Q5

Word endings (morphology) 5 marks

PART B — READING & WRITING (25)

Q6

Paraphrasing logic 5 marks

Q7

News item comprehension 10 marks

Q8

Paragraph development 10 marks

35 of 60 marks sit in Part A — **mechanical accuracy is more than half the paper.**

ANATOMY OF PAPER II

PAPER II 140 MARKS

PART A — READING SKILLS

50 MARKS

- Contextual vocabulary (10)
- Letter comprehension (10)
- Poetry analysis (5)
- Summary completion (5)
- Extended analysis (20)

PART B — COMMUNICATION

25 MARKS

- Situational responses (5)
- Dialogue completion (5)
- Dialogue creation (15)

TARGET: HIGHEST-ROI SECTION

PART C — WRITING SKILLS

65 MARKS

- Sentence construction
- Data description
- Letter writing
- Extended essays

25 communication marks reward learnable social formulas — **the fastest marks on the paper.**

MORPHOLOGICAL AWARENESS

ROOT WORD

COMPETE

One root → four
grammatical functions

NOUN GEAR

-tion -ment -ity -ness

compete → **competition**

ADJECTIVE GEAR

-able -al -ive -ous

compete → **competitive**

VERB GEAR

-ize -en -ify

compete → **compete**

ADVERB GEAR

-ly -wise

compete → **competitively**

STRATEGIC APPLICATION Identifying the required grammatical function in the sentence blank (noun, verb, adverb or adjective) automatically dictates which suffix gear to engage for Paper I, Q5.

THE PREPOSITION MATRIX

TIME Pinpoint vs. duration**at** specific time — at noon**on** days / dates — on Monday**in** months / years — in 2024**PLACE** Scale of location**at** specific point — at the station**in** enclosed space — in Colombo**on** surface — on the table**MOVEMENT** Directional flow**to** destination**into** entering**through** passing**FIXED COLLOCATIONS** The non-negotiables**interested in** learning**afraid of** spiders**argue with** someone**TACTIC NOTE** Never guess. Memorise the fixed combinations — they are hardcoded into the English language.

THE TIME MANAGEMENT EQUATION

$$(\text{Question Marks} \div \text{Total Paper Marks}) \times \text{Available Time} = \text{Minutes Allocated}$$

WORKED EXAMPLE — PAPER 1, QUESTION 2 (VERB FORMS)

STEP 1 Variables: 10 marks available ÷ 60 total marks

STEP 2 Multiplier: × 120 minutes (total exam time)

STEP 3 Result: = 20 minutes strictly allocated

RULE OF ENGAGEMENT Treat these time limits as absolute boundaries. When the time expires, move on. Unfinished sentences cost fewer marks than entirely unattempted sections.

THE 3-PHASE ATTACK BAR



SCAN 5%

REVIEW 10%

PHASE 1 - SCAN

5% OF TIME

Action Read ALL questions first without writing.

Objective Load the parameters into working memory and identify low-hanging fruit.

PHASE 2 - ATTACK

85% OF TIME

Action Answer strictly in order of confidence, not chronological order.

Objective Secure guaranteed marks early to build psychological momentum.

PHASE 3 - REVIEW

10% OF TIME

Action Re-read answers backwards. Check grammar, subject-verb agreement, completeness.

Objective Eliminate unforced mechanical errors.

THE ELIMINATION + SUBSTITUTION FILTER

1

THE LOGIC FILTER (ELIMINATE)

Instantly discard obviously wrong grammatical or contextual outliers — four options become two.

2

THE CONTEXT SLOT (SUBSTITUTE)

Mentally substitute the remaining options into the blank space in the sentence.

3

THE RESONANCE TEST (VOCALISE)

Read aloud in your mind. Which collocation sounds like natural English?

4

THE FINAL OUTPUT (VERIFY)

Check that the original meaning is perfectly preserved.

**FOUR PASSES,
ONE ANSWER**

Each pass narrows the field —
by step 4 only the correct
option survives.

SKIM, SCAN, INFER

CONCEPT 1 — SKIM VS. SCAN

SKIM

Reading rapidly for the main idea — seeing the forest.

SCAN

Hunting for specific data points — finding the trees.

CONCEPT 2 — THE LOGIC OF EVIDENCE (T / F / NG)

TRUE

The statement is directly stated or clearly implied within the text boundary.

FALSE

The statement explicitly contradicts the text.

NOT GIVEN

The information is entirely absent from the text.

THE TRAP Do not let outside knowledge pollute the text. If you have to guess, it is NOT GIVEN.

THE PERFECT PARAGRAPH

Five blocks, stacked in order — every high-scoring paragraph is built, not improvised.

BLOCK 1

THE ANCHOR — TOPIC SENTENCE The core argument. E.g., *“Technology has transformed communication.”*

BLOCK 2

SUPPORT I — EVIDENCE A concrete example. E.g., *“Social media, instant messaging.”*

BLOCK 3

SUPPORT II — EXPANSION The broader impact. E.g., *“Global internet access, mobile connectivity.”*

BLOCK 4

CONSEQUENCE — IMPACT The positive or negative effect on society.

BLOCK 5

THE CAPSTONE — CONCLUSION Restate the significance; seal the paragraph.

MASTERING DIALOGUES

13

PAPER II • PART B

25

MARKS

The core competency: pragmatics. This section tests social conventions, not just vocabulary. You must adapt to the context.

THE 4-POINT CHECKLIST FOR DIALOGUES

1

RELATIONSHIP Are you speaking to a doctor, a friend, or an employer?

2

PURPOSE Are you apologising, requesting, or advising?

3

TURN-TAKING Does the conversation flow naturally and move the plot forward?

4

REGISTER Is the tone appropriately formal or informal for the social dynamic?

THE 4-PHASE ROADMAP

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PHASE 1

FOUNDATION BUILDING

Master the 50 key preposition collocations, 12 verb tenses, and suffix word families.

PHASE 2

READING PROWESS

Drill skim / scan techniques.
Master the boundaries of True / False / Not Given logic using past papers.

PHASE 3

WRITING EXCELLENCE

Shift from writing to planning.
Spend 5-10 minutes outlining the architecture of essays and letters before drafting.

PHASE 4

INTEGRATION & TECHNIQUE

Simulate the environment.
Execute timed past papers, adhere strictly to the Time Management Formula, and review against marking criteria.

PREPARATION MEETS STRATEGY

THE WINNING EQUATION



LINGUISTIC ACCURACY

- Precision in verb tenses.
- Mastery of fixed collocations.
- Architectural paragraph structuring.

+

CALCULATED STRATEGY

- Mathematical time allocation.
- The Elimination + Substitution filter.
- Targeting high-ROI sections (dialogues).

Success in A/L General English is not merely about knowing the language — **it is about engineering your performance.**

