

Writing: Technical accuracy

Introduction and advice

Technical accuracy covers a number of aspects including spelling, punctuation and **grammar**. Technical accuracy is extremely important as it accounts for a lot of marks. In the writing sections of Paper 1 and Paper 2, technical accuracy accounts for 40 per cent of the marks. Even in the English Literature exams some marks are given for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG).

The six aspects of technical accuracy covered are:

- 1 Sentence demarcation
- 2 Punctuation
- 3 Sentences
- 4 Standard English
- 5 Spelling
- 6 Vocabulary


To get the most marks possible, you need to use all six aspects accurately, appropriately and effectively.

Sentence demarcation

Put simply, sentence demarcation is about using capital letters and full stops to mark the beginnings and ends of **sentences**. Sentences can also end with exclamation marks and question marks, where appropriate.


Below is some writing by a student. Five capital letters, three full stops, one question mark and one exclamation mark have been removed.

WORKIT!



we cannot go on spoiling the planet we live on in just a few decades we have dug up and burnt the fossil fuels that nature took millions of years to create how much longer will we be able to carry on doing this we must stop it now our children and grandchildren will not thank us for using up all the planet's resources before they are even born

DO IT!



Copy out the writing and put in the sentence demarcations as you go.

On the following page are extracts from two different sorts of texts: a novel and an advertisement. In both cases, the capital letters and punctuation have been left out so that the beginning and end of the sentences are not shown.