

**Qualifying Examination for the Post of Correctional Officer within the
Correctional Services Agency
April 2026 – Marking Scheme**

Section A: Reading

50 marks

Task A1 Read the text and answer the questions which follow.

12 marks

A. Look at the text and underline the correct answer.

5 marks

1. The aim of this text is to (**instruct**, persuade, narrate).
2. This text focusses on ways people can become more (organised, technical, **appealing**).
3. When speaking, we give ourselves (**less**, the same, more) time than the listener would.
4. When communicating, what you say is (**less**, as, more) important than how you say it.
5. The author invites readers to access more of his content via (email, **social media**, text message).

B. According to the information provided, are the following sentences True (T) or False (F)? Tick (✓) the correct answer below.

5 marks

		T	F
1.	SHR stands for Seen, Heard and Respected.		F✓
2.	Waiting for a few seconds and making eye contact helps with confidence.	T✓	
3.	Research from multiple sources confirms that joking helps others feel better.		F✓
4.	One way to be funnier is to include extra detail.	T✓	
5.	Complaining can be the same as standing up for yourself.		F✓

C. These four icons are missing from the text. Match the icon with the rule by writing the four correct numbers under the icon.

2 marks



6



2



5



4

Task A2**(38 marks)****Read the text and answer all the questions that follow.**

Underline the correct answer.

1. Which is the best title for the text? 1 mark
 - a. The Jetsons Are Here: Meet Your New Robot Maid
 - b. A Robot That Could Change Household Chores**
 - c. The Rise of Smart Appliances in Modern Homes

2. The aim of the text is to 1 mark
 - a. entertain.
 - b. persuade.
 - c. inform.**

3. The sentence 'That vision might be closer than you think' (line 2) suggests that 1 mark
 - a. the concept of household robots is a near reality.**
 - b. the futuristic idea of robot-assisted homes is far away.
 - c. robots will completely replace humans in all tasks soon.

4. Below are the missing subheadings for the four paragraphs **A** to **D** in the text. Write the correct letter of each paragraph in the space below. 4 marks

Subheading	Paragraph
The Big Question	D
What Is NEO?	A
Challenges & Roadblocks	C
How It Works	B

5. Fill in this fact file with information about the robot found in the text. 3 marks

	Information	
a.	NEO	The name of the robot
b.	1X Tech	The name of the company that created the robot
c.	1.68 metres	The height of the robot
d.	25 kg	The weight the robot can hold and move with
e.	2027	The date when the robot will be available in Malta
f.	\$20,000	The price of the robot

6. In a paragraph of between 60 to 70 of your own words, summarise the problems the robot still has found in paragraph C. 10 marks

SUMMARY - 10 MARKS	
Identification of facts – 6 marks	
6 marks	1. Cost barrier 2. Task complexity and variability 3. Safety, reliability and trust 4. Privacy Concerns 5. Task scope limitations 6. Consumer readiness (6 x ½m = identification of salient point = 3 marks) (6 x ½m = paraphrasing of salient point = 3 marks)
Accuracy - 2 marks	
2 marks	Grammatical structures and syntax are accurate.
1.5 marks	Grammatical structures and syntax are mostly accurate.
1 mark	Grammatical structures are limited and mostly inaccurate.
0 marks	Grammatical structures are very limited and inaccurate.
Organisation & Structure - 2 marks	
2 marks	Writing is well organised and structured. Good use of linking words.
1.5 marks	Writing is adequately organised and fairly structured. Adequate use of linking words.
1 mark	Writing is poorly organised and barely structured. Few linking words.
0 marks	Writing is very poorly organised and unstructured.
	No linking words.
Important Points for Markers	
• No marks to be awarded for organisation and structure unless at least 3 of the points included. • 1 mark is to be deducted from the total if the summary is longer or shorter than the indicated number of words.	

7. Are the following statements True (T) or False (F)?
Underline the correct answer and give a reason. 7 marks

a. The robot is meant to be used at home.

T/F because **A robot designed to handle everyday domestic chores**

b. The robot can become annoyed when asked to do many chores.

T/F because **Without complaints**

c. The robot can use a knife successfully.

T/F because **Avoids tasks involving sharp objects**

d. The robot listens to human instructions.

T/F because **Operates via voice commands**

e. The robot learns what you like and adjusts to your needs.

T/F because **learn preferences, and adapt**

f. The robot can play music.

T/F because **Even includes entertainment features like a speaker system**

g. To keep using the robot you need to make a one-time payment.

T/F because **Monthly subscription**

8. What do the following words, found in bold in the text, refer to? 3 marks

it (line 9)	Neo / the humanoid home robot
them (line 20)	commands
these (line 25)	hurdles
that (line 26)	affordability barrier
their (line 30)	of the customers / customers'
you (line 43)	reader

9. From lines 6-15, find **ONE** word which means: 3 marks

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| a. fitted | equipped |
| b. carry out | perform |
| c. fake | synthetic |
| d. copy | mimic |
| e. planned | scheduled |
| f. wider | broad |

10. Which picture would best fit this text? Tick (✓) the correct answer. 1 mark



A ☐



B ☒



C ☐

11. a) Underline the correct answer. The writer is (seriously doubtful, **cautiously optimistic**, overly enthusiastic) about the robot. 1 mark

b) Quote a part-sentence of 8 words from lines 40 – 45 to support your answer.

1 mark

NEO is the prototype of a future helper.

c) In your own words, give FOUR reasons why the writer feels this way. ½ mark

x 4 = 2 marks

- ☐ **NEO does real chores** that many households need help with, so its usefulness is genuine. **If it works well, the value is tangible**, meaning it can make a real difference in daily life.
- ☐ **It's a prototype of a future helper**, signalling that the technology will improve over time.
- ☐ **Early adopters are part of the future**, but the author warns that waiting could mean better features at a lower cost.
- ☐ **It's still early and not a quick fix**, so the author tempers enthusiasm with realism because it is too early.

Section B: Writing

50 marks

Task B1

10 marks

Answer the following question.

You are Sam Smith. This morning, an unauthorised individual had entered a restricted area at your workplace. Your line manager has asked you to complete the Incident Report Form below in 70-80 words.

Short writing task

Informs	the direct superior with all the details (venue, date, time)	1	1/2	0
Describes	what happened during the incident	2	1	0
Uses	appropriate formal register	1	1/2	0
Uses	a range of appropriate vocabulary	1	1/2	0
Uses	accurate grammatical structures	2	1	0
Uses	devices to make writing coherent and cohesive	1	1/2	0
Punctuation		1	1/2	0
Spelling		1	1/2	0
10 MARKS				

1 mark is to be deducted from the total if the writing task is 5 words shorter than 70 or longer than 80 words.

2 marks is to be deducted from the total if the writing task is 6 words or more shorter than 70 or longer than 80 words.

Section B: Writing					Task B2
Long Writing Task 40 marks	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically	Candidates characteristically
	5	4	3	2	1 - 0
Task achievement (content, relevance, text type features) (5 marks)	- Task is achieved in full - Content is completely relevant - Text type features are entirely appropriate	- Task is achieved quite well - Content is mostly relevant - Text type features are mostly appropriate	- Task is achieved in part - Content is not always relevant - Text type features are not always appropriate	- Task is hardly achieved - Content is under-developed - Text type features are minimally appropriate	- Task is not achieved - Content is irrelevant - Text type features are not appropriate
	5	4	3	2	1 - 0
Organisation and Linking (Coherence and Cohesion) (5 marks)	- Structure and organise their writing in a cogent manner - Cohesive devices are varied and link together well	- Structure and organise their writing into a coherent prose - Cohesive devices are quite varied and generally correct	- Paragraph and sentence structure are fairly correct though unambitious - Cohesive devices are rather limited	Paragraph and sentence structure show lack of control	No attempt to structure and organise their writing
	10 – 9	8 – 7	6 - 5	4 - 3	2 - 0
Grammar and accuracy (10 marks)	- Varied and accurate grammatical structures and syntax - Excellent choice of expression	- Mostly accurate grammatical structures and syntax - Quite varied grammatical structures - Good choice of expression	- Grammatical structures and syntax are rather basic and sometimes inaccurate - Adequate choice of expression but with some inaccuracies	- Grammatical structures and syntax are limited and mostly inaccurate - Limited choice of expression and with some inaccuracies	- Grammatical structures and syntax are inaccurate - Very poor choice of expression and inaccurate

	10 – 9	8 – 7	6 - 5	4 - 3	2 - 0
Vocabulary and Register (10 marks)	• <i>Wide-ranging and appropriate vocabulary</i> • <i>Good use of register</i>	• <i>Good range and appropriate vocabulary</i> • <i>Appropriate use of register</i>	• <i>Choice of vocabulary is unambitious and sometimes inaccurate</i> • <i>Adequate use of register but with some inaccuracies</i>	• <i>Limited vocabulary, possibly seen in the repetition of words</i> • <i>Not sensitive to the choice of register</i>	• <i>Very limited and inappropriate choice of vocabulary</i> • <i>Register is ignored</i>
	5	4	3	2	1 - 0
Punctuation (5 marks)	<i>Accurate use of punctuation</i>	<i>Good use of punctuation</i>	<i>Adequate use of punctuation but some errors</i>	<i>Punctuation use is rather poor</i>	<i>Punctuation use is very poor</i>
Spelling (5 marks)	<i>Spelling is accurate. 0 mistakes = 5 marks</i>	<i>Spelling of low-frequency words mostly accurate. 1-2 mistakes = 4½ marks 3-4 mistakes = 4 marks</i>	<i>Spelling of low-frequency words fairly accurate. 5 mistakes = 3½ marks 6 mistakes = 3 marks</i>	<i>Spelling of low-frequency words fairly accurate. 7 mistakes = 2½ marks 8 mistakes = 2 marks</i>	<i>Spelling of low- and high-frequency words mostly inaccurate. 9 mistakes = 1 mark 10 mistakes = ½ mark 10+ mistakes = 0 marks</i>