

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 5

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for the coursework assessment task.

The candidate was awarded **15 marks**.

Topic: *“The importance of free will and choice – a comparative study of the characters of Mark Renton in Trainspotting and Alex in A Clockwork Orange.”*

Task

These texts have been a popular choice for study at this level for a number of years. The task is a straightforward one with the potential for a range of responses.

Knowledge and Understanding

The candidate displays knowledge and understanding of key elements of both texts and their approach to the task is relevant. The focus on *Trainspotting* is somewhat narrower than that on *A Clockwork Orange*. The former examines Renton to the exclusion of almost all other considerations (the opening quotation would suggest some examination of the social context in which the character operates) while the latter does examine wider society to an extent.

Analysis

There is relevant analysis of literary technique, primarily characterisation, while analysis of features of language consists in the main of close reading of fairly lengthy quotations, although this includes a slight misreading of one quotation. There is some use of secondary sources which the candidate uses to further the argument.

Evaluation

There is a discernible evaluative stance taken to the texts, primarily the two characters identified in the task, although the candidate's response to Alex is more firmly and accurately based on textual evidence than is the case with Renton, where the response is less securely justified in textual terms.

Expression

The horizontal structure of the dissertation allows for a comparative approach throughout. The argument is broadly relevant to the task although not always justified in textual terms.

Range: this dissertation meets the criteria for the range 18-15.

Mark: because of the inconsistencies and unevenness identified above, the definitive mark is 15.