Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 7

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

The candidate was awarded **28 marks.**

> **Topic***: "An examination of the importance of community and language in female emancipation from social oppression, focusing on The Color Purple by Alice Walker and Beloved by Toni Morrison."*

Task
This is an appropriate, clear and straightforward task which identifies the twin foci of the dissertation, helpfully providing a framework around which the candidate can construct their response.

Knowledge and Understanding
There is a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the texts with sustained insight into the issues selected for discussion. There is an overview of the two texts, then two headed sections on the issues from the task. The dissertation is clearly focused on the demands of the task and the candidate shows an ability to extend their argument beyond mere identification and reference.

There is extensive relevant textual reference, both quotation and indirect reference, and it is skilfully used to further the argument: quotation and foot references.

Analysis
There is relevant analysis of a range of literary techniques and features of language which skilfully strengthen the line of argument: primarily an acute analysis of characterisation and the relationships between characters throughout, but also authorial comment, metaphor, language, structure.

Evaluation
There is a committed and clear stance with respect to the texts based both on the candidate's presented evidence and on the judicious use of secondary sources. The candidate's personal reaction to the texts is clearly conveyed through the quality of the analysis. The treatment of *Beloved*, however, is to a degree stronger than that of *The Color Purple* in terms of the development of the argument regarding community and language.

Expression
There is a skilful and considered use of structure, style and language to develop an argument with a sustained focus. The candidate's ability to link the stages of the argument and move between texts is impressive. However, the use of section headings is unhelpful as the candidate does not always fulfil what the heading promises, especially the section "Power of language/communication" which concentrates on structure to a considerable degree.

Range**:** this dissertation meets almost all the criteria for the range 30-27.

Mark: because of the imbalance in the quality of the treatment of the two texts and the fact that expression is on balance *skilful* rather than *skilful and considered*, the definitive mark is 28.