

Introduction

The materials in this document have been prepared to exemplify the marking of candidate work in the Advanced Higher English Literary Study question paper. The questions are based on an early version of the specimen question paper which is no longer available on our website.

The work of seven candidates has been marked and explanations of how marks have been awarded have been provided. These are presented in the form of an extended commentary on each essay.

Some essays have been typed by candidates. Responses have not been corrected or edited in any way.

Commentary on candidate evidence

The candidate evidence has achieved the following marks for each question of this course assessment component.

Candidate 4

Discuss some of the ways by which poetry explores aspects of change. In your answer you should refer to three poems.

The candidate was awarded **15/20 marks** for this response.

The candidate identifies the aspects of change to be discussed in Eliot's poetry: 'changing society... due to the ruination after the First World War' and then 'change in morals as the authority of the church and religion lost their impact on society'. This is evidence of a relevant and thoughtful approach.

The candidate makes a relevant choice of text and focus in the second paragraph and proceeds to make a detailed reading of the character of Prufrock as one of the ways Eliot explores aspects of change. Relevant reference to Hamlet implies change through the 'indecisive personality' of the character. Evidence of a task-appropriate range of literary techniques being used to strengthen the line of argument is present on the second page of the essay. The essay shows potential to move toward the second range of marks, with biblical references and a well-selected reference to *The Hollow Men* to reinforce the line of argument.

The candidate concludes this section by making an evidence-based evaluation on the thematic treatment of 'human desires in a changing era'.

The candidate moves on to another aspect of human behaviour, 'the effect of war on the human psyche', and focuses on *The Hollow Men* for this. A secondary source is reasonably well-deployed to develop the line of argument which is successfully developed on the third page of the essay through analysis of word choice, representation and symbolism. The candidate then introduces the third text *The Waste Land* to develop Eliot's view of the effect of war on the living. This section is also concluded by an evaluative judgement based on these references.

However, the treatment of the third aspect of change is more limited — a relevant quotation is supplied for the change in religion.

The candidate then makes a limited concluding statement.

Knowledge and understanding

This candidate demonstrates a broad knowledge and understanding of the texts and has approached the question in a relevant and thoughtful way. The use of textual evidence is relevant to the demands of the question.

Analysis

There is evidence of a task-appropriate range of literary techniques being used to strengthen the line of argument on two of the texts. However, this is not sustained throughout the response.

Evaluation

There is a discernible and relevant evaluative stance based on evidence discussed within the response.

Technical accuracy

The essay meets the requirement for accuracy.

Because of the mixed profile in the analysis offered by the candidate, holistic judgement means the essay can be placed at the top of the 15 to 13 marks range and is awarded 15 marks out of 20.