

Commentaries on candidate evidence

The evidence for the candidates within this pack has achieved the following marks for this course assessment component.

Candidate 1

Portfolio title: Justice can be bought. With reference to a German–language text, discuss to what extent you agree or disagree with this statement. ‘The scales of justice are tilted by money’

The candidate was awarded **24 marks** because.....

Content

The choice of essay title allows the candidate to have a focus for the study and throughout the candidate does put forward reasoned and relevant arguments, using evidence from the play *Der Besuch der alten Dame* to support these. There is an understanding of the focus of study and some attempts at analysis.

Style

The essay flows well and any use of evidence from the text is integrated well. There is some narrative in the piece of work but really only what is necessary to convey the focus of the essay and ensure the reader has all the facts. The conclusion is strong and helps the essay overall.

Organisation

This essay has an adequate sense of structure which allows the candidate to address the title. The work is coherent but with a slight weakness at the start. There is ongoing academic discussion about whether *Der Besuch der alten Dame* is actually set in the author’s home country of Switzerland. Clearly, the candidate’s early statement does not detract from the essay.

Candidate 2

Portfolio title: Discuss the effect of war on the soldiers

The candidate was awarded **12 marks** because.....

Content

This candidate's work is disadvantaged by a vague title which does not even make reference to the literature involved. As a result there is a lack of focus and structure. This is a hurdle which the candidate is unable to overcome and displays fully the importance of having an appropriate title.

Style

The candidate does find it difficult to go beyond the merely informative, as s/he retells some of the events of the novel. There is little evidence from sources to support any attempt at conclusion and there is a lack of any critical terminology or specific vocabulary. Analysis is very weak, if there is any.

Organisation

We must accept there is some structure in the writing but the essay remains a narrative of what the candidate sees as the most important events in the book.

At the end there is an attempt to draw the essay to a conclusion. However without an appropriate title and something to work towards the conclusion is limited.

The essay is also too very short when the German quotations are taken into account.

Candidate 3

Portfolio title: None given

The candidate was awarded **6 marks** because.....

Content

This candidate's work is weak from the beginning since there is no specific title for the candidate to work towards or be guided by. With such a clear lack of focus the candidate can only display a superficial and narrative understanding. This lack of focus leads to an attempt at a merely informative approach.

Style

There is little attempt at critical terminology or specialist vocabulary and the structure is weak throughout. There is a lack of coherence with no overall argument being presented.

Organisation

The essay is short. The bibliography, although present, is limited and all quotations are translated. The essay even opens with the title of the novella translated into English, which begs the question of the candidate possibly only having read the text in English.

Candidate 4

Portfolio title: 'Jenseits der Stille' : a comparative study of how the film and the novel enhance our understanding of what it is to be deaf.

The candidate was awarded **30 marks** because.....

Content

The title is precise and guides both the candidate's thinking and the reader's expectations. The candidate demonstrates a clear understanding of the focus of study and displays an analytical approach.

Style

Although at times the candidate adopts an informative approach, this does not take away from the structure of the essay. Indeed it provides information which allows the candidate to further address the title. The vocabulary used enhances the content and the organisation of the essay.

Organisation

The whole essay is well structured and relevant. The work is coherent throughout.

Throughout the candidate provides detailed evidence from sources to support conclusions made.