

Commentary on candidate evidence

Candidate 1

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

Dissertation title: 'How important was the contribution of Dr D F Malan to the growth of Afrikaner nationalism by 1948?'

Structure: Introduction

The candidate was awarded credit in the **45-50 mark range** for this introduction and writes with clarity and insight, demonstrating right at the beginning of the dissertation that they have a firm understanding of the issue and clear direction.

The candidate efficiently sets the issue in context and presents the main interpretations fluently and in a manner which shows prioritisation of the debates. There is a definitive structure set out in the introduction which, if the candidate were to then follow, the structure would likely be awarded credit in the 45-50 mark range.

A clear and focussed argument is presented. Already in this introduction the candidate has shown good breadth of research and a real grasp of the issues they will go on to explore. It is aided by the clarity with which they write. Brief introductions are also offered in each subsequent chapter in order to set up their argument.

Thoroughness/ relevance of information and approach

Analysis, evaluation and line of argument

Historical sources/interpretations

The candidate was awarded marks in the **45-50 mark range** for thoroughness/relevance of information and approach; analysis, evaluation and line of argument; and in use of historical sources/interpretations as evinced by this part of a chapter on the importance of Malan in the development of Afrikaner culture. This is because of their engagement with and understanding of the issue and their ability to progress and advance their argument throughout the chapter (and subsequently the dissertation as a whole should they continue in this manner).

Thoroughness/ relevance of information and approach: The candidate has clearly embarked on a wide range of serious reading from which they draw their weighty and broad evidence. This goes beyond 'wide' research as the candidate displays some mastery in applying the knowledge in order to advance their argument and engage with debate. Evidence is clearly linked to points of analysis and evaluation throughout the section and, should the candidate continue in this

manner, the dissertation would be credited in the **45-50 mark range** in this element.

Analysis, evaluation and line of argument: The candidate pursues their argument throughout this section, using evidence to counter opposing historical interpretations with confidence. Sub-conclusions evident at the end of this section bring the evidence back round to focus on the issue precisely and the candidate uses synthesis to draw together their evaluative points made throughout the discussion. Their direction of argument is evident throughout and convincing. The candidate often sets up the next step of their argument when introducing a point or paragraph too.

Historical sources/interpretations: The candidate displays breadth of reading but, more importantly, their understanding of the views they present. There is the inclusion of the required primary source reference at the start of the section with reference to a Malan speech in 1908. The candidate shows a consistent awareness of the variations of interpretations, including the most current works by Koorts on Malan. This again is in the top band of available marks as the candidate engages with and critiques interpretations and shows an understanding of the nuances of primary sources.

Structure: Conclusion

The candidate was awarded marks in the **45-50 mark range** for conclusions based on conclusions throughout the dissertation and their final overall conclusion which successfully brings together prior judgements within the dissertation indicating a culmination of the candidate's argument. The conclusion arises logically from preceding evidence. This is because the candidate offers an evaluation of the key issues explored in the dissertation and presents synthesis of the factors they have explored in order to reach a firm and well supported judgement. This candidate reaches the highest range of marks in this element of the dissertation based also on the sophistication of their response. They show absolute focus on the issue they have dealt with, display an excellent understanding of wider issues and the place of Malan within the wider context of Afrikaner nationalism and South African history. Their clarity of thought is evident throughout the conclusion where the candidate also displays scholarship, style and sophistication in their final analysis. A well-considered and strong conclusion based on careful research, an excellent understanding of the question and a commitment to their argument throughout.