

Commentary on candidate evidence

Component 3: Portfolio

Candidate A

The candidate was awarded **18 marks**.

In 'Io non Ho Paura' Ammaniti conveys the image of two Italy's divided in every way. To what extent did economic divide between the North and South create social conflict amongst the people during the 1970's?

Content

The candidate is hindered from the outset by the choice of a poor essay title, consisting of a statement about the book followed by a question about the sociological climate during the period in which it is set. This awkward juxtaposition makes it difficult for the candidate to produce a single, cohesive answer. There is also a great deal of generalisation and much repetition.

Style

The essay is well-written and uses appropriate critical terminology and vocabulary. There is some evidence that the candidate has used evidence from their secondary source, but there is not enough of this and only minimal references are made to the primary source.

Organisation

The structure of the essay is good, with a clearly-defined introduction and conclusion. The introduction does, however, contain an unnecessary description of the text. The awkwardness of the title means that the remaining paragraphs, while relating to the title, lack focus and cohesion.

Candidate B

The candidate was awarded **3 marks**.

How were women treated in Sicily 1980?

Content

The title chosen is a poor one as it makes no reference to the text and does not lend itself to analytical comment, with the candidate telling the story of the text rather than attempting to write critically about it. There is also only one source provided (ie the text).

Style

The candidate has some problems with expressing herself in English and there are some points in the essay where the meaning is unclear. There is a distinct lack of critical terminology – the candidate would have benefitted from more guidance in this regard. There is also no bibliography and because of this the essay incurs a penalty of one pegged mark.

Organisation

There is some attempt at structuring, but this could be better defined and not all of the essay content is directly relevant to the title. Both these defects contribute to an overall lack of coherence.

Candidate C

The candidate was awarded **18 marks**.

“Tu sei un angelo” What features of Michelle Amitrano’s personality enable us to agree?

Content

The title chosen could be improved upon as it does not encourage critical comment and focuses instead on one limited aspect. Despite this, the candidate does manage to address the title in a full, if not always in an analytical fashion. However, the essay is too long (1797 words) and incurs a penalty of one pegged mark as it exceeds the upper limit (1500 words) by more than 150 words.

Style

The diffuse and somewhat dense nature of the candidate’s style and language make it a little difficult at times for the reader to follow the arguments being presented. There are also perhaps too many direct quotations from the text. There is good use of critical terminology and both bibliography and footnotes are well presented and managed.

Organisation

The essay shows an adequate sense of structure and is relevant to the title. It is largely coherent with some minor weaknesses in the respect.

Candidate D

The candidate was awarded **30 marks**.

To what extent is Ammaniti's portrayal of women in "Io Non Ho Paura" a true reflection of women's role in 1970's Italy?

Content

This choice of title is a good one and is fully addressed by the candidate. The level of critical analysis is high and it is obvious from the very beginning that the candidate has a very full understanding and rapport with the issues being discussed. The candidate also manages to incorporate excellent source material effectively and seamlessly into the discussion.

Style

The essay is written in a mature, thoughtful style and the statements made are fully backed up by detailed evidence from the sources. Everything is expressed directly and factually using a wide range of critical terminology and there is very good use of footnotes referring the reader to sources, as well as a useful bibliography.

Organisation

The essay is very well laid out with an effective paragraph structure and a clear conclusion. It is fully relevant to the title and presents an effective argument and analysis of it.