

Commentary on candidate evidence

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

Candidate 1

Portfolio title: How significant is symbolism in the play 'Bodas de Sangre' by Federico García Lorca' and in the film 'La novia'?

The candidate was awarded **18 marks** because.....

Content

The candidate has chosen a predictable title but one which outlines the focus of the analysis. The candidate has chosen sources which mostly support the arguments presented. There are some features of an analytical approach (although not immediately- the first three paragraphs are mostly narrative). Overall, there is some understanding of the focus of study, highlighting the knife, the moon, fire, the horse and blood, all of which are relevant. However, the attempt at analysis is superficial.

Style

The candidate presents some evidence from sources to support the conclusions made. The answer to the question is presented in the first paragraph. There is some use of critical terminology, for example "highlights/symbolises/foreshadowing/portrays/representing". The first quotation is appropriate and relevant and followed by an insightful comment relating to "foreshadowing the tragic ending of the play". Nevertheless, there is some evidence of poor English expression and syntax, for example "untraditional ways", "normal path of life" in paragraph 2 and also beginning a sentence with the word "Demonstrating" near the bottom of page 1. "Ramble to him" in paragraph 4 displays an inappropriate register and "fire will hurt if it burns you" is clumsily expressed.

Organisation

The candidate writes with some sense of structure albeit that this reads like just a listing of symbols. The piece may have benefited from more in-depth treatment of fewer symbols. There is a need to explain the examples of symbolism more effectively. The writing is mostly relevant to the title but there is not a lot of reference to the film throughout. The conclusion is quite superficial and could be developed more by relating back to the title. This detracts a little from the overall impression despite the writing being largely coherent.

Candidate 2

Portfolio title: Analyse the ways in which Manuel Rivas conveys the three different types of love (friendship, adolescent and lust) in the three short stories from ¿Qué me quieres amor? (La lengua de las Mariposas, Un Saxo en la Niebla, and Carmiña) and in the film adaptation directed by José Luis Cuerda ‘La Lengua de las Mariposas’

The candidate was awarded **27 marks** because.....

Content

The candidate has chosen a title which, although a bit verbose, makes clear the focus of the analysis. He/she has chosen sources which work well together and clearly support this analysis. The candidate consistently takes a critical and evaluative approach with reasoned and relevant arguments. The opening paragraph is succinct and goes straight to the heart of the essay. There are some narrative sections but these are usually followed by inferential type language to try to make sense of the events in the text or film. The candidate makes reference to film and stories and effectively weaves the three different types of love into his/her writing. Reference to “progress just as one would through life” in the last paragraph is insightful. The candidate consistently demonstrates an understanding of the focus of study.

Style

The candidate presents detailed evidence from sources to support conclusions made. Quotations are appropriate, well-chosen and relevant throughout. He/she uses a range of critical terminology, for example “reflected”, “effectively conveys”, “explores”, “affectionate image” although the reference to the use of a simile on page 3 is perhaps misguided.

Organisation

The candidate writes in a well-organised and structured way. He/she takes a compare/contrast approach which seems to work very well, particularly towards the end of the piece at the foot of page 5. The writing is coherently expressed throughout. The conclusion ties in well with the beginning of the essay and is drawn from a series of arguments relating directly to the title and chosen focus for analysis.

Other comments

“During the Spanish Civil War in 1936” in the first paragraph is not quite factually accurate. “Outbreak” may have been more appropriate.

Candidate 3

Portfolio title: **Volver: a film centred round resilient women**

The candidate has not accessed two sources in the modern language, therefore the maximum mark which may be awarded is 15.

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

Content

The candidate has chosen a title which is not framed as a question and therefore does not generate an evaluative or discursive approach. He/she has difficulty going beyond a merely informative/narrative approach with superficial treatment of the focus of study. There is some attempt at analysis at the bottom of page 1 with reference to the colour red referring to clothes and the opening credits. Attempts to examine cinematic techniques and angles are simplistic. In the middle of paragraph 2 on page 1, the candidate refers to characters that he/she feels are not important in the film and does not really develop this argument.

Style

There are no quotations at all to substantiate any of the arguments presented. There is very little evidence of critical terminology. There is some weak and unsophisticated English expression, especially in the opening paragraphs, for example "strong", "bad", "lazy". The use of the first person, for example "Personally I think" at the bottom of page 2, is anecdotal. The writing includes a factual inaccuracy. La Mancha is not on the outskirts of Madrid.

Organisation

The writing is repetitive and lacks coherence in parts. The candidate's expression is confusing at times, for example in paragraph 4 on page 2 the candidate has difficulty presenting arguments and drawing a valid conclusion. The piece is one-sided and lacks balance and the conclusion itself is very short.

Candidate 4

Portfolio title: To what extent does Laura Esquivel use the symbolism of food to enhance emotions in 'Como Agua para Chocolate'?

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

Content

The candidate has chosen a title which outlines the focus of the analysis. However, it is an obvious choice which tends to generate a one-sided argument. He/she has chosen sources, mainly the text and the film, which support this analysis. A critical/evaluative approach is taken with reasoned and relevant arguments and there is an understanding of the focus of study. Initially on page 1, the candidate largely adopts a narrative approach and there is no immediate engagement with the text/film. However, he/she becomes progressively more analytical.

Style

The candidate provides the answer to the question in the first paragraph. He/she presents evidence to support conclusions made, for example the link between the text and the film on page 2. There is some use of critical terminology, for example the focus on the suffix “-ona” on page 2, the symbol of the roses on page 3, the analysis of the author’s word choice on pages 3 and 4 and the mention of terms like “foreshadows” and “hints” on page 4. The natural/supernatural comparison, also on page 4, is insightful. The “*ni uno solo*” quote on page 2 requires the word “*escapó*” to add weight to the candidate’s reasoning. “Magical realism” is a more appropriate rendering of the literary technique. There is too much focus on specific words or phrases.

Organisation

The candidate writes in a structured way and demonstrates writing which is coherent. There is a focus on sadness, love, betrayal and compassion. He/she presents and evaluates arguments and attempts to draw conclusions which relate to the title and chosen focus for analysis.

Candidate 5

Portfolio title: Analyse the different forms Lorca uses to convey the theme of repression in La Casa de Bernarda Alba and how effective they are.

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

Content

The candidate has chosen a title which, although perhaps clumsily expressed, makes clear the focus of the analysis. He/she has chosen sources which work well and clearly support this. The essay is consistently critical and analytical. The candidate has fully immersed him/herself in the play and has teased out some subtle nuances. This is a very mature piece of writing.

Style

The candidate presents detailed evidence from sources to support the conclusions made. He/she includes a range of appropriate quotations from sources, including literary commentators, which are wholly relevant to the title of the essay. The candidate uses a range of critical terminology and maintains a high level of literacy as well as an appropriate register throughout the writing. The focus on language and stage directions on the first page is insightful as is the clear distinction between physical and emotional abuse on the first two pages.

Organisation

There is a good clear opening paragraph and the introduction paves the way for a very well organised and structured piece of work. All aspects of the essay are relevant to the title and the writing is coherent throughout. The essay flows well and is engaging and interesting to read. The candidate presents and evaluates a series of arguments and draws conclusions which relate directly to the title and chosen focus for analysis as all three elements highlighted in the introduction are examined critically and systematically.

Other comments

The metaphor of the house is not analysed in the order in which it was presented in the introduction. No source is provided for the “mar de luto” quote at the end. None of the above detracts from the overall impression.

Candidate 6

Portfolio title: To what extent does the theme of honour in ‘Crónica de una Muerte Anunciada’ by Gabriel García Márquez contrast with today’s perception of honour?

The candidate was awarded **9 marks** because.....

Content

By referring to today’s perception of honour, the candidate has chosen a title which is over-ambitious and perhaps unrealistic and which generates the inclusion of aspects of the writing which lack relevance to the focus of the essay. He/she has chosen sources, including a reference to *La Casa de Bernarda Alba*, which are not pertinent to the title and do not truly support the analysis. Any critical evaluation is mostly superficial. There is no real depth to the arguments presented by the candidate- more like unsubstantiated assertions, for example the spurious claim about terrorist attacks in paragraph 2 of the first page. On page 3, the candidate adopts a narrative approach for the most part.

Style

There is some attempt at the use of critical terminology for example “displayed”, “demonstrates”, “proving”, “shows” on the first few pages. However, the English expression is awkward in parts, for example at the end of paragraph 2 on the first page and also at the top of page 2 “as pointed to..”

Organisation

The candidate demonstrates writing which lacks structure and coherence, for example referring to ‘*La Casa de Bernarda Alba*’ as a novel, and this detracts from the overall impression. The candidate’s line of argument is inconsistent and misleading at times. The reference to the situation in Pakistan on the last page is very strange and does not have any real bearing on the concept of honour in Colombia or to the text studied, nor does it relate to the title which suggests that the concept of honour is outdated. The conclusion is poorly presented and articulated and does not refer back to the title which focuses on “To what extent...”