Commentary on candidate evidence

Assessors awarded the candidate evidence the following marks for the Portfolio.

Candidate 1

Portfolio title: To what extent does Lu Xun use a small everyday event in 'A Small Incident' to explore morality, compassion, and the narrator's personal awakening?

The candidate was awarded **24 marks**:

Content

- Title which outlines the focus of the analysis
- Sources which support analysis
- Analytical and critical approach with relevant arguments
- Demonstrates an understanding of the focus of study

The title outlines the focus of the analysis clearly. The primary source, 一件小事, is supported by analyses and critiques in Chinese. Some are introduced vaguely, for example 'According to an online analysis' on page 2. The candidate takes an analytical approach throughout. Examples used include analyses of metaphors and imagery, which consistently relate to the focus of the study.

Style

- Evidence from sources to support the conclusions made
- Appropriate quotations from sources
- Critical terminology or specialist vocabulary as appropriate
- Appropriate register, with minimal use of the first person
- Occasional poor English expression and syntax

The candidate presents evidence from the text to support the conclusions made. Quotations are given in the original Chinese, are referenced consistently and are

generally well integrated into the argument, although with some undue repetition. At times, quotations are given at length with limited comment. The candidate uses critical terminology while maintaining an appropriate register throughout, with no use of the first person. There is occasional poor English expression, but these lapses do not detract from the overall impression.

Organisation

- Writes in a structured way
- Coherent writing, with some instances of lack of clarity which do not detract from the overall impression
- Presents and evaluates arguments and attempts to draw conclusions which relate to the title and chosen focus for analysis

The introduction sets out the candidate's position and the three strands to be examined. Each paragraph is linked to one or more strands of the title, and the writing is coherent. The conclusion relates directly to the title but confirms the essay's opening position rather than evaluating it.

Candidate 2

Portfolio title: To what extent do Du Fu's poems express the effect of conflict on his reality?

The candidate was awarded **18 marks**:

Content

- Title which outlines the focus of the analysis but may not be entirely clear
- Sources which mostly support analysis
- Some features of an analytical/critical approach, with some attempt at argument and analysis
- Some understanding of the focus of study

The title outlines the focus of the analysis, but the use of the phrase 'his reality' is not entirely clear. The three poems, 春望, 月夜 and 佳人, are supported by Chinese-language critiques, although some sections closely follow these sources rather than developing the candidate's own argument. The analysis of each poem shows some features of an analytical approach, for example in the discussion of contrast and pathetic fallacy in 春望 on page 1. The question of extent is not addressed directly, which limits the understanding of the focus of study shown.

Style

- Some evidence from sources to support the conclusions made
- Quotations from sources which may not always be accurate
- Some critical terminology or specialist vocabulary as appropriate
- Mostly appropriate register
- Some poor English expression and/or syntax

The candidate presents some evidence from sources, with quotations given in the original Chinese and referenced in footnotes. Some critical terminology is used appropriately, including irony, juxtaposition and symbolism. The register is mostly

appropriate, but there are elements of poor English expression and syntax throughout, which at times affect clarity.

Organisation

- Writes with some sense of structure
- Largely coherent writing, with some instances of lack of clarity which detract from the overall impression
- Presents arguments and attempts to draw conclusions which do not always relate to the title and chosen focus for analysis

The essay is structured chronologically, treating each poem in turn, and the writing is largely coherent. However, lapses in clarity detract from the overall impression, and the links between the poems are not developed. The conclusion is brief and general and does not return to the question of extent set in the title.

Candidate 3

Portfolio title: To what extent are women liberated from patriarchal oppression in Raise the Red Lantern and Stories of the Sahara?

The candidate was awarded **9 marks**:

Content

- Sources which may not support analysis
- Difficulty going beyond a merely informative approach
- Some misunderstandings of the focus of study
- Aspects which lack relevance to the title or focus of the essay

The title outlines a clear focus and invites an evaluative approach. However, the two sources chosen, the film 大紅燈籠高高掛 and Sanmao's 撒哈拉的故事, are very different in period, genre and purpose, and they do not work well together to support the analysis. The essay is weighted heavily towards the film, and the secondary source listed in the bibliography is barely used. Much of the discussion of the film retells the plot in sequence. There are some attempts at analysis, such as the red lanterns as a symbol of power and the master's hidden face, but the candidate has difficulty going beyond a merely informative approach.

Style

- Little evidence from sources to support the conclusions made
- Some quotations from sources which may not be appropriate
- Difficulty using critical terminology or specialist vocabulary appropriately
- Some poor English expression and/or syntax
- Some factual inaccuracies

Quotations are given in Chinese with English translations, but they are often presented with little comment and provide little evidence for the conclusions drawn. Some critical terminology, such as symbolism, metaphor and foreshadowing, is

attempted, but it is not always used appropriately. The register is generally appropriate, but there is poor English expression and errors in syntax throughout, and some factual inaccuracies.

Organisation

- Writes without a clear structure, which may impact on communication
- Writing which lacks coherence in places and which detracts from the overall impression
- Difficulty presenting arguments and drawing conclusions

The two sources are treated separately, so there is no clear comparative structure. The writing lacks coherence in places, which detracts from the overall impression. The conclusion attempts to answer the title, but it is not supported by the preceding discussion.

Candidate 4

Portfolio title: The effects of Asian familial pressure on children

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**:

Content

- Title which does not generate an evaluative and/or discursive approach.
- Sources which do not work together or support analysis
- Merely informative approach
- Aspects which lack relevance to the title or focus of the essay
- Only a superficial understanding of the area of study

The title is not framed as a question and does not refer to the film studied, so it does not generate an evaluative or discursive approach. The film 年少日記 is supported by survey data from *Breakthrough*, but the two sources are not brought together: the survey findings are added at the end rather than used to support analysis of the film. Most of the essay retells the plot, giving a merely informative approach. Brief attempts at analysis, such as the rooftop foreshadowing the ending, are not developed. Broad generalisations about Asian parents lack relevance to the focus of study and show only a superficial understanding.

Style

- Little evidence from sources to support any conclusions made
- Quotations from sources which are not always appropriate
- Difficulty maintaining an appropriate register
- Little use of critical terminology or specialist vocabulary
- Poor English expression and/or syntax

Quotations from the film are mainly lines of dialogue included as part of the retelling, with little comment, so they provide little evidence for any conclusions. Critical

terminology is rarely used. The register is often informal and there is some use of the first person. There is poor English expression and errors in syntax throughout.

Organisation

- Writes without structure, which impedes communication
- Writing which lacks coherence
- Presents few arguments and conclusions

The essay follows the sequence of the film and then moves abruptly to the survey statistics, with no clear structure linking the two. The writing lacks coherence and presents few arguments. There is no conclusion, and the essay ends with quotations from the survey.