

National 5 English: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation, Critical Reading and portfolio–writing

Overview of Understanding Standards resources

This document provides an overview of what Understanding Standards resources are available for National 5 English: Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation, Critical Reading and Portfolio–writing which may be useful in supporting marking and moderation.

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation – 2019

Candidate	Question number	Marks	Comments
A	3	2/4	Third bullet point of response relies too much on lifts. Fourth bullet point – no relevant understanding shown.
A	5	2/2	Correct response (2 marks) for 'link' question.
A	6	3/6	Candidate offers lots of material, but some is based on lifts, repetitions and knowledge from outwith passage.
A	9	2/2	Responds to question 9 by correctly summarising main ideas of the passage.
B	5	0/2	0 marks for 'link' question because no directional comment offered.
B	6	3/6	Response contains lifts from passage, material that is insufficiently relevant, and one occasion where candidate (successfully) has a second attempt at one particular aspect.
B	7	0/2	Relies too heavily on lifts from passage.
B	9	1/2	Candidate's comment is not sufficiently close to 'effective conclusion' (writer's use of structure).
C	3	4/4	Marking of bullet point 3 demonstrates how 2 marks can be awarded in one part of a candidate's response (the 'condensed answer').
C	5	2/2	Unpicking of marks for 'link' question.
C	8	2/4	Candidate offers an imprecise reference in second half of response.

Candidate	Question number	Marks	Comments
C	9	1/2	Candidate given 1 mark for correct reference, but 0 marks for general comment 'the writer recaps the main points,' because no explanation given of what main points are.
D	1	3/4	Insufficient analysis offered by candidate for second reference.
D	2	0/2	No selection from passage offered, therefore 0 marks.
D	5	0/2	Candidate supplies a reference, but no directional comment made – 0 marks. Candidate also uses material from outwith the parameters of the question.

Reading for Understanding, Analysis and Evaluation – 2018

Candidate	Question number	Marks	Comment
A	1	1/2	Candidate relies too much on words from the passage.
A	2	2/5	Candidate again relies on words from passage.
A	4	2/2	Correct response for 'link' question.
A	7	1/4	Insufficient analysis offered by candidate.
A	9	1/2	Candidate offers a correct selection but deals with meaning only in accompanying comment.
B	1	1/2	In second point, candidate does not show enough understanding of ideas to be given a mark.
B	5	1/2	Correct reference identified, but insufficient analysis.
B	6	2/4	Candidate deals with material which is not sufficiently relevant to question.
C	1	2/2	Full explanation of writer's developed idea in second bullet point of response.
C	2	4/5	Example of how two bullet points from a candidate's response can be considered for the awarding of mark.
C	4	2/2	Correct response for 'link' question.
C	9	2/2	Relevant selection related accurately to earlier reference.
D	1	1/2	Partial understanding of writer's developed idea shown.
D	2	5/5	Full marks for 'high tariff' understanding question.
D	4	2/2	Correct response for 'link' question.
D	8	4/5	The first part of the candidate's answer relies too heavily on material lifted from the passage; however, this is followed by valid responses.

Critical Reading – 2019

Candidate	Scottish text	Scottish text marks	Critical essay	Critical essay mark	Total	Comments
1	<i>Tally's Blood</i>	15/20 Final question – 4/8	<i>On the Sidewalk Bleeding</i>	11/20	26/40	Candidate repeats material in final question of Scottish text. Decision as to where to award marks explained critical essay is relevant but thin in analysis.
2	<i>The Way My Mother Speaks</i>	20/20 Final question – 8/8	<i>A View from the Bridge</i>	19/20	39/40	Very detailed critical essay. Good example of 20-18 mark range.
3	<i>Tally's Blood</i>	20/20 Final question – 8/8	<i>Shooting Stars</i>	15/20	35/40	In Scottish text final question, the candidate uses characterisation to explore the theme of war. In critical essay – good understanding of central concerns, reasonably developed commentary on text. Clear example of 17-14 mark range.
4	<i>My Grandmother's Houses</i>	17/20 Final question – 6/8	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	17/20	34/40	In Scottish text final question, candidate make no reference to extract – all marks for commonality and work done on other poem ('Gap Year'). Strengths of critical essay are relevance and very good understanding of central concerns.
5	<i>Bold Girls</i>	17/20 Final question – 8/8	<i>The Pedestrian</i>	12/20	29/40	Critical essay – relevant line of thought, some familiarity with text, some awareness of techniques.
6	<i>Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde</i>	18/20 Final question – 6/8	<i>Mid-Term Break</i>	11/20	29/40	Scottish text final question – candidate provides relevant references but some analytical comments are not successful. Critical essay contains some familiarity with text and central concerns, but weaknesses in analysis.
7	<i>The Way My Mother Speaks</i>	18/20 Final question – 8/8	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>	11/20	29/40	In critical essay some familiarity with text is shown – candidate is selective, picking a few aspects to deal with. Analysis is based mostly on characterisation – lacks in detail at times.
8	<i>Brooklyn Cop</i>	20/20 Final question – 8/8	<i>A Hanging</i>	19/20	39/40	Very detailed and consistently relevant critical essay.

Critical Reading – 2017

Candidate	Scottish text	Scottish text marks	Critical essay	Critical essay mark	Total	Comments
1	<i>War Photographer</i>	20/20 Final question – 8/8	<i>The Dark Knight</i>	14/20	34/40	Unpicking of marks – explanation of how marks for 'commonality' can be awarded from the body of the candidate's response and not where the candidate has labelled it. Media critical essay.
2	<i>Aunt Julia</i>	20/20 Final question – 8/8	<i>The Ferryman's Daughter</i>	11/20	31/40	Candidate deals with more than one 'other' poem in final question.
3	<i>Sailmaker</i>	13/20 Final question – 6/8	<i>A Hanging</i>	12/20	25/40	In Scottish text question 7, candidate responds on area outwith specified line references.
4	<i>Tally's Blood</i>	15/20 Final question – 6/8	<i>Animal Farm</i>	14/20	29/40	In Scottish text responses, the candidate sometimes goes outwith specified line references. Marking of critical essay interesting in that there are some elements of both 13-10 and 17-14 mark ranges.

Portfolio-writing – 2019

Candidate	Title	Broadly creative/broadly discursive	Mark	Comments
A	A Millionaire's Dream	Creative	7	Useful example of borderline piece. A mixture of personal material with 'what if?' imaginative explorations.
B	Goal line technology	Discursive	8	Good benchmark example of 9-7 mark range discursive writing.
C	I have seen how disabilities affect...	Creative	11	Reflective piece with good degree of insight and self-awareness.
D	Should there be dedicated parking	Discursive	10	A piece where aspects of 12-10 mark range outweigh those from 9-7 range.
E	Pablo Escobar	Discursive	11	Biographical report. Relevant research presented in clear sequence.
F	The Light Side to Dark Humour	Discursive	15	Very effective persuasive writing. Very good writing for National 5 level.
G	Jane Doe	Creative	13	Opening chapter of piece of prose fiction. Very good creativity but occasions where writing is less successful.
H	I was within and without	Creative	15	Poem. Very good creativity.

Portfolio-writing – 2018

Candidate	Title	Broadly creative/broadly discursive	Mark	Comments
A	Holiday to Blackpool	Creative	7	This piece and one below (Candidate B) just meet standard for 9-7 mark range. Good benchmark pieces.
B	School Uniforms	Discursive	7	Good benchmark piece.
C	The Long and Winding Road	Creative	12	Top of 12-10 mark range, contains some elements of 15-13 range.
D	Childhood beauty pageants	Discursive	14	Strong persuasive piece. Clearly indicative of 15-13 mark range.
E	My Story	Creative	9	Very securely in 9-7 mark range, with some elements of 12-10.
F	New Punishments for Hacking	Discursive	10	Shows elements of both 12-10 and 9-7 mark ranges. More indications of 12-10, therefore 10 marks.
G	The Loft	Creative	15	Vivid characterisation and effective use of language throughout.
H	The Life of Robert So Far	Discursive	9	Biographical report.