

Higher National Unit Specification

General information for centres

Unit title: Critical Analysis of Texts

Unit code: D7M9 35

Unit purpose: This Unit is about the concepts and skills required to analyse creative texts. The Unit is concerned with developing critical thinking and analytical and evaluative skills in the study of literary and/or media criticism.

The study of this Unit will provide progression opportunities for those wishing to undertake further study in literature and language.

On completion of the Unit the candidate should be able to:

1. Analyse critical standpoints
2. Analyse creative texts in terms of genre
3. Analyse an extended text or two related shorter texts

Credit value: 1 HN Credit at SCQF level 8: (8 SCQF credit points at SCQF level 8)

SCQF (the Scottish Credit and Qualifications Framework) brings Scottish qualifications into a single framework of 12 levels ranging from SQA Access 1 to doctorates. The SCQF includes degrees; HNC/Ds; SQA National Qualifications; and SVQs. Each SQA Unit is allocated a number of SCQF credit points at a specific level. 1 SCQF point = 10 hours of learning. HN candidates are normally expected to input a further number of hours, matched to the credit value of the Unit, of non-contact time or candidate-led effort to consolidate and reinforce learning.

Recommended prior knowledge and skills: Access to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, but as it requires previous knowledge of literary and/or media texts it is not recommended for beginners. It would, therefore, be beneficial if the candidate had skills in communication and appreciation of literature as shown by possession of at least one of the following:

- National Unit EE3T 12 (7110055) *Communication (NC)* and National Unit E9X8 12 *Literature 1*
- Higher *English and Communication* or its component units

Core skills: There may be opportunities to gather evidence towards core skills in this Unit, although there is no automatic certification of core skills or core skills components.

Context for delivery: If this Unit is delivered as part of a group award, it is recommended that it should be taught and assessed within the subject area of the group award to which it contributes.

Higher National Unit specification: General information for centres (cont)

Unit title: Critical Analysis of Texts

Assessment: The Unit is assessed by three separate assessments conducted in conditions, where arrangements have been put in place to assure the authenticity of the candidate's work.

Outcome 1 is a written assessment. Outcomes 2 and 3 may be written and/or oral assessment.

If oral assessment is used, detailed checklists, notes and tapes or videos of the candidate's presentation(s) should be retained as evidence of performance.

Where possible, assessors should choose texts in conjunction with the candidate.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards

Unit title: Critical Analysis of Texts

The sections of the Unit stating the Outcomes, knowledge and/or skills, and evidence requirements are mandatory.

Where evidence for Outcomes is assessed on a sample basis, the whole of the content listed in the knowledge and/or skills section must be taught and available for assessment. Candidates should not know in advance the items on which they will be assessed and different items should be sampled on each assessment occasion.

Outcome 1

Analyse critical standpoints

Knowledge and/or skills

- The theoretical frameworks of schools of contemporary criticism
- The essential characteristics of a range of schools of contemporary criticism
- Skills in critical analysis
- Skills in written communication

Evidence requirements

The candidate will need evidence in the form of an extended response of a minimum of 500 words to demonstrate his/her knowledge and/or skills by showing that he/she can:

- explain accurately the theoretical framework of two schools of contemporary criticism
- explain the essential characteristics of two schools of contemporary criticism
- analyse in detail a short text from two theoretical standpoints.

Assessment should be written and should be conducted in conditions where arrangements have been put in place to assure the authenticity of the candidate's work.

Assessment guidelines

Where possible, assessors should choose texts in conjunction with the candidate.

Structured questions could provide a framework for the response.

Outcome 2

Analyse creative texts in terms of genre

Knowledge and/or skills

- The key characteristics of a range of genres of creative text
- Skills in analysis

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Critical Analysis of Texts

Evidence requirements

The candidate will need evidence to demonstrate his/her knowledge and/or skills by showing that he/she can:

- explain the characteristics of two genres of creative text
- analyse accurately the genre characteristics of a given text
- support analysis with detailed textual reference.

Evidence will be presented in the form of an extended response of a minimum of 500 words. If oral evidence is provided, the presentation should last for a minimum of eight minutes, with a further five minutes for questions and/or clarification.

Assessment should be conducted in conditions where arrangements have been put in place to assure the authenticity of the candidate's work.

Assessment guidelines

Where possible, assessors should choose texts in conjunction with the candidate.

Structured questions could provide a framework for the response.

Outcome 3

Analyse an extended text or two related shorter texts

Knowledge and/or skills

- A range of literary and/or media terms and techniques
- Analytical techniques
- Written skills appropriate for literary and/or media criticism
- How to evaluate creative texts
- The structure of an extended response

Evidence requirements

The candidate will need evidence to demonstrate his/her knowledge and/or skills by showing that he/she can:

- analyse genre text
- explain textual themes accurately and completely
- analyse accurately creative techniques used
- explain the contribution of significant literary features or media techniques to themes
- use relevant critical terminology
- support critical comment with detailed textual reference
- provide a balanced and detailed evaluation of the text.

Higher National Unit specification: statement of standards (cont)

Unit title: Critical Analysis of Texts

Evidence will be presented in the form of a response of a minimum of 1000 words. If oral evidence is provided, the presentation should be for at least 15 minutes with a further five minutes for questions and/or clarification.

Assessment should be conducted in conditions where arrangements have been put in place to assure of the authenticity of the candidate's work.

Assessment guidelines

Where possible, assessors should choose texts in conjunction with the candidate.

Administrative Information

Unit code: D7M9 35

Unit title: Critical Analysis of Texts

Superclass category: KB

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Higher National Unit specification: support notes

Unit title: Critical Analysis of Texts

This part of the Unit specification is offered as guidance. The support notes are not mandatory.

While the exact time allocated to this Unit is at the discretion of the centre, the notional design length is 40 hours.

Guidance on the content and context for this Unit

This Unit is of most value to candidates who wish to progress to Higher Education or to employment in a related discipline.

Texts chosen should allow the candidate to study a range of different types of texts in formative work. Where possible and practical, the candidate should have some choice in the texts studied. The term text may be interpreted to include traditional and popular literature, film, television, journalism and other media. Although short extracts may be used in formative work, complete texts are more suitable as a basis for the in depth analysis required in summative assessment.

Outcome 1

Theoretical frameworks examined could include, for example, descriptive, Marxist, biographical, sociological, psychoanalytical.

Outcome 2

Genre could include, for example, popular fiction, science fiction, satire, romance, feminist fiction, crime, allegory, religious. Syntagmatic and paradigmatic structures could be explained as well as the key features of the chosen genre.

Outcome 3

Creative techniques analysed could include narrative method, plot, structure, characterisation, setting, imagery.

The text may be chosen by the candidate in consultation with the assessor. It might be advisable to give the candidate a checklist as a guide to content and characteristics. The candidate may use subheadings to structure responses.

Higher National Unit specification: support notes (cont)

Unit title: Critical Analysis of Texts

Guidance on the delivery and assessment of this Unit

Outcome 1

The assessment for Outcome 1 will be an extended written response of a minimum of 500 words. Structured questions could provide a framework for the response.

Outcome 2

The assessment for Outcome 2 will be an extended response of a minimum of 500 words. Structured questions could provide a framework for the response.

If oral assessment is used, the presentation should be for a minimum of eight minutes with a further five minutes for questions and clarification. A detailed checklist, candidate's notes and a tape or video of performance should be retained as evidence.

Outcome 3

Written assessments should be a minimum of 1000 words.

If oral assessment is used, the presentation should last for at least 15 minutes with a further five minutes for questions and clarification. A detailed checklist, candidate's notes and a tape or video of performance should be retained as evidence.

Open learning

This Unit is suitable for open and distance learning. To ensure authenticity, the assessor could state texts to be analysed and should see and retain early draft work.

For further information and advice, please see *Assessment and Quality Assurance for Open and Distance Learning* (SQA, February 2001 – publication code A1030).

Special needs

This Unit specification is intended to ensure that there are no artificial barriers to learning or assessment. Special needs of individual candidates should be taken into account when planning learning experiences, selecting assessment instruments or considering special alternative Outcomes for Units. For information on these, please refer to the SQA document *Guidance on Special Assessment and Certification Arrangements for Candidates with Special Needs and Candidates for whom English is an Additional Language* (SQA, 2000).

General information for candidates

Unit title: Critical Analysis of Texts

This Unit is about analysing creative literary and/or media texts such as poems, short stories, films, novels and television drama. In this Unit you will learn how to analyse texts using a range of critical theories.

You will be introduced to a range of literary terms and concepts and will learn skills in developing a critical analytical response.

The study of this Unit will provide a foundation if you wish to undertake further study in literature and language, for example, in Communication, Media Studies or Literature at degree level.

Assessment

There are three assessments in this Unit. One is a written assessment and there are a further two assessments which may be written or oral presentations.

On completion of the Unit you should be able to:

1. Analyse critical standpoints
2. Analyse creative texts in terms of genre
3. Analyse an extended text or two related shorter texts