



2009 English

Intermediate 2 – Critical Essay

Finalised Marking Instructions

© Scottish Qualifications Authority 2009

The information in this publication may be reproduced to support SQA qualifications only on a non-commercial basis. If it is to be used for any other purposes written permission must be obtained from the Question Paper Operations Team, Dalkeith.

Where the publication includes materials from sources other than SQA (secondary copyright), this material should only be reproduced for the purposes of examination or assessment. If it needs to be reproduced for any other purpose it is the centre's responsibility to obtain the necessary copyright clearance. SQA's Question Paper Operations Team at Dalkeith may be able to direct you to the secondary sources.

These Marking Instructions have been prepared by Examination Teams for use by SQA Appointed Markers when marking External Course Assessments. This publication must not be reproduced for commercial or trade purposes.

**2009 English
Intermediate 2 Critical Essay
Finalised Marking Instructions**

Marking Principles for Critical Essay are as follows

- The essay should first be read to establish whether it achieves success in **all** the Performance Criteria for Grade C, including relevance and the standards for technical accuracy outlined in Note 1 below.
- If minimum standards are not achieved in any **one** or more of the Performance Criteria, the maximum mark which can be awarded is 11.
- If minimum standards have been achieved, then the supplementary marking grids will allow you to place the work on a scale of marks out of 25.
- The Category awarded and the mark should be placed at the end of the essay.

Notes:

1. “Sufficiently accurate” can be best defined in terms of a definition of “consistently accurate”.
 - *Consistently accurate*
A few errors may be present, but these will not be significant in any way. The candidate may use some complex vocabulary and sentence structures. Where appropriate, sentences will show accurate handling of clauses. Linking between sentences will be clear. Paragraphing will reflect a developing line of thought.
 - *Sufficiently accurate*
As above but with an allowance made for speed and the lack of opportunity to redraft.
2. Using the Category descriptions
 - Categories are not grades. Although derived from Performance Criteria at C and the indicators of excellence for Grade A, the four categories are designed primarily to assist with placing each candidate response at an appropriate point on a continuum of achievement. Assumptions about final grades or association of final grades with particular categories should not be allowed to influence objective assessment.
 - Once an essay has been deemed to pass the basic criteria, it does not have to meet all the suggestions for Category II (for example) to fall into that Category. More typically there will be a spectrum of strengths and weaknesses which span categories.
3. Referrals to PA
 - Essays based on wrong genre should be marked out of 25 and referred.
 - Essays in response to Section E – Language should be marked out of 25 and referred.

Critical Essay

GRADE C

Performance Criteria

a) Understanding

As appropriate to task, the response demonstrates understanding of key elements, central concerns and significant details of the text(s).

b) Analysis

The response explains in some detail ways in which aspects of structure/style/language contribute to meaning/effect/impact.

c) Evaluation

The response reveals engagement with the text(s) or aspects of the text(s) and stated or implied evaluation of effectiveness, substantiated by some relevant evidence from the text(s).

d) Expression

Structure, style and language, including use of some appropriate critical terminology, are deployed to communicate meaning clearly and develop a line of thought which is generally relevant to purpose; spelling, grammar and punctuation are sufficiently accurate.

It should be noted that the term “text” encompasses printed, audio or film/video text(s) which may be literary (fiction or non-fiction) or may relate to aspects of media or language.

Language Questions 13 – 15

The “text” which should be dealt with in a language question is the research which the pupil has done. Examples taken from their research must be there for you to see.

However, to demonstrate understanding and analysis related to these examples there has to be some ability to generalise from the particular, to classify and comment on what has been discovered. It is not enough merely to produce a list of words in, say, Dundonian with their standard English equivalents. This is merely description and without any further development does not demonstrate understanding of any principle underlying the choice of words.

The list of features at the head of the section is supportive. A marker would reasonably expect that some such features would be mentioned in the course of a candidate’s answer.

Intermediate 2 Critical Essay Supplementary Advice

This advice, which is supplementary to the published Performance Criteria, is designed to assist with the placing of scripts within the full range of marks. However, the Performance Criteria as published give the primary definitions. The mark range for each Category is identified.

IV 8 – 11	III 12 – 15	II 16 – 19	I 20 – 25
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An essay which falls into this category may do so for a variety of reasons <p>It could be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that it fails to achieve sufficient technical accuracy • or that any knowledge and understanding of the material is not deployed as a response relevant to the task • or that analysis and evaluation attempted are unconvincing • or that the answer is simply too thin. 	<p><u>Understanding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of the text(s), and a basic understanding of the main concerns will be used. <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide an answer which is generally relevant to the task. 	<p><u>Understanding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding of the central concerns of the text(s) will be used. <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to provide an answer which is mainly relevant to the task. 	<p><u>Understanding</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure knowledge and some insight into the central concerns of the text(s) will be demonstrated at this level. <p>.....</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • and there will be a line of thought consistently relevant to the task.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some reference to the text(s) will be made to support the candidate's argument. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to the text(s) will be used as evidence to promote the candidate's argument. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference to the text(s) will be used appropriately as evidence which helps to develop the argument fully.
	<p><u>Analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be an explanation of the contribution of literary/ linguistic techniques to the impact of the text(s) 	<p><u>Analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be an explanation of the effectiveness of the contribution of literary/ linguistic techniques to the impact of the text(s). 	<p><u>Analysis</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be some insight shown into the effectiveness of the contribution of the literary /linguistic techniques to the impact of the text(s).
	<p><u>Evaluation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be some engagement with the text(s) which will state or imply an evaluation of its effectiveness. 	<p><u>Evaluation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be some engagement with the text(s), which leads to a generally valid evaluative stance with respect to the text(s). 	<p><u>Evaluation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will be a clear engagement with the text(s), which leads to a valid evaluative stance with respect to the material.
	<p><u>Expression</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language will communicate the argument clearly, and there will be appropriate critical terminology deployed. Spelling, grammar and punctuation will be sufficiently accurate. 	<p><u>Expression</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language will communicate the argument clearly, and there will be an appropriate critical terminology deployed to aid the argument. Spelling, grammar and punctuation will be sufficiently accurate. 	<p><u>Expression</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language will communicate effectively making appropriate use of critical terminology to further the argument. Spelling, grammar and punctuation will be sufficiently accurate.

[END OF MARKING INSTRUCTIONS]