Advanced Higher English

Portfolio—writing

Assessment task

This document provides information for teachers and lecturers about the coursework component of this course in terms of the skills, knowledge and understanding that are assessed. It **must** be read in conjunction with the course specification.

Valid from session 2019-20 and until further notice.

Contents

Introduction

This document contains instructions for candidates for the Advanced Higher English portfolio—writing. It must be read in conjunction with the course specification.

The portfolio—writing is worth 30 marks. This is 30% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

This is one of four course assessment components. The other components are a Literary Study question paper, Textual Analysis question paper, and a project—dissertation.

Marking instructions

The marking instructions for the Advanced Higher English portfolio—writing are in the course specification.

Instructions for candidates

This assessment applies to the portfolio—writing for Advanced Higher English.

The portfolio—writing is worth 30 marks. This is 30% of the overall marks for the course assessment.

It assesses the following skills, knowledge and understanding:

♦ writing in different genres for a range of purposes and audiences

Your teacher or lecturer will let you know if there are any specific conditions for doing this assessment.

In this assessment, you have to produce two pieces of writing from the following genres:

♦ persuasive
♦ informative
♦ argumentative
♦ reflective
♦ poetry
♦ prose fiction
♦ drama

There is no requirement to write both creatively and discursively, but each piece of writing must be from a different genre.

Your writing must have consistent technical accuracy. This means that paragraphs, sentences and punctuation are accurate and organised so that your writing is clearly and readily understood, and spelling errors are infrequent. Carefully proofread your work so that there are few errors.

You can gain up to 15 marks for each piece of writing.

The following are descriptions of different types of writing, which may help you in selecting your pieces of writing.

Persuasive

Persuasive writing intends to persuade the reader towards the writer's point of view or purpose. It usually focuses on a single topic of some complexity. By using complex and sophisticated language to create appropriate tones, your writing carries a sense of conviction, commitment, or belief.

Informative

The aim of informative writing is to convey complex information on a chosen topic, expressing it through the adoption of an appropriate literary style (of the type found in, for example, newspaper and magazine feature writing).

Argumentative

Argumentative writing presents a complex issue or topic in a way that develops a line of thought, which discusses two or more evidenced points of view in a balanced way.

Reflective

The aim of reflective writing is to present your considered thoughts on, and reactions to, an experience, idea, or concept.

Poetry

Poetry should show awareness of shape, form, structure, mood, and poetic technique. Only one poem is required; however, you can submit a series of thematically linked poems.

Prose fiction

Prose fiction might be a complete short story or an extract from a longer piece (for example an opening section). It is likely to include the establishment of, for example narrative structure, setting, characterisation, conflict, resolution.

Drama

Drama can be a complete scene, linked scenes, or an extract. It can incorporate a small number of characters, or take the form of a monologue. You should show awareness of dramatic techniques and structures.

General guidance

There is no time limit for the portfolio—writing assessment.

The length of your pieces of writing should be appropriate to purpose and genre (poetry may be significantly shorter). There is no word count.

There are no restrictions on the resources you can access while producing your portfolio. These will depend on the types and genres of your writing.

Your teacher or lecturer may provide reasonable assistance. This can include an initial discussion on the selection of a topic, theme or genre, and summary feedback on one draft of writing.

Your submitted pieces of writing must not carry any comments, marks or grades from your teacher or lecturer.

You should produce several rounds of draft material. During this, you should:

♦ reflect on feedback from a teacher or lecturer
♦ identify your own areas for improvement and make subsequent changes
♦ carefully proofread your work

Before you begin work on your portfolio—writing, it is important that you read SQA's booklet *Your Coursework*. This provides you with information about the rules around coursework, including authenticity and plagiarism. Examples of plagiarism include:

♦ using material from the internet without citing the source
♦ using material from a print publication without citing the source

You must write your portfolio—writing in your own words, unless you are quoting from a referenced source.

You must acknowledge any sources consulted for your writing in footnotes, or in a reference list at the end of each piece of writing. You must give specific details of the sources consulted.

When there is doubt over the authenticity of a piece of writing, it will not be accepted for portfolio submission.

Administrative information

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History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date

Note: you are advised to check SQA's website to ensure you are using the most up-to-date version of this document.

Security and confidentiality

This document can be used by SQA approved centres for the assessment of National Courses and not for any other purpose.