



Advanced Higher  
Coursework  
Assessment Task



# 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 2024–25 and until further notice.**

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# 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. It consists of one piece, which is marked out of 15. This is then doubled to give a mark out of 30. 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 one genre

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 one piece of writing from the following genres:

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

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. The first draft of your writing must be done in class under the supervision of your teacher or lecturer.

## **Portfolio–writing process**

You must follow this process for this assessment:

- ♦ choose the focus and type of writing (with support of teacher or lecturer)
- ♦ explore and develop your idea (this can involve research and note-taking, as appropriate)
- ♦ plan the writing (outline and structure)
- ♦ complete the first draft in class under supervision (with notes, outline plan, research and/or ICT, as appropriate)
- ♦ think about the feedback from your teacher or lecturer
- ♦ complete the final piece under some supervision and control

You can gain up to 15 marks for the piece of writing. Your mark will be doubled to achieve the 30% weighting.

The following are descriptions of different types of writing, which may help you in selecting your piece 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. If you submit a collection of poems, they will be assessed as one piece. You should not submit an introduction, or commentary on your poem(s).

### **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. However, the first draft must be completed in class under supervision. Your teacher or lecturer will tell you how long you have to do this. You must have completed the first draft in class to allow submission of your final piece.

The length of your piece 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 type and genre of your writing.

Your teacher or lecturer may provide reasonable assistance. This can include an initial discussion on the selection of a focus and type of writing, and summary feedback on a first draft.

Your submitted piece 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. The following are examples of plagiarism:

- ◆ copying and pasting from the internet without citing the source
- ◆ copying directly from a textbook without citing the source
- ◆ omitting quotation marks from quotations
- ◆ using software such as generative artificial intelligence

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.

You must complete and sign the portfolio-writing declaration on the flyleaf to confirm that the writing is completely your own work.

## Administrative information

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### History of changes

Version	Description of change	Date
2.0	Updated to reflect portfolio-writing requirement reduced to one piece of writing.	May 2023
3.0	Updated to reflect changes to conditions of assessment for the portfolio-writing.	May 2024

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.