

GCE English Literature 8180/ 9180

FAQs

Coursework

- **What is the deadline for submitting coursework?**

The deadline for submission of coursework and receipt of marks is printed each year on the timetable.

- **What are the word limits for coursework?**

AS English Literature: Unit 3a (6393/01) – Shakespeare in Context:

The submission may be a single study of approximately 1500 words or two pieces of work each of approximately 750 words. One of the two pieces may be a personal composition, in which case it must be accompanied by a commentary up to 1000 words in length.

A2 English Literature: Unit 4a (6394/01) – Modern Prose:

2500 words, the submission may be two pieces of work each of approximately 1250 words. One of the two pieces may be a personal composition, in which case it must be accompanied by a commentary up to 1000 words in length.

- **Is there a penalty for exceeding the word limit?**

There is no specific penalty for candidates who exceed the word limit, however, communication is assessed under the assessment objectives and candidates who exceed the recommendation may limit their work in terms of accurate, concise, clear expression. The recommendations are given in the interests of candidates to enable them to meet the assessment objectives and candidates are expected to adhere to the recommendation.

- **Who is my Coursework Adviser?**

Coursework Advisers are allocated to centres according to their centre number and geographical region. Please consult the 'Coursework Advice meetings' document, available on the web site, for details.

- **When is my Coursework Advice meeting?**

Coursework Advice meetings are held each Autumn term and details are printed in the Training Directory and in the document titled the 'Coursework Advice meetings' available on the web site.

- **I need to have my choice of text for coursework approved.**

Your Coursework Adviser is responsible for approving your choice of text for both AS and A2. The relevant Text Approval Form should be sent to your centre's Coursework Adviser.

- **Can you approve my Coursework Title?**

Edexcel does not approve coursework titles for GCE English. Your Coursework Adviser will be able to provide general advice about appropriate wording.

- **What are the Grade Boundaries for coursework?**

Grade Boundaries are printed in the Examiners' Reports after each exam series. Coursework should be assessed according to the criteria in the specification. Teachers should mark coursework out of 50 according to the criteria and bands given on the generic mark grid. Teachers should be aware that grade boundaries may vary from year to year and consequently only the marking criteria should be used to assess candidates' work.

Set Texts

- **What are the set texts and when are they available?**

Details of the set texts and their availability are given in summary on pages 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the specification.

- **Do candidates have to study every poem in the text?**

Candidates should be aware of the whole text unless otherwise stated in the specification.

- **Are any texts being withdrawn from the specification?**

Yes, a letter has been sent to centres to give notice of the texts that will be withdrawn. Details are also given in the specification and on the web site.

- **My candidates have a different edition of the set text than that given in the specification, can they use that?**

No, candidates must use the edition specified in the specification. Different editions have different editorial comment and annotation and it would be unfair to candidates to have access to different amounts of information. ISBN numbers are printed in the specification to avoid any confusion.

Candidates are free to use any edition when it is a closed text exam, or coursework.

- **Can candidates take the text with them into the exam?**

Unit 1: Drama and Poetry, Unit 3b: Shakespeare in Context, Unit 4b: Modern prose and Unit 5: Poetry and Drama are Open Text, candidates may take the specified edition of the text with them into these examinations.

Unit 2: Pre-1900 Prose and Unit 6: Criticism and Comparison are Closed Text. Candidates are not permitted to take their text with them into this examination.

- **How much annotation are candidates allowed to put in their text for an Open Text exam?**

Details about amount of annotation allowed in texts are given on page 30 of the specification.

‘Annotated’ refers to editorial material or textual commentary published in the editions studied and to hand-written marginal notes made by the students. Publications such as ‘pass-notes’ or ‘study guides’ which do not provide the complete texts as prescribed are excluded. No supplementary material may be taken into the examinations. Annotations should be limited to brief notes alongside the text itself and the insertion of any additional material such as cards or markers or supplementary sheets is not permitted. Editorial material and accompanying commentaries in the texts used in examinations must be limited to commentaries on the texts and must not include simplified versions of texts. Students may take into the examinations only one edition of each prescribed text studied.’

- **Marlowe’s *Dr Faustus* on Unit 5 has a Text A and a Text B, do candidates have to study both?**

Marlowe’s Text A is specified. Text B in the appendix will not be examined, but candidates should be aware of its existence.

Publications

- **Where can I get a copy of a past paper or mark scheme?**

All past papers, mark schemes and Examiners' Reports are available from publications, quote the relevant Unit number and exam series to order.

- **What publications are available for GCE Literature?**

Please see the publications catalogue.

Support

- **What in service training is available?**

All details can be found in the Training Directory guide.