

GCE English Language and Literature 8179/ 9179

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 Language and Literature: Unit 3a (6383/01) – Shorter Fiction Study:

*The folder may consist of **either** a critical response of about 1500 words to the stories studied **or** a student's own short story or stories. Where original writing is offered, the work should be accompanied by a substantial analytical commentary. The recommended word length for the original writing is about 1500 words, plus an additional 1000 words for the commentary.*

A2 English Language and Literature: Unit 4a (6384/01) – Writing for Different Audiences and Purposes::

2500 words or 3500 words if a creative piece of writing is offered because of the need for an analytical commentary of about 1000 words.

- **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.

- **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.

- **I have a candidate who would like to study and write a short story for Unit 4a, is this allowed?**

No, this would repeat what has already been covered in Unit 3: Shorter Fiction Study.

- **Can poetry be submitted for coursework?**

Poetry is not appropriate for submission.

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 and 6 of the specification.

- **Are any texts being withdrawn from the specification?**

All details about the availability of texts are given in the summary on pages 4, 5 and 6 of the specification.

- **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.

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

Unit 3b: Shorter Fiction Study, and Unit 5: Wider Reading are Open Text, candidates may take the specified edition of the text with them into these examinations.

Unit 1: The Spoken Word is 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 25 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.’

Pre-release material

- **When will I get the pre-release material for Unit 2: Desk Study?**

The source material is given out approximately two weeks before the examination. The material will arrive in centres in time for it to be given to candidates. The exact date is clearly printed and visible through the window of the secure packet.

- **Can teachers discuss the material with candidates?**

No, teachers should not discuss the material with students.

- **Should the material be taken in to the exam?**

Yes, candidates must bring the pre-release material with them to the examination.

- **How much annotation is allowed in the pre-release material?**

Students may make marginal notes on the advance material, but may not bring to the examination any additional notes on separate sheets. The same principles about amount of annotation apply here as in any Open Text exam.

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 English Language and Literature?**

Please see the publications catalogue.

Support

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

All details can be found in the Training Directory guide.