

ENGLISH LITERATURE (ENL315114)

External Assessment Specifications

External Assessment Specifications inform the development of external assessments. The primary audience for this document is the course Setting Examiner and Exam Critics. It may also be of use to teachers and students.

These specifications must be read in conjunction with the Course Document.

The external assessment consists of two components:

- Written exam
- Independent Study

WRITTEN EXAM STRUCTURE

The written exam is TWO hours.

Students will have an additional 15-minute preparation time during which students can take notes on the note paper provided and highlight any key words in the exam booklet during the allocated time. Students will not be permitted to start their exam until advised by the Exam Supervisor.

The written exam includes TWO sections.

Prescribed Text Coverage:

Questions will be written to allow students to answer at least one question from Section A and one question from Section B, having studied any texts from the prescribed text list for Modules 1–3. Students may not write on the same Module in both Sections of the written exam. Students should not use their Independent Study text as the basis for any answers.

The criteria to be externally assessed are:

Criterion 1: demonstrate understanding and appreciation of ideas in texts

Criterion 2: demonstrate understanding of how historical and cultural contexts influence texts

Criterion 4: compose and craft analytical responses to texts

SPECIFIC MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT APPROVED FOR USE BY STUDENTS

There is no external Information Sheet for this course.

ASSESSMENT

All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, t+, t, t- or z. Note that a C- is a low C, in that it just meets the standards for a C but is not a t.

A set of solutions or a marking tool will be developed by the Setting Examiner, provided to markers at the marking meeting that follows the external written exam; and will be available from TASC in the following year.

The external assessment must include questions that, separately or together, give opportunities to demonstrate the standards from rating C to rating A.

Final results will be awarded as a rating of A, B, C, t or z in the above criteria. These ratings are used in determining the final award according to the algorithm in the course document.

SECTION A

Structure

- This section will take students approximately 60 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE of FOUR questions.

This section will address the following course content:

- Module One: Texts in Context; Unifying themes: Loss/Love

OR

- Module Two: Single Text Study

OR

- Module Three: Comparative Text Study

Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 2: demonstrate understanding of how historical and cultural contexts influence texts (all Elements).
- Criterion 4: compose and craft analytical responses to texts (all Elements).

Nature of Questions

This section includes FOUR questions:

- One question will address Module 1: Poetry – Loss
- One question will address Module 1: Poetry – Love
- One question will address Module 2: Single Text Study
- One question will address Module 3: Comparative Text Study.

Students will answer one question from the four, having studied any texts from the prescribed list.

Nature of Responses

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Analytical essay response format.
- Focus of response for all questions:
 - How historical and cultural contexts influence the text(s).
 - Analysis and evaluation of the compositional features of texts to construct contextual understandings of text(s).

SECTION B

Structure

- This section will take students approximately 60 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE of FOUR questions.
- This section will address the following course content
 - Module Two: Single Text Study
OR
 - Module Three: Comparative Text Study

Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 1: demonstrate understanding and appreciation of ideas in texts (all Elements).
- Criterion 4: compose and craft analytical responses to texts (Elements 3, 4 and 5).

Nature of Questions

This section includes FOUR questions.

- Two questions will examine Module Two.
- Two questions will examine Module Three.

Nature of Responses

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Analytical essay response format.
- Focus of response for all questions:
 - How ideas are developed through the narrative features of the text(s).
 - Analysis and evaluation of the compositional features of texts to construct critical understandings of text(s).

INDEPENDENT STUDY GUIDELINES

These guidelines provide students, teachers and markers with details for this subject about:

- what students have to do for the Independent Study that forms part of their assessment
- what is expected of teachers
- how markers are to assess the students' work.

This document does not repeat necessary information found in other documents and must be read in the context of the course document

(<https://www.tasc.tas.gov.au/students/courses/english/enl315114-7/>).

The [TASC Frequently Asked Questions – Externally assessed folios](#), provides general information for all students and teachers about externally assessed folios, including a how-to guide for submitting folios and a link to the TASC Academic Integrity Guide.

The final Independent Study must be **electronically** submitted by the student to their teacher for external assessment. The teacher cannot extend this published final “due to teacher date” however they may set an earlier deadline for internal assessment purposes.

The final Independent Study folio will be externally assessed and must be submitted in electronic format by the student to their teacher. Due dates for folio submission are available from the [TASC website](#).

INDEPENDENT STUDY STRUCTURE

The folio includes THREE components:

- A reflective statement
- A critical response to the chosen text
- An imaginative response to the chosen text

Assessed Criteria

The Independent Study Folio will be assessed externally by TASC to determine ratings on:

Criterion 5: compose and craft imaginative responses to texts.

Criterion 6: demonstrate understanding of own and others' ideas, values and perspectives.

Criterion 7: demonstrate accurate and effective use of language.

Course Content

The folio assesses course content from Module 4: Independent Study.

Item Type

Students will submit a Word processed product in PDF format. All components are compulsory.

Time Allocation

25 hours including class time.

Rating Allocation

Extended ratings of A+, A, A- ... B+, B, B- ... C+, C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z for each Criterion 5, 6 and 7.

ADVICE TO STUDENTS

Text Selection

Select one text from the current Prescribed Text List. A set of six poems by the one poet constitutes the equivalent of one text.

You must NOT select a text taught by your teacher in Modules 1, 2 or 3. Consult the English Literature Prescribed Text List for the current year that can be found at <https://www.tasc.tas.gov.au/students/courses/english/enl315114/>.

The Focus of your Independent Study

You can choose and read your chosen text at any time throughout the year and start thinking about your focus. It is recommended that you start reading your chosen text early in the year. Some students do change their mind about their choice as the year progresses. As you begin your Study, decide on your focus and discuss this with your teacher. Your focus should encompass both your critical and imaginative responses and it is best if both of these are developed simultaneously. Embarking on your Independent Study early in the year, allows you to give due care to all three components in your Independent Study.

- You must express your focus as a study question that you will answer, or as a statement that you will address. A carefully articulated question must include more than ideas and characterisation and can act as a "lens", enabling you to write effectively and with relevance. Your focus/question must be on your Independent Study cover page. (see Appendix I)
- You are strongly advised to write yourself into your Independent Study focus question or statement (using the first person) in regard to addressing criterion 6. If using the third person in your critical response, make sure a personal position is discernible in your focus question/statement.
- Your focus question or statement must be clearly printed on a cover page, preceding the Reflective Statement.

Your teacher is there to guide and assist you; make sure you have regular discussions with your teacher about your progress. Diarise these discussions in your Study journal. Make sure your teacher sights your Work journal regularly. You should allow approximately 25 hours or 5 weeks to complete your study in class time. Putting together all the required components of the Independent Study takes time, especially in the final week.

Study Journal

You must keep a study journal in order to monitor your progress in any form you prefer, digital or in hard copy. The purpose of your journal is to chart your progress and to demonstrate that you have abided by the rules of Academic Integrity. Make and date regular entries. Record your reading, research, achievements, planning for the next stage and any problems or difficulties you are experiencing. Make notes about tasks you have to tackle and notes on your text as you read. Use your journal to reflect on your reading (or listening, or viewing). Detail all sources of information.

The study journal is not submitted for external assessment, but it is a necessary component of Academic Integrity and required as evidence for signing the declaration form.

THE REFLECTIVE STATEMENT

Structure

- A concise statement
- 450-600 words NOT part of the 3000 – 3300 word count

Criteria and Elements Assessed

- Criterion 6: demonstrate understanding of own and others' ideas, values and perspectives (Elements 2, 3, 4 and 5).
- Criterion 7: demonstrate accurate and effective use of language (all Elements).

Nature of Response

The reflective statement must be written in the first person. The reflective statement must appear after the cover page of the Independent Study (see Appendix I). The reflective statement will:

- explain the intention of the chosen focus.
- explain the relationship between the stated focus and both the imaginative and critical responses.
- outline the way(s) in which the imaginative response relates to the critical response.
- analyse the influence of chosen text on own ideas, values and perspectives.
- outline any independent investigation/research carried out as part of the Independent Study.

THE CRITICAL RESPONSE

Structure

- Essay
- 1,500 – 1,800 words, excluding quotations and Works Cited list
- 50% of time allocation

Assessed Criteria and Elements

- Criterion 6: demonstrate understanding of own and others' ideas, values and perspectives (Elements 2, 3, 4 and 5).
- Criterion 7: demonstrate accurate and effective use of language (all Elements).

Advice to Students

In your critical response you will express a personal position and examine your own ideas, values and perspectives and those of others by critically reflecting on the chosen text.

Your critical essay should be between 1,500 and 1,800 words. Together, your critical and imaginative responses must be between 3,000 and 3,300 words.

In this component of the Independent Study you will write an essay that reveals substantial thought and time commitment. A first-person response for the critical component is recommended, but not mandated. Review the course criterion standards to help you focus your thinking.

The majority of students compose successful Studies by focusing on a specific aspect of the text itself. The following points are important:

- Your study should not be a mere retelling of plot, or an analysis of characterisation. Rather, you must show your insight into what the plot and/or character reveal. You could discuss cultural, social or ideological dimensions of language and text.
- Record all sources used, including AI tools, either through a program such as EndNote or manually. Remember that the same rules about plagiarism apply to the Internet as they do to books and other reference material. When using Internet sources cite the full address, the simplest way to do this is to use copy and paste functions of the original addresses and/or sites.
- Although wide reading and academic research are both encouraged, students are cautioned against overly heavy reliance on the opinion and interpretations of others. Wide reading and academic research should assist students to develop, refine and articulate their own ideas and attitudes through reflection and critical engagement with the text.

THE IMAGINATIVE RESPONSE

Structure

- a variety of printed forms (for example: narratives, monologues).
- 1,200 – 1,500 words, excluding quotations and Works Cited list
- 50% of time allocation

Assessed Criteria and Elements

- Criterion 5: compose and craft imaginative responses to texts (all Elements).
- Criterion 7: demonstrate accurate and effective use of language (Elements 1, 2 and 3).

The imaginative response will relate clearly to the focus of your Independent Study as evident in the critical response and serve as another way of showing knowledge and understanding of the chosen

text. Some students find it beneficial to start with the imaginative response as the focus of their Independent Study. It is advisable that the focus of the critical and imaginative responses are developed alongside each other.

The imaginative response must be located within 'the world of the text', which also includes adaptations of the chosen text.

Criterion 5 specifies that students "Compose and craft imaginative responses to texts." Be mindful that creating an imaginative text that merely mirrors the thematic preoccupations of the chosen text is not advisable.

Similarly, the imaginative response must not merely reshape material which already exist in the text. The imaginative response must be a print text. Its form might include narratives, short stories, play scripts, monologues and poetry. If choosing poetry make sure you adhere to the new word limit for poetry.

Write between 1,200 and 1,500 words for your imaginative response. This word limit applies to narratives, short stories, epistolary entries, playscripts and monologues.

If composing poetry, the word limit is between 600 and 750 words. This is equivalent to the prose word limit listed above. You may allocate this word limit in any configuration of lines that best suits your intent.

Together your critical and imaginative responses must be between 3,000 and 3,300 words. Before finalising your imaginative writing ask yourself:

- Have I used the most appropriate form/medium for my imaginative piece?
- Have I used an appropriate title for my imaginative response as a way of conveying meaning? If you choose not to give your imaginative response a title you need to explain this in your reflective statement.
- Have I sought advice from my teacher early in the process?
- Have I spent sufficient time editing and formatting this piece as I had on the critical piece?

- What changes have I made in my imaginative piece following advice from my teacher and classmates?
- Have I used appropriate language and literary techniques in this imaginative piece?
- Is there a clear connection to the critical response?
- Have I used appropriate vocabulary to create authentic characters?
- Have I acknowledged any ideas and expression (including quotes) which are not my own?

Presentation

Electronic Submission: the folio must be submitted to the teacher electronically as a PDF file. See the [TASC Frequently Asked Questions – Externally assessed folios](#) document on the [Folio assessment page](#) in the [TASC website](#) for detailed instructions.

When presenting your Independent Study, the following points must be noted:

- You are expected to provide a reworked, and polished, word-processed product. Your teacher is required to see all versions of your work, so it is essential to 'Save as' each time you produce a new draft of your work. The best way to protect yourself from technological failure is to make a hard copy of each draft. No allowances can be made for technological failures including software and hardware malfunctions.
- Proofreading and editing are an essential part of the process. Careful attention needs to be given to correct spelling of all proper nouns, including titles, composers' names, characters' names, etc. When referring to the composer, the full name should be used in the first instance (e.g. William Shakespeare), and the surname only thereafter (Shakespeare).
- Provide a cover page that includes: the title of the selected text focus of your study on it and a word count. The proforma cover page is included as Appendix I and must be used by all students.
- Studies outside the 3,000 to 3,300 word limit will be will be penalised on Criterion 7 by one rating. The word count does include any footnotes provided but does not include quotations or your reference list.
- You must consistently use an appropriate referencing system, such as the MLA9 referencing system in all components of your folio. The correct use of a referencing system forms part of the overall awarding of Criterion 7.
- A detailed list of the Works Cited must be located at the end of the Independent Study – that is after the imaginative response. This list should include all works used in both the critical and the imaginative responses. Do not bold this.
- Quotations must be presented as outlined in the referencing system used.
- Your Independent Study must use 1.5 spacing only. This makes it easier for examiners to read your work on the electronic devices. Use a clear size 12 font such as Palatino, Baskerville, Calibri, Helvetica, Times New Roman, Arial, Garamond, or Gill Sans MT. Any variation to this must be integral to the textual integrity of the piece. For example, if you are presenting a film script as your imaginative response you must use 12-point Courier (or Courier Prime, Courier New, Courier Final Draft) because this is the industry standard.

- Your student number should appear on every page of the Independent Study as a header.
- Every page must be paginated.
- Borders, decorations and “project” style covers do not add to the textual integrity of the Independent Study and must not be used. Cover pages for each different component of the folio must not be used. Students who continue to do so will be penalised on Criterion 7.
- Do NOT include your focus question as a header.
- Do not include your name, the name of your teacher or your school/college in any part.

ADVICE TO TEACHERS

The Independent Study must be the student’s own work; however, it is not the intention that students should decide upon a focus and then be left to their own devices.

As a guide, teachers can expect students to need about 25 hours (5 weeks or equivalent) of class and other time for the study. Teachers can choose when to allocate time for the Independent Study to their classes, bearing in mind the submission date. Time allocated does not have to be consecutive.

It is essential that:

- Providers take a range of measures to ensure academic integrity, including the appropriate use of AI tools.
- Aspects of the process of development of the Independent Study take place in school time.

The supervising teacher regularly monitors work completed away from school. The response must be entirely original and must be completed without undue assistance from another person.

INSTRUCTIONS TO MARKERS

The Independent Study will be assessed against:

Criterion 5: Compose and craft imaginative responses to texts

Criterion 6: Demonstrate understanding of own and others’ ideas, values and perspectives

Criterion 7: Demonstrate accurate and effective use of language