

Non-examination assessment: Investigating and Creating Texts

Section 1

It is important to select a topic first, then the two stimuli texts (1 fiction, 1 non-fiction)

Then choose the type of text you would like to write.

Next research your chosen text type E.g. If you chose to write a review for your non-fiction writing you should study style models of reviewing in addition to your non-fiction text before you produce a review.

The 2 texts selected must be complete texts, so if you chose a short story it should be part of a published collection.

For non-fiction you need to select a published book or collection of articles rather than single articles. Eg Charlie Brooker's collected articles

You can choose any texts from the syllabus that you are not studying for the examination

Avoid GCSE/populist texts

Section 2 Writing assignments

Produce two assignments:

- Assignment 1: **two** pieces of original writing, one piece of fiction writing and one piece of creative non-fiction writing
- Assignment 2: **one** separate analytical commentary reflecting on the studied texts and pieces of writing they have produced.

Advisory word counts:

Total for assessment: 2500–3250 words.

Assignment 1 total: 1500–2000 words

Assignment 2 total: 1000–1250 words

The assessment consists of 60 marks –

36 marks for the original writing pieces and

24 marks for the commentary.

TASK 1

Fiction and creative non-fiction

Fiction deals with events that are imaginary, i.e. invented by the author.

Creative non-fiction uses literary styles and techniques to create factually accurate texts.

The subject matter should be documentable, i.e. chosen from the real world rather than invented from the writer's mind.

1. Choose a topic that reflects your personal interests, studying two texts that relate to your chosen topic.
2. The two texts are free choice; however, they must be selected from different genres: one must be fiction and one non-fiction.
3. Texts studied must be complete texts and may be selected from genres of fiction such as: prose fiction, poetry, drama and short stories, and genres of non-fiction such as travel writing, journalism, reportage, diaries, biographies and collections of letters.
4. The coursework topic should help you to frame the investigation and provide adequate scope from which to find examples of fiction and non-fiction texts to inform and influence your original writing.

Task 2: Commentary

Keep a working notebook in which you record your initial ideas, texts, sources and details of any references. This will be helpful in writing the commentary and reflecting upon the influence of the studied texts on your creative pieces. Also keep a list of all sources used for your bibliography

You will produce an analytical commentary to accompany their original writing (fiction and non-fiction).

In your commentary, reflect on the writing process for both pieces.

You should evaluate:

- the findings of your initial research into the topic and texts
- the influence of your studied texts and how they are reflected in their written pieces
- the linguistic and literary features used in the style models that you have adopted in your own writing
- the language choices they made, through the drafting process, to achieve effects appropriate to the chosen function and target audience.
- ensure that any texts and other sources used are accurately referenced.

The commentary is an important part of the coursework process and is worth 24 of the 60 marks for the coursework component. It provides students with the opportunity to reflect and comment on their own work.

The key areas to be covered are:

- an introduction referencing the topic and stimulus texts, providing a clear rationale for the choice of tasks
- an analysis of key characteristics of the text(s) which influenced the student's own writing
- an analysis of the significant linguistic and literary techniques used by the student in the crafting of the two creative tasks.
- Ideally comparison of the two creative tasks should be integrated throughout the commentary.

There is no specific formula for writing the commentary as each one should be different depending on the core text(s), the theme, chosen genres and the intentions of the writer.

However, the main areas that all commentaries need to cover are:

- **genre, audience and purpose**
- **form, structure and language**
- **the relationship between the student's creative tasks and the stimulus texts.**

Although there is no formula, there are some pitfalls which students should try to **avoid**:

- lengthy explanations of the research undertaken
- anecdotal accounts of what was done in preparation
- long quotations from stimulus texts
- too much focus on minor secondary stimulus material
- identifying literary and linguistic techniques but failing to effectively link them to the specific use in the creative tasks
- self-evaluation by the student – e.g. 'I think I have been successful'.