

ENGLISH LITERATURE ADMISSIONS TEST: Marking Criteria

Work should be placed in one of four bands according to the qualities indicated below. Work at the top of a band is likely to demonstrate some or all of the qualities for that band; however, you should be ready to reward unconventional answers which nevertheless offer a valid response to the task. If you judge that an answer is on the borderline between two bands, you should give the lowest mark in the higher band. There are no marks awarded for wider reading, but answers which offer such material should not be marked down.

In summary, the mark awarded should primarily reflect the extent to which the candidate's answer has focused on and met the demands of the set material and the task. At the same time, markers should also seek to identify and reward evidence of a genuine responsiveness to literary texts.

Range	Features of performance
Band 1 30 – 24	<p><i>Impressive work which shows a convincing response to literary features and nuances of texts.</i></p> <p>Perceptive understanding and sensitive, analytical close reading shown through apt and illuminating references to texts. Moves confidently between passages in a well-structured argument which is fully developed.</p> <p>Work with some hesitations, but which shows very good comprehension and close reading skills used to support a generally well-focused argument, may also be placed in Band 1.</p>
Band 2 23 – 18	<p><i>Proficient work which shows a clear and sustained response to literary features.</i></p> <p>Secure understanding with evidence of thorough close reading, although this is inclined to be more mechanical and descriptive than in Band 1. Comparison is thoughtful. Argument is likely to be clearly structured and presented.</p> <p>Work with some imaginative insights but lacking clear organisation may also be placed in Band 2.</p>
Band 3 17 – 12	<p><i>Straightforward work which shows a limited response to literary features.</i></p> <p>Some understanding of chosen texts and limited evidence of effective close reading. May concentrate too much on simple paraphrase at the expense of features of language. Straightforward comparison with some ability to shape an argument.</p> <p>Work which is occasionally thoughtful but lacks coherence may also be placed in Band 3.</p>
Band 4 11 – 0	<p><i>Very limited work which struggles to meet the terms of the task.</i></p> <p>11 - 9: little evidence of understanding of texts; little or no evidence of close reading. Struggles to make meaningful comparison or structure an argument.</p> <p>8 - 0: work is completely inadequate or unacceptable as a response to the task.</p>