15.19 HSC External Examination Specifications – HSC English Extension Course 2

Submitted Major Work   *(50 marks)*

- The Major Work can only be undertaken as an HSC study in Extension Course 2.
- Students are required to submit a Major Work as detailed in the Major Work Module.
- The Major Work must be a substantial composition.
- The composition may use any medium of presentation appropriate to the nature of the composition and must be one, or a combination, of the following:
    – Imaginative
    – Investigative
    – Interpretative
    – Analytical.
- The submitted work must be conceived and executed by the student under the supervision of the English teacher.
- The development of the Major Work will be determined by negotiation between student and teacher and be formalised in writing.
- The Major Work is to be accompanied by a statement of reflection on the intent, process and understanding gained from undertaking the Major Work. This statement is to be no less than 1000 words and no more than 1500 words.
- The Office of the Board of Studies will notify the final date for the completion of the submitted Major Work.

Certification of HSC Submitted Major Work

Certification of HSC submitted works is required to ensure that each submitted work is wholly the work of the student entered for the HSC and has been completed under the supervision of the English teacher. The Board of Studies will provide a certification form for this purpose.

If the supervising teacher cannot certify the student's work the school must then complete a non-certification report document.

It is essential that:

(a) aspects of the process of development of the submitted works take place in school time

(b) work completed away from school is regularly monitored by the supervising teacher

(c) each student sign a statement, witnessed by the supervising teacher and the school principal, that the submitted Major Work is his or her own work

(d) the Major Work Journal be submitted with the Major Work. This requirement is necessary for verification of authenticity and will be referenced in the case of appeals being made to the Board of Studies

(e) the student and the supervising teacher ensure that any disks, films or tapes submitted to the Board of Studies are operable.

The Major Work Journal

During the development of the Major Work students are required to keep a process journal.

The Major Work Journal must provide the following information:

• a written statement containing a clear statement of intention agreed to by the student and the teacher/school

• reflections pertaining to the development of the Major Work composition.

The Major Work Journal is a documentation of the investigative process and the process of composition. The recording of research, analysis, critical, imaginative and speculative reflections and development of process will assist students in achieving course objectives and outcomes and in preparing for internal and external assessment tasks. (The journal also has a role in establishing the authenticity of the Major Work.)

It may also include:

• method of approach

• evidence of research and questioning

• redrafts with reasons for any changes in direction

• examples or indications of stimulus material and reflections upon them in relation to the development of the major work composition

- reflection on the extent to which intentions were achieved
- reflections upon the finished product
- an annotated bibliography.

The Major Work Journal must be submitted with the Major Work. The journal should be clearly labelled with the candidate's number, centre number and the name of the Major Work and its medium of production.

Major Work Parameters

The Major Work is an extended work or a body of work not exceeding the prescribed word or time specifications. In some cases students will include visual images as an integral part of the Major Work. These will not be assessed on their artistic merit but on the contribution they make to the completed product.

Each Major Work must be entirely original and must be completed without undue assistance from another person.

The Major Work can be presented in print, sound, film or multimedia.

The Reflection Statement

The Reflection Statement is composed at the end of the composition process and is a reflection upon the process and the completed product. The statement must contain a minimum of 1,000 words and no more than 1500 words.

The Reflection Statement:
- summarises the intent of the work and relationship it has with the extensive independent investigation.
- must include an outline of the intended audience for the Major Work and the purpose for which it was composed.
- supports the Major Work explaining the relationships of concept, structure, technical and language features and conventions.
- should explain the development of concepts during the process of composition making the links clear between independent investigation and the development of the finished product.
- should indicate how the student realised the concepts in the final product.

The Major Work — Print Medium

Short Story(ies)

Students must complete a short story or a selection of stories within the 6,000 – 8,000 word limit. The word limit does not include the Reflection Statement.

Presentation

The story or stories must be typed onto A4 paper and should use double spacing.

Font should be size 12, Arial or Times New Roman.

Each page should be numbered.

A cover sheet should be included which states the centre number and candidate number and the title of the work(s).

Poem(s)

Students must write a suite of poems, a collection of poems or an extended poem.
The suite of poems should be linked in theme and/or structure.
The collection could develop a single or diverse concept(s).
The poems together with the Reflection Statement must not exceed 5,000 words.

Presentation

The poem or poems must be typed onto A4 paper and should use double spacing.

Font should be size 12, Arial or Times New Roman.

Each page should be numbered.

A cover sheet should be included which states the centre number and candidate number and the title of the work(s).

Critical Responses

Students must develop a critical response based on their independent research into an area of special interest of their choice within a 5,000–6,000 word limit. The word limit includes the Reflection Statement but not a bibliography.

This could take the form of:

- a critique of an author's work, or
- an independent investigation into an aspect of language, or
- an independent investigation into the works of a particular historical period, or

- an independent investigation into a particular paradigm related to the study of English, or
- any other critical response approved by the teacher, which is an extension of the knowledge and understanding gained by the student in the Advanced or Extension course.

Presentation

The critical response must be typed with double spacing onto A4 size paper.

Font should be size 12, Arial or Times New Roman.

Each page should be numbered.

A cover sheet should be included which states the centre number and candidate number and the title of the work(s).

Scripts — Radio, Film, Television and Drama

Students must develop a script of a complete work for the medium of radio, film, television or drama. The intended performance time for the script must be 20–30 minutes. A Reflection Statement must also be submitted with the work.

Presentation

The script must be typed with double spacing onto A4 size paper.

Scriptwriting conventions appropriate to the medium should be followed.

Font should be size 12, Arial or Times New Roman.

Each page should be numbered.

A cover sheet should be included which states the centre number and candidate number and the title of the work(s).

The Major Work — Sound Medium

Speeches

Students must present an audio cassette tape or compact disc of a speech or speeches. The speech or combination of speeches should have a playing time of 15-20 minutes. The tape or compact disc may include music and/or sound effects, which will not be included in the running time. These effects will be noted for their contribution to the text but the assessment emphasis will be on the substance of the speech and the delivery. The audience for the speech must be specified.

The student must also submit a print copy of the speech or speeches.
A Reflection Statement must also be submitted with the work.

The student presenting the Major Work should be the principal performer, sole writer and sole director/producer.

Presentation

The speech(es) must be submitted on a cassette tape or compact disc and be clear and audible.

The written copy of the speech(es) must be typed with double spacing onto A4 size paper.

Font should be size 12, Arial or Times New Roman.

Each page should be numbered.

A cover sheet should be included which states the centre number and candidate number and the title of the work(s).

The audio tape should be cued to the beginning of the work.

Titles and credits on the audio must not identify the student, students or the school except by examination number and/or centre number.

All appropriated or non-original material should be acknowledged as an addendum to the tape or compact disc.

Radio Drama

Students must present an audio cassette tape or compact disc of a complete radio drama. The drama should have a playing time of 10-15 minutes. The tape or compact disc may include music and/or sound effects, which will not be included in the running time.

The student must also submit a print copy of the radio drama.

A Reflection Statement must also be submitted with the work.

The student presenting the Major Work should be the sole writer and sole director/producer.

Presentation

The radio drama must be submitted on a cassette tape or compact disc and be clear and audible.

Scriptwriting conventions appropriate to the medium should be followed.

The written copy of the radio drama must be typed with double spacing onto A4 size paper.

Font should be size 12, Arial or Times New Roman.

Each page should be numbered.

A cover sheet should be included which states the centre number and candidate number and the title of the work(s).

The audio tape should be cued to the beginning of the work.

Titles and credits on the audio must not identify the student, students or the school except by examination number and/or centre number.

All appropriated or non-original material should be acknowledged as an addendum to the tape or compact disc.

Performance Poetry

Students must present an audio cassette tape or compact disc of a complete poetry performance. The tape or compact disc should have a playing time of 8 –10 minutes. The tape or compact disc may include music and/or sound effects, which will not be included in the running time.

The student must also submit a print copy of the poetry.

A Reflection Statement must also be submitted with the work.

The student presenting the Major Work should be the sole writer, performer and director.

The response must be entirely original and must be completed without undue assistance from another person.

Presentation

The performance poetry must be submitted on a cassette tape or compact disc and be clear and audible.

The written copy of the poetry must be typed with double spacing onto A4 size paper.

Font should be size 12, Arial or Times New Roman.

Each page should be numbered.

A cover sheet should be included which states the centre number and candidate number and the title of the work(s).

The audio tape should be cued to the beginning of the work.

Titles and credits on the audio must not identify the student, students or the school except by examination number and/or centre number.

All appropriated or non-original material should be acknowledged as an addendum to the tape or compact disc.

The Major Work – the Visual Medium

Video

Students must present a videotape or DVD, which has a playing time of 6-8 minutes. The content of the video or DVD may be interpretive, imaginative or analytical or any combination of these.

The student must also submit a print copy of the film script.

A Reflection Statement must also be submitted with the work.

The student presenting the Major Work should be the sole writer and director.

Presentation

The video must be submitted on VHS videotape or DVD. The videotape or DVD should be clearly labelled with the candidate's number and centre number.

In addition, a typed video script should be submitted with the tape.

Scriptwriting conventions appropriate to the medium should be followed.

The written copy of the performance must be typed with double spacing onto A4 size paper.

Font should be size 12, Arial or Times New Roman.

Each page should be numbered.

A cover sheet should be included which states the centre number and candidate number and the title of the work(s).

The video tape should be cued to the beginning of the work.

Titles and credits on the video must not identify the student, students or the school except by examination number and/or centre number.

All appropriated or non-original material should be acknowledged as an addendum to the tape or DVD.

Film

Students must present a film, which has a playing time of 4–5 minutes. The content of the film may be interpretive, imaginative or analytical or any combination of these.

The student must also submit a print copy of the film script.
A Reflection Statement must also be submitted with the work.

The student presenting the Major Work should be the sole writer and director.

Presentation

The film must not exceed 35mm. The film should be clearly labelled with the candidate's number and centre number.

In addition, a typed film script should be submitted with the film.

Scriptwriting conventions appropriate to the medium should be followed.

The written copy of the script must be typed with double spacing onto A4 size paper.

Font should be size 12, Arial or Times New Roman.

Each page should be numbered.

A cover sheet should be included which states the centre number and candidate number and the title of the work(s).

The film should be cued to the beginning of the work.

Titles and credits on the film must not identify the student, students or the school except by examination number and/or centre number.

All appropriated or non-original material should be acknowledged in the credits or as an addendum to the film.

The Major Work – Multimedia

Multimedia compositions must be original and might include:
- a CD-ROM
- a website.

Multimedia compositions must be original and must explore a concept or notion. All files and links established are to be created by the student. There should be a minimum of 15 screens containing substantial text and a maximum of 40 screens. A Reflection Statement must also be submitted with the work.

Presentation

The multimedia composition must be submitted on computer disk or CD-ROM containing all of the software required to run the program. The programs must run on Macintosh or Windows operating systems. Websites must be able to be operated through Internet Explorer or Netscape Communication Navigator.

In addition, a hard copy and logic map should be submitted with the disk or CD-ROM.

A cover sheet should be included which states the centre number and candidate number and the title of the work(s).

Titles and credits on the medium must not identify the student, students or the school except by examination number and/or centre number.

All appropriated or non-original material should be acknowledged in the credits or as an addendum to the disc or CD-ROM.

Students should submit technical specifications, installation and running instructions with their Major Work.

Major Works in this medium may be submitted on Zip disks or CD-ROMs.

A hard copy of a flow chart/logic map and a story board should be submitted with the Major Work to ensure markers assess the extent of the student's multimedia work.

The multimedia composition must be able to function directly from the submitted disk or CD-ROM. Submitted work cannot be copied to a hard drive to improve playback performance.

If creating a website use:
- HTML version 3.2 or newer.
- only 'client side' applets and plug-ins (no server dependency).
- display must be designed for viewing at a screen resolution minimum of 800 by 600 pixels.
- graphics which are GIF, JPEG or PNG images.
- no custom fonts.

The website:
- must be able to be viewed on Internet Explorer or Netscape version 4 or later. The student must specify their preferred browser and version.
- can include JavaScript.

- any number of links or branches may be developed but the total number of individually accessed screens, cards or frames needs to be 15 to 40. Multiple forms of layering, such as inserted animations or scrolling text, may be generated on a single screen, card or frame.

The work should be designed for playback and interaction not requiring specialist hardware or software such as high performance cards or software drivers.

If the Major Work comprises other applications, observe the following:

- must be 32 bit native applications.

- must run on either Windows (95/98/Me/NT/2000) or Macintosh OS 8.6 or greater.

- there must be compiled runtime files (exe files) or it must be viewable through a publicly distributable viewer (freeware).

- display must be designed for viewing at a screen resolution minimum of 800 by 600 pixels.

- resolution: it can be developed for 16 to 32 bit display. The student should specify their preferred display.

- sound recorded as part of the application may be 8 bit or 16 bit mono/stereo. If the work is submitted as a PC compatible CD-ROM or disk, sound should be supported by standard SoundBlaster configurations.

Students submitting Major Works in this category should be advised against technical artistry at the expense of the complexity of content, ideas and meaning.

A completed CD-ROM or disk should be directly and thoroughly tested for appropriate playback on a Microsoft Windows PC-compatible or Apple Macintosh computer before actual submission. It is advised that the CD-ROM or disk be pretested on a computer that has not been used during the production of the work to ensure that it performs as intended, without the installation of the actual authoring application.

Online marking of interactives is not available and students should not provide a website address for their work.