

Instructions for completing the GCE A Level English Literature coursework advisory form

The GCE A level Literature specification allows for a free choice of coursework texts and tasks. The texts for this component may be drawn from the genres of poetry, prose, drama or literary non-fiction and must be different from those texts which students have studied in preparation for their externally assessed components.

Centres are welcome to draw on texts named elsewhere in the specification which have not been selected for examination assessment.

The specification allows centres and their students complete freedom to select texts (written in English) from within their own specialisms and interests. There is no requirement for students to each study different texts/tasks, but due to the personal nature of the assignment selection, teachers are advised to develop text combinations and assignments in collaboration with students, in order to cater to their needs and interests.

If you would like to have feedback on your choice of coursework texts and/or tasks, please submit your query to the [coursework advisory service](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I have to request advice on all of my students' coursework texts and tasks?

No. It is not compulsory to submit proposed texts and tasks. The service is to offer advice on any combinations of texts and/or tasks where you are unsure as to the appropriateness of the students' choices.

Q: When can I expect to receive a response to my query?

You will receive a response within 10 working days of submitting your query.

Q: Do I need to submit a separate form for each query?

No, please enter all your proposed text combinations and task titles on a single form.

Q: What requirements are there concerning the 'quality' of texts selected for coursework?

The texts that are set for study in the examined components are indicative of the type and quality of texts which are appropriate for coursework study.

The [Getting Started Guide](#) contains further examples of the type and quality of texts which are appropriate.

Any texts which have previously been used for coursework without issue (with the exception of texts in translation) on previous specifications can continue to be used. Any texts which appear on the specifications of other awarding bodies' specifications, current or previous, would also be appropriate.

Q: Can texts in translation be used as coursework texts?

No. Only texts which originated in the English language can be used for coursework. These texts do not have to be British, however.

Q: What makes a good coursework title?

You are advised to adopt a title which encourages students to address all five assessment objectives. For example 'With reference to your wider reading around text A and text B, compare how writer X and writer Y present Z.' Or 'Explore Z in text A and text B considering the contexts of their production and reception and the different ways in which these texts have been read.'

You may like to review the suggested coursework titles in the Getting Started Guide, for many examples of appropriate texts and tasks.

Q. How many poems count as a 'text' for coursework?

A selection of poetry from a published anthology must be studied and students will need to demonstrate that they have engaged with a full text of poetry, rather than merely the smaller number of poems that they may choose to reference in their essay. Wider knowledge of the poet's work, and the reasons for the selection of analysed poems as indicative of this work, might be a means to demonstrate this.

Q: Can students select literary non-fiction texts?

Yes. For example, students might study a published anthology of literary non-fiction work, such as *Klondyke Kate Revisited: Anthology of Non-fiction* published by the English and Media Centre or a single work such as *In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote.