



A level History coursework word count guidance

Due to feedback from teachers during this Summer's assessment series, we would like to clarify the rules around word counts for the coursework.

Students are expected to write between 3000 to 4000 words for their coursework assignment, as stated on page 121 of the specification.

Reiteration of specification guidance

- Footnotes may be used, and do not count towards the word count. But they must not be used to develop a student's line of argument.
- Appendices may be used, and do not count towards the word count. The appendices may contain material to which a student has referred to in their assignment, such as extended quotations, extracts or data.

Clarification of word count rules

- If students submit an assignment which is under the minimum word count of 3000 or over the maximum of 4000, then they may not be able to achieve full marks.
- Teachers should use their professional judgement if students go under/above the word count, and apply the mark scheme accordingly, taking into account the qualities of the level being met/or not, as well as the need for conciseness.
- Assignments which are more than c. 10% of the word count over the maximum should be judged as not having met the requirement for conciseness that is contained in the level descriptors. This will prevent the award of the top mark band in a level even if the other qualities are displayed.