

Assessment Specifications

General information

Domain	English Written Language
Level	3
Mode of Assessment	Written Examination
For Year	2012
Standards	90721, 90722, 90723, 90724

Specific information for individual external achievement standards

Standard	90721
Title	Respond critically to written text(s) studied
Version	2
Number of Credits	3

Format of the assessment

Candidates will be required to write one essay of at least 400 words on written text(s) they have studied.

The essay should include:

- an introduction, stating clearly the focus and scope of the argument
- a range of appropriate points and explanation, supported by accurate and relevant evidence
- a reasoned conclusion.

The essay should show accurate use and control of the conventions of academic writing.

Questions will be set by genre, and will include opportunities to discuss aspects of intertextuality across different genres of written texts. Candidates will need to relate their knowledge of texts to aspects of genre. Texts chosen should be sufficiently developed to enable candidates to engage critically with several aspects of content and crafting.

Candidates who select short texts (e.g. poetry, short story, magazine articles, short electronic texts) must refer to at least TWO.

Note: 400 words is a suggested **minimum** number of words.

Standard	90722
Title	Respond critically to Shakespearean drama studied
Version	2
Number of Credits	3

Format of the assessment

Candidates will be required to write one essay of at least 400 words on one *Shakespearean play they have studied. The essay should include:

- an introduction, stating clearly the focus and scope of the argument
- a range of appropriate points and explanation, supported by accurate and relevant evidence
- a reasoned conclusion.

The essay should show accurate use and control of the conventions of academic writing.

There will be three essay topics set on each of five *Shakespearean plays. One topic will involve a critical discussion of a passage from the play, one topic will involve a critical discussion of selected aspect(s) of the play, and one topic will involve a critical discussion of issues in Shakespearean drama with respect to the play.

Candidates will choose one topic from one play for their essay.

* Five Shakespearean plays will be prescribed each year by NZQA.

The plays set for 2012 are: *Othello*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Henry V*, *King Lear*, and *The Merchant of Venice*.

Note: 400 words is a suggested **minimum** number of words.

Standard	90723
Title	Respond critically to oral or visual text studied
Version	2
Number of Credits	3

Format of the assessment

Candidates will be required to write one essay of at least 400 words on one oral or visual text they have studied.

The essay should include:

- an introduction, stating clearly the focus and scope of the argument
- a range of appropriate points and explanation, supported by accurate and relevant evidence
- a reasoned conclusion.

The essay should show accurate use and control of the conventions of academic writing.

Questions will be set by genre and will include opportunities to discuss aspects of intertextuality across different genres of oral and visual texts. Candidates will need to relate their knowledge of texts to aspects of genre. Texts chosen should be sufficiently developed to enable candidates to engage critically with several aspects of content and crafting.

Candidates, who select texts from television, radio programmes and audio performances, and electronic texts, should refer to at least TWO.

Note: 400 words is a suggested **minimum** number of words.

Standard	90724
Title	Respond critically to unfamiliar prose and poetry texts
Version	2
Number of Credits	3

Format of the assessment

Candidates will answer questions based on TWO written texts – one prose and one poetry.

Questions will be set on each text, and there will also be questions involving the comparison of both texts.

Resources supplied

The texts will be provided in a separate resource booklet.