



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

HSC English Extension 2 Marking Guidelines

HSC examination overview

The HSC examination in English Extension 2 is in the form of a submitted Major Work, consisting of a sustained composition including documentation and reflection on the process.

Task: Major Work

This task requires students to work independently to plan and complete a Major Work in the form of an extended composition. It allows students to select an area of personal interest from their specialised study of English and develop their work in this area to a level of distinction.

Students compose the Major Work as an extension of the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in the English (Advanced) and English (Extension 1) courses. The Major Work is to be substantial. It may be imaginative, investigative, interpretive, analytical or any combination of these. The chosen form and medium must be appropriate to the nature of the task, the student's interests and abilities and the resources available.

To provide the basis for the Major Work, students undertake ongoing, systematic and rigorous investigation into their chosen area. This investigation process is documented in a journal that demonstrates the processes of inquiry, interprets, analyses and reflects on the knowledge and understanding gained, and explains the stages of the composition of the Major Work.

The Major Work is assessed internally as a process and externally as a product.

Assessment criteria

- Textual integrity
- Quality of insights and concepts, developed through independent investigation, and the communication of developed ideas
- Manipulation of features that shape meaning and response, and quality of engagement
- The quality of the Reflection Statement

Outcomes assessed: H1, H2

MARKING GUIDELINES

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composes a highly original and sustained Major Work that demonstrates coherence to achieve a fluent integration of meaning(s), value(s) and form • Formulates insights and concepts through investigation, and communicates developed ideas with flair. This communication may be elaborated, complex, subtle and refined and may offer a new perspective or synthesis of ideas and concepts in new, original or inventive ways. The focus of the work is clearly articulated and sustained • Demonstrates highly effective manipulation of language, technical skills, conventions and medium for the intended audience and purpose. This manipulation is sophisticated and may be inventive and experimental. There is a conscious and successful shaping of meaning to engage an audience. This is evident throughout the work • Composes a sophisticated and critical Reflection Statement that explains the intention, development and realisation of the Major Work 	41–50
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composes an original and sustained Major Work that demonstrates coherence to achieve a skilled integration of meaning(s), value(s) and form • Formulates insights and concepts through investigation, and communicates developed ideas with clarity. This communication may be elaborated and show some complexity, subtlety and refinement. This may be more evident in some aspects of the Major Work than in others. The Work may offer a new perspective or synthesis of ideas and concepts and be thoroughly developed and consistent in focus • Demonstrates effective manipulation of language, technical skills, conventions and medium for the intended audience and purpose. This manipulation is skilful and may be inventive and experimental. There is a conscious shaping of meaning to engage an audience. This is generally evident throughout the work • Composes a critical Reflection Statement that explains the intention, development and realisation of the Major Work 	31–40

Criteria	Marks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composes a substantial Major Work that demonstrates coherence. There may be lapses in tone, register, voice that affect the integration of meaning(s), value(s) and form • Formulates insights and concepts through investigation, and communicates ideas. This communication may be well-organised but not well-developed. May be more apt and coherent in some aspects of the work than in others. May attempt a new perspective or synthesis of ideas and concepts. There may be inconsistencies in the thoroughness of the development or the focus • Demonstrates some effective manipulation of language, technical skills, conventions and medium for the intended audience and purpose. This manipulation shows a control of language but there may be lapses in some parts. There is a shaping of meaning to engage an audience. This is more evident in some aspects of the work than others • Composes a Reflection Statement that explains most aspects of the intention, development and realisation of the Major Work 	21–30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composes a Major Work that makes some connections between meaning(s), value(s) and form • Formulates concepts through investigation, and communicates ideas. This communication may be predictable, literal and immediate. Makes simple connections between different aspects of the work. The focus of the work is unclear or unsustainable • Demonstrates some effective use of language, technical skills, conventions and medium for the intended audience and purpose. Lapses in fluency interfere with audience engagement and appreciation of the Major Work • Composes a Reflection Statement that explains some aspects of the intention, development and realisation of the Major Work. There may be some inconsistencies between elements of the Reflection Statement and the Major Work 	11–20
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attempts to compose a Major Work. It may be superficial or incomplete • Formulates simple concepts through limited investigation, and attempts to communicate ideas. This communication may attempt to make simple or incongruous connections between some aspects of the work. The work lacks focus • Attempts to control language, technical skills, conventions and medium. These, however, may not be appropriate for the intended audience and purpose • Composes a Reflection Statement that identifies some aspects of the intention, development and realisation of the Major Work. There are substantial inconsistencies between the Reflection Statement and the Major Work 	1–10