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Guidance

Grade descriptors for GCSEs graded 9 to 1: English literature

Updated 15 July 2016

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1.

Grade 8

In relation to a range of texts, to achieve grade 8, candidates will be able to:

- sustain a convincing, informed personal response to explicit and implicit meanings of texts

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- sustain a perceptive critical analysis of the ways in which writers use language, form and structure
- use judicious and well-integrated textual references to develop personal responses
- show perceptive understanding of how contexts shape texts and responses to texts
- make illuminating comparisons between texts

2.

Grade 5

In relation to a range of texts, to achieve grade 5, candidates will be able to:

- develop a generally coherent and engaged response to explicit and implicit meanings of texts
- develop a clear understanding of the ways in which writers use language, form and structure
- use apt textual references to support responses
- use understanding of contexts to inform responses to texts
- make credible comparisons between texts

3.

Grade 2

In relation to a range of texts, to achieve grade 2, candidates will be able to:

- make straightforward comments about explicit meanings of texts
- describe straightforward aspects of language, form or structure
- make general references to obvious details of texts
- show awareness that texts are related to contexts
- make basic links between texts

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