

Candidate Style Answers

OCR GCSE English J350

A642 Imaginative Writing – Controlled Assessment Task

This Support Material booklet is designed to accompany the OCR GCSE English specification for teaching from September 2010.

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Introduction

OCR has produced these candidate style answers to support teachers in interpreting the assessment criteria for the new GCSE specifications and to bridge the gap between new specification release and availability of exemplar candidate work.

This content has been produced by subject experts, with the input of Chairs of Examiners, to illustrate how the sample assessment questions might be answered and provide some commentary on what factors contribute to an overall grading. The candidate style answers are not written in a way that is intended to replicate student work but to demonstrate what a “good” or “excellent” response might include, supported by examiner commentary and conclusions.

As these responses have not been through full moderation and do not replicate student work, they have not been graded and are instead, banded “middle” or “high” to give an indication of the level of each response.

Please note that this resource is provided for advice and guidance only and does not in any way constitute an indication of grade boundaries or endorsed answers.

A642 Imaginative Writing

Controlled Assessment Task

Candidate A

SECTION A: Media

1 Write the text for a broadcast to raise awareness of a social problem.

The Credit Crunch. Businesses, individuals and most of all families have been affected by it. These last few months have been a big worry for some families and made life unbearable with the thought of having to support their families through this tough time.

Unemployment has risen over the past eighteen months because of the credit crunch with families suffering the worst with parents losing jobs and being unable to support their children and home.

A man who recently lost his job in advertising spoke out to BBC today about his redundancy and pressure to keep his family going "I loose my job I've been in for 10 years to suddenly come into work without warning to see my boss telling me I need to go home and I won't be returning. My wife is just a waitress in a local hotel and without my job we can't keep the house alive, but I can't find another job to save us." It isn't only the home Mr Jones is trying to save, also his children "I have a son started university in September, me and my wife always planned on helping our children through education throughout their life, this just cannot happen though, and we still have two more to support."

This is just typical of many stories families have to tell around the country. However not is it only families and adults that are suffering from unemployment in the UK, but newly adults, just leaving school looking for a job, are in a position where they are unable to start a career let alone loose one. A college leaver recently just left Sutton College stated "I've always wanted to work in hospitality, yet I am unable to even get started to work. I know friends who have got lucky and managed to get a job where they can, or they know other friends and family who can help. Their lucky but not all of us have that option and we just have to stay living at home with no hope yet to be able to go anywhere."

Mortgages are also at risk as families are unable to afford the payments with many people having to sell up their beloved homes. Rhys Jones got married earlier this year but he is still living with his parents "We can't get a mortgage and we don't want to waste our money renting. So we have decided to stay at home and save our money because we need to get a big deposit" he told the BBC. This sort of situation can put a big strain on a new marriage and this can affect the divorce rate.

Many other countries are affected by the credit crunch, but Britain is one of the worst. The government has tried to do something about it for example taking tax off clothes and other items, but it hasn't worked. The government is in debt and can't really afford to help anyone.

This is the style of life people have to put up with at this time; however lets hope that things get better for everyone in the future.

Text us or twitter us and tell us your story or check out the website for our address. We will pass on all your comments to the government.

2 (b) Write a letter from a person who is responding to your broadcast.

Dear Jason,

I am writing in response to your talk about the credit crunch and wanted to thank you for making aware the young people's view on society during the credit crunch.

Most media coverage on the subject is concentrating on people already with jobs losing them and focussing on that, and nobody seems to realise the younger generation can't even get their first job. Surely we are in a worse condition as we have had no experience. Finishing school and having qualifications isn't enough in this time and everybody is forgetting this.

I have worked very hard to get my qualifications and I was told I would get a better job if I worked hard. I plan to work in hair and beauty but unfortunately cannot seem to find a position to be accepted, as this is the kind of luxury adults cut back on to save them money. I desperately want to move out and live independently but this won't happen for me any time soon without me working.

Also a friend of my sisters has just finished her degree at university and after all that work she can't get a job. She is in £12000 of debt and she has to get her own place because her family have downsized because of the credit crunch. She has done some temping but can't get a proper job.

Another person I know doesn't have a job and spends all his time in his room on the computer. I don't think this is very healthy because he doesn't exercise or even talk to his family much. I think the credit crunch is having a really bad effect on young people.

This should be a happy time when you are young. We should be able to go out and enjoy ourselves and have fun, but that isn't possible nowadays. We have to wait for our parents to go out to go to someones house and get together with our friends. Luckily we can use Orange Wednesday to get to see the latest films.

As well as this it is difficult getting the bus fare to go to interviews and I think bus fares should be made free when you are looking for a job. You can spend £3.00 there and back and still not get the job, and this gets you down.

I think all this has happened because everyone got into debt. Even the Government are in debt. They should never of allowed it.

Thank you again for raising this problem. We are all in this together and we all need to pull together and get through it. Your program helps us do this.

Thank you for your time.

Yours sincerely

Commentary

The writer engages the audience and is generally in control of the material. Writing has a sense of direction and shows evidence of adapting form and style to suit different purposes. There is some variety of vocabulary and sentence structure for effect, but these sometimes lack precision. The questions are addressed in a mainly relevant way, demonstrating an understanding of task and purpose. Spelling of complex regular words is secure and punctuation is usually used accurately for ending sentences, although is less secure within sentences. (A good middle response).