Commentary on candidate evidence

Assessors awarded the candidate evidence the following marks for the Portfolio.

Candidate 1

Portfolio title: Is La vita é Bella principally a comedy or a tragedy? Discuss

The candidate was awarded **6 marks**:

Content

- The candidate has chosen a title which makes clear the focus for analysis
- The candidate has chosen sources which do not work together
- The candidate mainly adopts a merely informative approach and includes aspects which lack relevance to the focus of the essay

The title is clear and appropriate for analysis. Three sources are listed in the bibliography, but one source is in English and therefore not appropriate. The film source is not adequately referenced using the director's name, year of release or title. The candidate frequently retells the plot of the film, for example 'Guido finds out that she is going to the theatre, so he gets a ticket to go and hope to see her… It is pouring with rain and he steals her partner's car …' (paragraph 3).

Style

- The candidate presents little evidence from the sources to support any conclusions made
- The candidate does not use critical terminology
- The candidate has difficulty maintaining appropriate register
- Writing includes some poor English expression

Although the candidate quotes from sources, the quotations are not analysed or explained adequately, for example, 'As said by film director, … Because it seems more like a romantic comedy Falletti says …'. (paragraph 2).

The candidate does not use critical terminology, and English expression is poor in several areas, for example, 'so he gets a ticket to go and hope to see her …'.

The candidate writes in the past tense where the present is more appropriate, for example, ‘and after that encounter they both became curious of each other’ (paragraph 2).

In the final paragraph, the candidate quotes from the source in English rather than in Italian: ‘The point of the film lies in its name …’

Organisation

- The candidate writes without structure, which impedes communication
- Writing lacks coherence
- The candidate presents few arguments

The essay lack’s structure and, at times, coherence. The candidate tries to separate the two halves of the film into two separate sections but jumps around, and repetitively reintroduces prior points into later areas, for example similar reference is made twice in paragraph 1 and 2 about Guido’s dream of owning a bookstore and the fact that the film is initially funny.

The candidate presents few points for analysis and sticks mainly to narrating the story, for example the penultimate paragraph principally retells the sad story of Guido’s final hours rather than analysing the tragedy of Guido’s fate and its relevance to the title of the candidate’s essay.

Overall, the candidate demonstrates sufficient understanding of the film. Just enough appropriate reference to tragedy, to comedy and to the two appropriate sources make the piece worthy of **6 marks**.

Candidate 2

Portfolio title: Analyse how Pirandello explores the contrast between reality and fiction in '*Sei personaggi in cerca d'autore*'.

The candidate was awarded **27 marks**:

- The candidate has chosen a title which makes clear the focus of the analysis
- The chosen sources support analysis
- The candidate takes an analytical approach with reasoned and relevant arguments
- The candidate consistently demonstrates an understanding of the focus of the study

The title is clear and lends itself well to analysis. The sources used are the play itself and an Italian critique on the play: L'Impossibile verità dei 'Sei personaggi' pirandelliani. The candidate uses quotations from both to analyse the playwright's exploration of reality and fiction.

The candidate demonstrates an understanding of the philosophical aspects of the play, for example, Pirandello's ideas on the complex nature of personality and analyses the playwright's ideas with reasoned and relevant arguments.

Style

- The candidate presents evidence from sources to support the conclusions made
- The candidate uses appropriate quotations from sources
- There is a range of critical terminology and specialist vocabulary
- The candidate mostly maintains an appropriate register
- There is occasional poor English expression and syntax and unnecessary capitalisation of proper nouns

The candidate refers to two sources, with most quotations alluding to the script of the play itself. Quotations are used appropriately to support conclusions made, for example 'Io voglio rappresentare il mio dramma! Il mio!' 'The repetition emphasises …' (paragraph 4).

The two quotations used from Bonfiglio's L'Impossibile verità dei 'Sei personaggi' pirandelliani (paragraph 6) are relevant to the candidate's arguments about life, form and reality. However, the analysis of the second quotation 'dell'essere e dell'apparire' only briefly supports the conclusions made.

Critical terminology includes: 'This emphasises that …'; 'This reinforces …'; '… it showcases how the characters are deeply connected …'; 'This reflects Pirandello's belief that …'

The candidate uses specialist vocabulary, which is specific to plays, for example 'metatheatre'; 'perform their story'; 'tragedy', 'audience'.

There are one or two small lapses in English expression, for example 'The Characters disrupts the Actors' work …''

The use of contractions, for example, 'what's real and what's fictional' within the essay establishes a less formal tone and register in some areas.

Organisation

- The candidate writes in a well-organised and structured way
- The writing is coherent throughout
- The candidate presents and evaluates arguments and attempts to draw conclusions which relate to the title and chosen focus for analysis

There is evidence of a consistent pattern in the structure of paragraphs: a point is presented, a quotation is used and there is some follow-up analysis and a conclusion.

The candidate writes coherently, with clear reference to the title throughout.

Overall, this is a very good portfolio which explores a rather complex title. Performance falls within the pegged mark range of 24-30. Some lapses in English place it just within the lower end of **27 marks**.

Candidate 3

Portfolio title: In what ways does Ammaniti portray Michele as morally stronger than the adults around him?

The candidate was awarded **30 marks**:

Content

- The candidate has chosen a title which makes clear the focus of the analysis
- The chosen sources work well together and clearly support the analysis
- The candidate consistently demonstrates an understanding of the focus of the study

The title makes it clear that the candidate intends to explore and contrast the morality of adults and children in the essay. The candidate lists three sources in the bibliography and refers to all three appropriately. An analytical approach is maintained throughout, and the candidate shows a thorough understanding of the adult/child morality issues explored.

Style

- The candidate presents detailed evidence from the sources to support the conclusions made
- A range of quotations are used from appropriate sources
- The candidate uses a range of critical terminology and specialist language
- An appropriate register is used throughout

The candidate consistently makes a point and backs it up with evidence from a source, for example, ‘Michele is able to take a step back and properly reevaluate the situation and recognise how “non era giusta quella penitenza”’ (paragraph 2), and ‘… his regret is apparent through his dramatic moment of guilt and regret … “piange e accarezza il Figlio”’ (paragraph 6).

The candidate uses appropriate quotations from sources to highlight the contrasting moral outlook of the child/adult, for example the compassion of young Michele is

contrasted with the evil within his father: “Non potevo lasciarlo lì.” (Michele – paragraph 2) and “l’uomo nero … di notte era cattivo”.’ (his father, paragraph 4).

The candidate uses a range of critical terminology, for example ‘Ammaniti raises the question of whether …’: ‘through these moments, readers are able to interpret that …’; ‘it is a climactic turning point …’

The candidate uses appropriate register and writes maturely, using engaging specialist vocabulary, for example the alliterated phrase: ‘The adults are paralysed by pride and profit …’ (paragraph 4).

One or two lapses in English expression do not detract from the overall impression.

Organisation

- The candidate writes in a well-organised and structured way
- The candidate demonstrates writing which is coherent throughout
- The candidate presents and evaluates a series of arguments and draws conclusions which relate directly to the title

The candidate structures paragraphs to include presenting a point, illustrating it with a quotation or a paraphrase and forming a conclusion.

The candidate presents a range of perspectives whilst still focusing on the title, for example the reasons why adults are involved in hurting a young boy are explored in paragraph 4, but the candidate’s conclusion returns, in paragraph 5, to a reinforcement of the essay’s focus (Michele’s superior moral strength).

Overall, this is a very good portfolio which contains aspects of a 27 and 30. The mature language and appropriate use of sources pushes it into the higher band of 30.

Candidate 4

Portfolio title: To what extent does Niccolò Ammaniti explore the themes of fear and courage in the novel '*io non ho paura*'

The candidate was awarded **18 marks**:

Content

- The candidate has chosen a title which outlines the focus of the analysis
- The candidate takes an analytical approach with relevant arguments
- The candidate demonstrates an understanding of the focus of the study

The title makes it clear that the candidate intends to focus on Ammaniti's exploration of fear and courage. The candidate explores different types of fear from the point of view of children and adults, for example the childish fear of the unknown and the adult fear of unemployment and poverty. The candidate also explores courage with regards to the main character, Michele.

Six sources are listed in the bibliography, four of which are in Italian and relevant to the study.

The candidate demonstrates an understanding of the novel and takes an analytical approach, attempting to unmask the reasons why Michele and the adults in the novel are or are not fearful or courageous.

Style

- The candidate presents some evidence from sources to support conclusions made
- The candidate uses some critical terminology
- The candidate presents arguments with evidence to support conclusions
- There is some poor English expression and syntax

The candidate only presents evidence from the novel source and does not make any reference to the other sources listed in the bibliography.

Critical terminology is used, for example 'Michele is portrayed as …it functions as a physical representation of childhood fears …' (paragraph 2). In paragraph 3, the

candidate makes the argument that compassion fuels Michele's courage, and the candidate then proceeds to provide a quotation to back this up: 'La devo fare io.'

At times, the candidate omits full stops and commas, and this interrupts the flow of the essay, for example 'Michele has many fears and they increase as the novel progresses we see these fears with courage …'

Organisation

- The candidate writes with some sense of structure
- Writing is largely coherent but there are some instances of lack of clarity which do detract from the overall impression

The candidate is successful in presenting an argument and a supporting quotation in each paragraph. Sentence structure is inconsistent, and lack of commas and full stops sometimes impede understanding. There is some repetition of language and ideas which impact on communication, for example the phrases face/facing his/these fears/ occur in paragraphs 1,2, 3 and 4.

Overall, the candidate successfully explores courage and fear in the novel. Performance moves mainly between the pegged marks of 15-21. Despite some weaker areas, this is a good portfolio and merits the upper band mark 18.