

Introduction to Controlled Assessment

Unit 1 is assessed through controlled assessment; it replaces traditional GCSE coursework. Like the other three units, it counts for 25% of the total GCSE mark. However, unlike the examined units, it is not split into Foundation and Higher tiers.

The idea of controlled assessment is for students to produce an original response without the drawbacks of ‘over-preparation’ and the complications of ensuring candidates’ work is authentic. It allows centres to have a greater degree of control, selecting when learners do the assessment. Tasks can be completed at any point in the academic year, provided they meet the deadline for submission.

Unit 1 Controlled Assessment: What you need to know

Unit 1 is divided into two areas of study:

- Shakespeare and Film/Audio (10%)
- Literary Heritage Poetry (15%)

All controlled assessment tasks are set by OCR. For Section A (Shakespeare and Film/Audio), one task will be set on each of the Shakespeare plays. For Section B (Literary Heritage Poetry), a choice of two tasks on each of the poets will be set. These tasks will be replaced each year (although the texts will remain in place for longer periods). The suggested word limit for each task is 1,000 words.

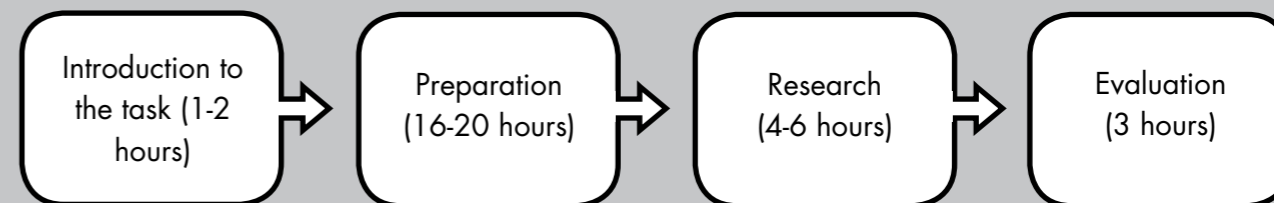
The controlled assessment can be completed in Years 9, 10 or 11, and submitted for entry in either January or June, but centres must ensure candidates undertake a task applicable to the correct academic year. Tasks will be made available from 1 June to allow planning time. Centres can decide how time is allocated, and how to split the time. You may wish to split the three hours allowed into several different sessions or to use the three hours as a single session.

The stages of controlled assessment

Students are required to complete two tasks as part of the controlled assessment unit:

- A task requiring comment, criticism and analysis of aspects of the selected Shakespeare play and of linked scenes from the chosen film or audio version
- A task requiring comparison between two of the poems set for study, written by the selected poet.

Completing the controlled assessment takes place in a series of four stages:



Understanding the mark scheme

Given that the controlled assessment report is worth 25% of the whole GCSE, it is worth teachers understanding the mark scheme in order to help students access the highest marks. The table below sets out the marks for each section and the criteria that help towards Level 3 in the mark scheme.

AO	CANDIDATES ARE EXPECTED TO...	CRITERIA FOR SUCCESS	MARKS
AO1	Respond to texts critically and imaginatively; select and evaluate relevant textual detail to illustrate and support interpretations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Response to texts is clear and sustained • Shows sophisticated critical engagement and insight • Textual evidence is relevant and well-selected • Cogent and precise evaluation of textual evidence 	16 marks
AO3	Make comparisons and explain links between texts, evaluating writers’ different ways of expressing meaning and achieving effects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wide range of points of connection between texts • Perceptive, thoughtful exploration and explanation of points • Comparison of meaning/effect in different texts shows subtlety and discrimination 	24 marks