

## NOTICE TO CENTRES

FAO: The Examinations Officer; The Head of English; Teacher i/c GCSE English

Date: September 2006

Subject: Terminal Assessment

### **THE TERMINAL RULE OF ASSESSMENT IN OCR GCSE ENGLISH (1900) AND GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE (1901)**

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE FOR EXAMINATIONS OFFICERS AND TEACHERS OF ENGLISH ABOUT CANDIDATE ENTRY FOR THESE SPECIFICATIONS.

*The following guidance should be read in conjunction with the relevant Approved Specifications for 1900 and 1901.*

In order to achieve an overall GCSE grade in either of these qualifications, all candidates must meet both of the following requirements:

- Complete a valid combination of units
- Satisfy the Terminal Rule of assessment in their final sitting.

The GCSE General Criteria require that:

- at least 50% of the qualification must be taken as terminal external assessment (i.e. by examination).

This is commonly referred to as the Terminal Rule.

It is the responsibility of centres to ensure that candidates are entered correctly to fulfil these requirements. A candidate who does not meet the Terminal Rule requirement cannot be issued with a certificate grade.

The unit entries required to meet the Terminal Rule for 1900 English and 1901 English Literature are shown overleaf.

### **Some questions to consider:**

*What are the implications for candidates who might be entering some units in different sessions?*

As its name implies, the Terminal Rule governs what candidates must take in whichever is their final examination session. It applies to all candidates, whether they are completing their course for the first time or re-sitting any unit(s) – including coursework. For re-sit candidates, it will often mean that they need to re-sit more than one examination unit to meet the terminal 50% external assessment requirement.

*Does coursework count towards Terminal Assessment?*

No. Coursework is internally assessed so cannot count towards the requirement.

*If a candidate has taken a unit twice before certification, will the better result count?*

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Not necessarily. If the Unit has to be taken in the final session to meet the Terminal Rule requirement of 50% by external assessment, then this result has to count.

*If a candidate wishes to take only a coursework unit in the final session, having sat the examination units previously, is this possible?*

No. The requirements of the rule have to be satisfied in whichever session is the final one. In order to sit any coursework unit in the final session, a candidate must also sit the necessary external examination unit(s) to meet the Terminal Rule requirement.

## GCSE English (1900) Terminal Assessment

For candidates with written coursework (Unit 2434) the following unit combination **must** be taken as Terminal Assessment in the final session:

Unit	2431	2432
Type of assessment	External (examination)	External (examination)
% weighting	30%	30%

For candidates with the examination alternative to coursework (Unit 2433) the following unit combinations for Terminal Assessment are also possible:

Unit	2431	2433
Type of assessment	External (examination)	External (examination)
% weighting	30%	20%

OR

Unit	2432	2433
Type of assessment	External (examination)	External (examination)
% weighting	30%	20%

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## GCSE English Literature (1901) Terminal Assessment

Candidates follow either Scheme A or Scheme B.

- Scheme A Units are taken from: 2441, 2442, 2443/ 2444
- Scheme B Units are taken from: 2445, 2446, 2447/ 2448

For candidates with written coursework (Unit 2443 or 2447) the following unit **must** be taken as Terminal Assessment in the final session:

Unit Scheme A or Scheme B	2442 or 2446
Type of assessment	External (examination)
% weighting	50%

For candidates with the examination alternative to coursework (Unit 2444 or 2448) the following unit combination for Terminal Assessment is also possible:

Unit Scheme A or Scheme B	2441 or 2445	2444 or 2448
Type of assessment	External (examination)	External (examination)
% weighting	20%	30%

Any enquiry about this notice should be referred to the OCR Customer Contact Centre, (01223 553998), OCR, 1 Hills Road, Cambridge, CB1 2EU.

