



**AQA Certificates
January 2013**

**English Literature
(Specification 8710)**

8710/C

Coursework Project

Report on the Examination

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Certificate in English Literature

Principal Moderator's Report - 8710 Coursework - January 2013

Unsurprisingly, there was a very small entry for this component at the mid-year point. The freedom to select a task and texts matched to students' individual interests, and to develop that interest at length and in detail, was obviously appreciated by those who submitted work. The work was certainly substantial enough to justify the time allowed for it, and presented as well as the favourable conditions allowed. More importantly, there was evident comparability of challenge and demand with tasks and texts specified for the examined option. This is a crucial aspect of the coursework option, as its generous share of the total marks demands evidence of parity with the examined component.

Enterprising pairings of texts which may appeal to other teachers and candidates were a comparison of the authors' uses of religious and superstitious references in *Othello* and *Dracula*, and comparison of the ways writers explored the theme of loyalty in *Macbeth* and *The Crucible*.

Some very clear guidance emerges from the moderation of this series' submissions:

- a) successful candidates select tasks that meet all the assessment objectives – particularly those related to authorial craft in the chosen genres.
- b) successful preparation ensures that candidates work to guidelines and advice provided in PM reports and at standardising meetings where exemplar responses provide a measure of success at various levels of attainment.
- c) realistic use of key terms in the assessment vocabulary in formative and summative annotation helps the moderator to confirm the centre-awarded marks: "sophisticated", "analysis" and "perceptive" are terms which signal exceptional qualities of thinking, of scrutinizing and classifying, and of individualized insight.

It is hoped that this specification's scope for engaging and stimulating candidates, for prompting them to substantial study and detailed and independent responses, will result in a much larger entry in the June series.