

Creative Writing (Fiction) Marking Rubric

The following categories will be considered when your work is graded. Since every work of fiction is different, other dimensions of your prose may be considered, but these are the essential categories.

<p><i>Use of language: (word choice, imagery, figurative language, vitality, perceptiveness)</i> This will include consideration of use of imagery and the choices of words and figurative language used to convey the story. The following should be avoided: clichés, unclear language, anachronistic or language inconsistent with the time/setting of a story, generalities, non-descriptive adjectives.</p>
<p><i>Subject Matter (theme, content, setting, genre)</i> Consideration here will be given to originality and the creation of story-worlds that are convincing, inventive and have depth. Superficial or clichéd or derivative story-worlds should be avoided.</p>
<p><i>Structure (plotting, point of view)</i> Consideration will be given to plotting that keeps the reader interested and inquisitive, with clear and/or suggestive narrative arcs. Inconsistent or unfulfilling story structures should be avoided. The best stories will have a compelling point of view that conveys the story being told.</p>
<p><i>Voice (character, dialogue, poetic persona, authenticity)</i> This will include consideration of the authenticity and depth of character, use of convincing and compelling dialogue that reveals character in subtle but observable ways. Stock or clichéd characters and the use of hackneyed dialogue should be avoided.</p>
<p><i>The Critical Reflection</i> The critical reflection will be assessed on your ability to analyse your own work, its strength and weaknesses, the techniques used, choices made, and your own creative process. It should contain self-observance on how it can be improved. Avoid merely describing your creative process; the best reflections will contain elements of self-assessment.</p>

AWARD CLASSIFICATION	MARK	DEFINITION OF REQUIRMENTS
BA Hons: 1st Class Honours BA: Distinction	75+ EXCELLENT	Must excel in <u>all</u> of the criteria in 70+ below
BA Hons: 1st Class Honours BA: Distinction	70+ EXCELLENT	Must excel in several of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a compelling and convincing story-world • Precise, compelling and/or surprising use of imagery/figurative language • Consistency of language with setting, character, period • Highly original and inventive in treatment of theme and genre • Compelling narrative arcs that carries the story through to the end • Strong, consistent narrative voice and judicious and clear point-of-view

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent characterization with depth and personality, including revelation through dialogue or action
2nd Class Honours Grade 1 Merit Grade 1	60+ VERY GOOD	Highly competent performance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a credible story-world; may contain some inconsistencies • Strong use of imagery/figurative language with a certain degree of inventiveness • Consistent use of language with setting, character, period • Contains a good degree of originality in treatment of theme and genre • A discernible narrative arc from beginning to end • A consistent narrative voice and clear point-of-view, with some inconsistencies • Good, competent characterization with depth and personality, including revelation through dialogue or action
2nd Class Honours Grade 2 Merit Grade 2	50+ GOOD	Generally sound work. Answers show an acceptable level of competence as indicated by the following qualities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a story-world which may not be wholly consistent • Competent use of imagery/figurative language with some inventiveness • Competent use of language with setting, character, period, which may be not always consistent • Some originality in treatment of theme and genre, but perhaps with some clichés/standard tropes • Good evidence of a narrative arc from beginning to end • A narrative voice and point-of-view that is credible but perhaps with some inconsistencies • Identifiable characterization and evidence of an ability to use dialogue or action effectively
PASS	40+ FAIR	Performance meets the minimum criteria. There is some effort to create a piece of original fiction. A fair level of competence is displayed under the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attempt to creation of a story-world but which has flaws and not always credible • Some use of imagery/figurative language • An attempt to create a discernible setting, character, period, • Limited originality in treatment of theme and genre • An attempt to generate a narrative arc from beginning to end, but which is not wholly successful • An inconsistent narrative voice and point-of-view

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partially successful characterization and/or ability to use dialogue or action effectively
Compensatable Pass	35+ FAIL	<p>More work required before a pass can be awarded. Problems or errors in the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A flawed story-world that has limited credibility Minimal use of imagery/figurative language Setting, character, period are not sufficiently consistent and/or credible Minimal originality in treatment of theme and genre Evidence of an attempt to create a narrative arc from beginning to end, but which is not successful An inconsistent narrative voice and point-of-view Limited success in characterization and/or ability to use dialogue or action effectively
Outright Fail	<35	<p>Considerable further work needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A flawed story-world that has no credibility Inexistent use of imagery/figurative language Setting, character, period are not consistent and/or credible No originality in treatment of theme and genre No attempt to create a narrative arc from beginning to end, but which is not successful An inconsistent narrative voice and point-of-view No success in characterization and/or ability to use dialogue or action effectively