Guidelines for the examiner (*sensurveiledning*) for:

ENG1505 British Civilisation

The examination for this course is a 4-hour, closed-book, or 'school' exam held at a designated exam venue.

The exam is a test of **knowledge** and **understanding** based on the set reading for the course. The candidates will be presented with an exam set of 9 questions, where they need to answer 2. They should not attempt to answer more than two questions, but they must answer two. It is necessary to pass on both of the two questions they choose to answer individually in order to pass the exam as a whole.

In the assessment, the two answers should be weighted equally, and two answers of even quality should be valued higher than one strong and one weak answer. The exam aims to check that the candidates are familiar with the content of the course in a broad sense, and that they have a clear understanding of the topic the question asks them to address. Students are expected to engage with the core reading materials for the course in their answers, and all questions can be answered solely using these readings. A demonstrated ability to phrase the answer in an independent fashion should therefore be valued higher than mere reproduction from memory, and **relevance** in the answer is crucial. Students have been instructed that they can go beyond these core readings by using other relevant knowledge as well, as long as it is relevant and correct. Students are expected to provide an argument in their answers, and the exam questions have been phrased in a manner to encourage this. Answers should therefore display knowledge of the chosen topic and the ability to describe key information, but should also be analytical and not solely descriptive.

Written English of a good standard is expected, and candidates may be penalised for language problems such as grammar errors and unidiomatic phrases.

Description of marks:

A—Excellent
An excellent performance; clearly outstanding. The candidate demonstrates superb understanding, judgement, and a high degree of independent thinking.

- The student is able to conduct an excellent discussion of the chosen questions by the use of relevant concepts and examples.
- The student is exceptionally knowledgeable, and demonstrates a first-rate ability to use this knowledge in their answers.
- There are (practically) no language errors and the student demonstrates an excellent command of written English

B—Very good
A very good performance. The candidate demonstrates solid understanding, judgment and a very good degree of independent thinking.

- The student is able to conduct a very good discussion of the chosen questions by the use of relevant concepts and examples.
- The student is very knowledgeable, and demonstrates a convincing use of this knowledge in their answers.
- There are few language errors and the student demonstrates a very good command of written English.

C—Good
A good performance in most areas. The candidate demonstrates a reasonable degree of understanding, judgment and independent thinking in the most important areas.

- The student is able to conduct a good discussion of the chosen questions discussion of the chosen questions by the use of relevant concepts and examples.
- The student is fairly knowledgeable, and demonstrates a reasonably convincing use of this knowledge in his/her answers.
- There are some language errors, but the student demonstrates a good command of written English

D—Satisfactory
A satisfactory performance, but with significant shortcomings. The candidate demonstrates a limited degree of understanding, judgment and independent thinking.

- The student is able to conduct a satisfactory discussion of the chosen questions, with some use of relevant concepts and examples.
- The student is reasonably knowledgeable, and is able to apply this knowledge in his/her answers.
- There are several language errors, but the student demonstrates a satisfactory command of written English

E—Sufficient
A performance that meets the minimum criteria, but no more. The candidate demonstrates a very limited degree of understanding, judgment and independent thinking.

- The student responds minimally only to the questions *and/or* partially misunderstands the question *and/or* demonstrates a very basic understanding only of central concepts relating to the questions answered.
- The student demonstrates limited knowledge, and struggles to develop a discussion of the topics raised by the questions.
- There are many language errors relating to syntax, punctuation, subject-verb concord, vocabulary, idioms, and/or spelling, but these errors do not fundamentally impair the student's ability to communicate in English

F—Fail
A performance that does not meet the minimum academic criteria. The candidate demonstrates a lack of both understanding and judgment, and little ability to conduct independent thinking.

- The student fails to respond adequately to the question *and/or* fundamentally misunderstands the question *and/or* demonstrates little or no understanding of central concepts relating to the questions answered.
- There are few indications of relevant knowledge, and the student is not able to present relevant answers.
- There are numerous and serious language errors relating to syntax, punctuation, subject-verb concord, vocabulary, idioms, and/or spelling, which fundamentally affect the student's ability to communicate in English
- An exam may fail on the basis of poor content or poor language or a combination of the two, or if only one out of the four questions has been answered (the requirement is two out of four). An exam will also fail if more than two questions have been answered.

Aaron Ackerley

Course organiser

EXAM QUESTIONS

1. The Magna Carta has been deemed to be extremely important in British history. Why?

2. Elizabeth I is of often considered a great and successful monarch. Is this reputation deserved?

3. What impact did the execution of Charles I have on Britain?

4. There was no Industrial Revolution in Britain – instead, there was merely a process of industrialization. Discuss.

5. “Ireland has often been described as both the first and the last colony of the British Empire”. Discuss.

6. What was the impact of World War II on domestic British politics and society?

7. The British education system is symbolic of the ways in which social class continues to shape the United Kingdom. Discuss.

8. How truly democratic is the Westminster Parliament in the United Kingdom?

9. Did the United Kingdom become a truly multicultural society by the late twentieth century?