# Guidelines for the examiner (*sensurveiledning*) for:

# ENG 2502, British History

The exam for this course consists of two parts, a term paper and a 2-hour take-home exam, where the paper counts for 60% of the final mark, while the exam counts for 40%. Candidates must pass both parts of the exam individually in order to obtain an overall pass mark.

The exam as a whole emphasises *relevance* in the answers. Both the term paper topics (the students choose one from a selection), and the exam questions are specific, in the sense that they ask the student to address one clearly delimited issue. This means that candidates may be penalised for a lack of focus in their answers to the exam questions, or in their term paper.

The term paper should also be organised as thematic discussion, adhering to a classic humanities-type arrangement of the text, consisting of an introduction, a main part and a conclusion. References and a complete bibliography must be included, but we do not require students to use any specific system of referencing. They have a free choice in this, but consistency is expected. For the term paper, students are also required to consult, and use at least one source of good academic quality beyond the set reading for the course. The term paper tests the candidates' ability to construct an academic analysis of the topic they have chosen, with all means of aid available. Emphasis in the evaluation should be placed on (in a declining order of importance): intellectual focus, structure, depth of analysis, depth of knowledge, language, and technical set-up (references and bibliography).

The written exam is a test of knowledge and understanding based on the set reading for the course. The candidates will be presented with a set of 4 questions, where they need to answer 2. They should not attempt to answer more than two questions. It is necessary to pass on both the two questions they choose to answer in order to pass the take-home exam. While relevance is equally important as for the term paper, the take-home exam is not a test of the candidates' ability to present a convincing academic analysis in the same way. Instead, it 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. The take-home exam gives the candidates the opportunity to consult whichever sources they can access in the time available, and a demonstrated ability to phrase the answer in an independent fashion, without resorting to an extensive use of quotes or paraphrases should therefore be emphasised in the evaluation of the exam. Language also counts in the take-home exam, and the examiner may compare the standard of English in the term paper with the written exam. While a higher standard may be expected in the term paper, the discrepancy should not be too marked.

The Faculty of Humanities at the University of Oslo has devised a set of rules on referencing for take-home exams, which can be accessed via this link (candidates are expected to give references, but do not need to include a bibliography):

https://www.hf.uio.no/english/studies/sources-referencing/index.html

For the general description of marks at ILOS, see:

Grading and grading scales - University of Oslo (uio.no)

The essay topics for the term paper are enclosed with this document.

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Course organiser

ENG
2502

# Term paper – essay topics

ENG 2502 students are required to write ONE full-length term paper (an essay) of 5 standard pages (approximately 2000 words), as part of their exam in ENG 2502. The other part is a 2-hour take-home exam, which is held at the end of the semester. The term paper counts for 60% of the final mark, while the written exam counts for 40%.

All students need to submit a first draft of their term paper, and the deadline for this submission is **19 October** by **16:00**. The paper should be submitted under the label/heading 'Term paper' in Canvas. (Note that submitting a first draft is an obligatory exercise for this course.)

Sometime after submission, you will get full feedback on your text, including comments on content, language, presentation and the use of sources. Feedback will be given directly in Canvas. NB: you need submit your draft in a **Word**-file format.

You then have the remainder of the semester to revise your term paper, before the final submission on **6 December** by **11:00**. Note that the final submission is in Inspera, NOT Canvas. (See further instructions for the final submission on the course web pages.)

## The essay topic must be chosen from the list below.

For your term paper, we expect you to look for material beyond the set reading for the course, and a good place to start is the University Library pages for British and American studies. Generally speaking, your paper is likely to improve with the use of *different* sources of information about the *same* topic, not the least, perhaps, because all the essay questions below will require you to *discuss* some or other issue/problem. For an intermediate course such as this one, we will be stressing the importance of this discussion more than we did for, say, the introduction course (ENG 1505), so this is a point you need to bear in mind. The *minimum* requirement is to use, and refer to one source of good academic quality, which is not part of the set reading for the course.

## Set-up & requirements

Now that you have commenced on an intermediate/2000-level course, you will have had some experience in writing an academic text, and are familiar with requirements relating to referencing etc. In addition to this, however, there are a couple of specific requirements for the set-up of your ENG 2502-essay, which you need to make a note of. They are:

- **Length** should be 5 standard pages +/- 10%, excluding footnotes/references and bibliography. One standard page is defined as 2300 characters excluding spaces.
- Use at least **1.5** line spacing and font size **11** or **12**.
- **Page numbers** must be included on every page.

- For the ***first*** draft submitted in Canvas: identify clearly who you are, and which essay topic you have chosen! This is best done by setting up a **separate front page** with your name, and the number and title of the essay topic.
- For the ***final*** submission in Inspera: you should include your candidate number and the number and title of the essay topic you have chosen *only* (*not* your name, as the exam as a whole is anonymous). See specific requirements for the second submission on the course web pages.
- The essay must include a **bibliography** of consulted works at the end.
- Make sure to give **references** to the works you use in the text (as mentioned above).
- Finally: **Style**: We aim to write formal prose, so it is best to avoid abbreviations such as 'don't', 'can't', 'it's' etc. Write 'do not', 'cannot', 'it is' and so on. Best to avoid colloquialisms and slang as well.
- More detail on formal requirements can be found in the booklet *Essay writing: Guidelines for Students*, which can be down-loaded from the course Canvas-room.

## ESSAY TOPICS

1. Discuss the causes and effects of the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89.

2. Sir Robert Walpole's long tenure in office from 1721 to 1742 has often been seen as particularly successful. Examine the achievements of Walpole.

3. How real was the threat posed by Jacobitism? Compare and contrast the situations of 1715 and 1745.

4. Early eighteenth-century Britain was a society dominated by a small aristocracy. Discuss this claim.

5. Discuss the implications of the Seven Years War for Britain position in the World.

6. Why did Britain lose the American War of Independence?

7. Using chapter 6 'Womanpower' in Linda Colley's book *Britons* as your point of departure; discuss the role of women in eighteenth century British society.

8. Discuss the role Protestantism may be seen to have played in the forging of a British identity over the course of the eighteenth century.

9. Discuss the nature of Anglo-Scottish relations in the eighteenth century; which were the main issues at stake?

10. Discuss the impact the French Revolution of 1789 had on Britain.

11. Discuss why the campaign for a reform of the British political system succeeded in 1832, when all previous attempts at reform from 1760 onwards had failed.

*ALW*