Guidelines for the examiner (*sensurveiledning*) for:

ENG2502 British History

The exam for this course consists of two parts, a term paper and a 2-hour written 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. There is some difference in the scope and approach of each component, however. The term paper topics (the students choose one from a selection) requires that students produce a broad ranging answer which looks across the twentieth century, and they are expected to supplement seminar readings with relevant further sources. 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 for a lack of relevance or scope in their term papers.

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 required use at least two core seminar readings and at least three further readings, for a total of five sources as a minimum. 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 assessment should be placed on (in a declining order of importance): intellectual focus, depth of analysis, depth of knowledge, structure, 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 – though wider knowledge can also be applied to expand upon the themes and ideas in the core readings. The candidates will be presented with a set of 8 questions, where they need to answer 2. They should not attempt to answer more than two questions. It is necessary to pass both the two questions they choose to answer in order to pass the written exam. The student is again, like in the term paper, expected to construct an analytical argument to answer each of their chosen questions. This is not expected to be to the same level of depth as in the term paper, but students have been instructed to present an argument and the phrasing of the questions suggests this is required. No references are required in the exam. Language also counts in the written 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.

For the general description of marks at ILOS, see:

https://www.uio.no/studier/eksamen/karakterskala/fagspesifikk-karakterbeskrivelse/hf-ilos-endelig-felles-karakterbeskrivelse.pdf

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

Aaron Ackerley

Course organiser

Term paper – essay topics

ENG2502 students are required to write ONE full-length essay of 5 standard pages as part of their exam in ENG2502. The other part is a 2-hour take-home exam, which is held at the end of the semester. The essay counts for 60% of the final mark, while the written exam counts for 40%. In the exam, you will be asked to answer two out of four questions.

The essay topic must be chosen from the list below.

For your essay, 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 essay 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 worth bearing in mind. The *minimum* requirement for ENG2502 is to use at least two core seminar readings from Canvas, and at least three further academic sources which you can choose from the Further Readings document or find yourself, for a total of at least five academic sources. Your essay answer should also make sure to engage with the terms of the question, and offer an analysis across the twentieth century. This does not mean you have to go from 1900 to 1999, but your answer should obviously engage with long-term developments across most of the century.

Set-up & requirements

Now that you have commenced on an intermediate/2000-level course, you will presumably 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 ENG2502-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**. (Note that you may end up on more or less than 5 pages depending on the width of the margins used, type of font and, indeed, the number of footnotes on each page. It is the number of characters that defines the ‘standard’ page. 5 x 2300 = 11500 characters.)
- **Page numbers** must be included on every page.

- For the ***first*** draft: 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 you have chosen.
- See specific requirements for the second and ***final*** 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. How did notions of imperialism and patriotism change in Britain throughout the twentieth century?

2. How did the experience of gender change in Britain throughout the twentieth century?

3. How did the experience of race change in Britain throughout the twentieth century?

4. How did the experience of class change in Britain throughout the twentieth century?

5. How did the experience of sexuality change in Britain throughout the twentieth century?

6. How did British citizens' relationship with the state change throughout the twentieth century?

EXAM QUESTIONS

*Answer **TWO** questions with a focus on the History of the United Kingdom.*

Engage with the questions critically and in-depth. Make sure to explain and justify your answer with a reasoned argument which draws upon the relevant course materials and any further research you have undertaken. You can also engage critically with the terms of the question, if you so desire and can justify doing so.

1. Were the British people “absent-minded imperialists” during the twentieth century?

2. Due to their tactics, the Suffragettes were ultimately unsuccessful in achieving their goals. Discuss.

3. How did the imperial, global nature of the First World War affect British politics, culture and society?

4. How did the notion of the ‘Home Front’ affect the idea of citizenship in Britain during World War II?

5. The Age of Affluence caused profound changes in the nature of class and gender in Britain. Discuss.

6. With the arrival of HMT Empire Windrush, Britain became a multicultural society. Discuss.

7. Is it accurate to say that a ‘Cultural Revolution’ took place in Britain in the 1960s?

8. All of the key changes in Britain associated with the 1980s in reality happened between 1981 and 1988. Discuss.

9. Is it useful to conceptualise ‘the ‘90s’ as a distinct historical period? If not, why? If so, what were its defining characteristics?