Creative Writing Marking Criteria

The following assessment categories are what your tutor will take into consideration when marking your creative writing assignments. Whether in poetry, prose, scripts or creative nonfiction, your tutor will assess the level of achievement your writing exhibits in each area. Depending on the nature of your particular assignment, there may be additional assessment categories, but the following may be considered as assessment benchmarks.

Language
(word choice, imagery, clarity, vitality)

Excellent language may include consistently outstanding word choice and imagery that is precise, clear and inventive. *Very Good* language will be well-edited and vital with clarity of narrative. *Good* language will be mostly clear with few clichés, archaisms or generalities. *Acceptable* language will be unclear or rely on cliché.

Subject Matter
(theme, content, setting, genre)

Excellent subject matter may refer to a fictional world of remarkable depth and convincing delineation, or work that deals with original content with insight, sophistication and maturity. *Very Good* subject matter may refer to a well-realised fictional world or inventive engagement with familiar themes and genres. *Good* subject matter may present a clear setting or a new angle on familiar theme. *Acceptable* subject matter may refer to an unconvincing fictional world, the superficial treatment of a theme or unimaginative engagement with genre-tropes.

Structure
(plotting, versification, point of view, cadence)

Excellent structure may include outstanding plotting, skilful versification or a sophisticated engagement with the medium. *Very Good* structure may refer to strong plotting, well-formed verse or adept script-formatting. *Good* structure may refer to competent filmscript or sonnet formation, or a clear narrative arc. *Acceptable* structure may refer to weak plots, vexing effects without significance or a misunderstanding of the requirements of the medium.

Voice
(character, dialogue, poetic persona, authenticity)

Excellent voice may refer to deeply involving, nuanced characters, authentic dialogue that is revealing of character, or a compelling poetic persona. *Very Good* voice may include three-dimensional characterisation, convincing dialogue, or an emerging poetic identity. *Good* voice may refer to mostly credible dialogue or characters. *Acceptable* voice may refer to stock types, unconvincing dialogue or a contrived poetic voice.

The Critical Reflection

The critical reflection is assessed on your understanding of the literary context of your work; your ability to analyse your own writing; your ability to reflect on your creative processes and techniques; and the accurate use of referencing conventions. *Excellent* commentaries will involve sophisticated literary, theoretical or critical contextualisation. *Very Good* commentaries will reflect on other sources as well as evaluate your own work. *Good* commentaries will be more reflective than descriptive. *Acceptable* commentaries will be largely descriptive.

Mark Bands

To arrive at your overall grade, your tutor will weigh up how you score in each category, as follows:

A+ to A-	**Excellent in most areas**	Work in this range will be largely Excellent, with all Excellent elements at the top of the scale, and a mix of Very Good and rare elements of Good writing down the scale.
B+ to B-	**Very Good in most areas**	Work in this range will be largely Very Good, although it may include Excellent elements at the top of the scale, and a mix of Good or Acceptable writing down the scale.
C+ to C-	**Good in most areas**	Work in this range will be largely Good, although may show elements of Very Good or rare elements of Excellent writing at the top end, with more Acceptable work down the scale.
D+ to D-	**Acceptable in most areas**	Work in this range will have serious limitations throughout, but there may be elements of Very Good or Good writing present, decreasing down the scale.