



REFLECTION AND FEEDBACK

What is Feedback?



- Feedback is the marker's comments on your work – either coursework or examinations.

Mark vs Feedback



- The feedback relates to the mark that you get in any piece of work.
- But the mark is not the be all and end all of any given piece of work.
- Feedback is the most important part of getting work back as it allows you to improve for your next piece of work.

The Biggest mistake of them all



- I got a 54 ... oh well...
- I got a 67 ... hurrah...
- I got a 44 ... I am really bad at this...
- I got a 72 ... wow! I am really good at this...

Understanding the marking criteria



- There are different marking criteria for different types of work.
- Oral presentations are assessed differently than essays.
- Group-based tasks are assessed differently than something done individually.
- Gobbets are assessed differently than essays or oral presentations.
- Marking criteria change per level.

Why are marking criteria important?



- The marking criteria give you a good idea of what is expected from a piece of work and how the marking system works.

From theory to practice



- A lot of what is asked in the marking criteria is a case of learning by doing.
- Learning by doing means taking into account the marker's feedback.

But can I be better?



- Every piece of work (even something marked in the 80s) can be better.
- There is no such thing as an end to the ladder when it comes to scholarly competency.

Reading the feedback



- There are three types of feedback on any piece of work.
 - Feedback provided on the feedback space on TIN
 - Feedback provided on the feedback rubric on TIN
 - Feedback provided on the margins of a written piece of work.
- You need to engage equally with all of these.
- Often feedback on the feedback sheet will tackle more general issues regarding your work, which feedback on the margins will tackle specifics questions and mistakes.

Reading feedback



IDENTIFYING STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

Issues to consider



- Consider the feedback examples provided.
- What mark do you think each represents?
- What areas are highlighted as needing improvement?
- What would you change in future work?
- How would you change something in future work?

Feedback example 1



- This is a satisfactory piece of work overall. You make several good points and you provide your opinion clearly and succinctly. You concentrated very well on discussing the text in the gobbet pieces.
- However, there are some weaknesses in this piece that you need to address in future work. Firstly, you should provide more references; essentially every piece of information in your piece of work needs to be referenced. You have clearly read on the gobbets and the author, so why not showcase the reading that you have done? Secondly, you should engage more with modern scholarship; modern scholarship can provide you with information and opinions beyond what you can easily access on your own. Thirdly, you should research the subject more carefully to avoid mistakes and misconceptions (see my comments in the text). Also, and very importantly, you should avoid making educated guesses. The historian's job is to examine the evidence and use them to build opinions and arguments. This is particularly clear in your presentation of the author and secondary literature pieces, where you do not provide evidence or appear to research the subject critically. Lastly, you should proofread your work more carefully to avoid mistakes and typos. A well-proofread piece of work appears much more professional than one with mistakes. Also, you should always include a bibliography with your academic work.

Feedback example 1



- This is a **satisfactory** piece of work overall. You make **several good points** and you **provide your opinion clearly** and succinctly. You concentrated very well on **discussing the text in the gobbet pieces**.
- However, there are some weaknesses in this piece that you need to address in future work. Firstly, you should **provide more references**; essentially every piece of information in your piece of work needs to be referenced. You have clearly read on the gobbets and the author, so why not showcase the reading that you have done? Secondly, you should **engage more with modern scholarship**; modern scholarship can provide you with information and opinions beyond what you can easily access on your own. Thirdly, you should **research the subject more carefully to avoid mistakes** and misconceptions (see my comments in the text). Also, and very importantly, you should **avoid making educated guesses**. The historian's job is to examine the evidence and use them to build opinions and arguments. This is particularly clear in your presentation of the author and secondary literature pieces, where you do not provide evidence or appear to research the subject critically. Lastly, you should **proofread your work more carefully** to avoid mistakes and typos. A well-proofread piece of work appears much more professional than one with mistakes. Also, you should always include a bibliography with your academic work.

Feedback Example 2



This is an excellent piece of work. You discussed the gobbet well and in detail and your engagement and comparison with other ancient sources and evidence was good and fruitful. Also, your structure supported your argument well and your engagement and criticism of modern scholarship was very good. Further, you make several good points.

However, there are some weaknesses in this piece that you need to address in future work. Firstly, you should provide more references; essentially every piece of information in your piece of work needs to be referenced. Secondly, you should take greater care of the format of your bibliography; please consult your student handbook for instructions on the acceptable scholarly format for bibliographical entries.

Feedback Example 2



- This is an **excellent** piece of work. You **discussed the gobbet well and in detail** and your **engagement and comparison with other ancient sources** and evidence was good and fruitful. Also, your **structure supported your argument well** and your **engagement and criticism of modern scholarship** was very good. Further, you make several good points.
- However, there are some weaknesses in this piece that you need to address in future work. Firstly, you should provide **more references**; essentially every piece of information in your piece of work needs to be referenced. Secondly, you should take greater care of the **format of your bibliography**; please consult your student handbook for instructions on the acceptable scholarly format for bibliographical entries.

Feedback Example 3



- This is an acceptable piece of work. You make several good points. However, there are some weaknesses in this piece that you need to address in future work. Firstly, you should provide more references; essentially every piece of information in your piece of work needs to be referenced. There is not a single reference in your work, not even when quoting; this is unacceptable. Secondly, you should engage more with the gobbet and discuss the specifics of the passage rather than merely the general issues touched in it. Also, you should engage more critically with the ancient sources, particularly in relation to their biases and problems. Further, you should engage more with the ancient sources beyond the gobbet. The best supporting evidence for any argument comes from other ancient evidence. Very importantly, you should engage more with modern scholarship; modern scholarship can provide you with information and opinions beyond what you can easily access on your own. Additionally, you should research the subject more carefully to avoid mistakes and miscomprehensions (see my comments in the text). Lastly, you should endeavour to make the structure of your overall argument stronger. You are flitting from point to point, often repeating yourself, which weakens your argument. The individual points in an argument must flow from one another, so that a coherent picture is conveyed to the reader.

Feedback Example 3



- This is an **acceptable** piece of work. You make **several good points**. However, there are some weaknesses in this piece that you need to address in future work. Firstly, you should **provide more references**; essentially every piece of information in your piece of work needs to be referenced. There is **not a single reference in your work**, not even when quoting; this is unacceptable. Secondly, you should **engage more with the gobbet** and **discuss the specifics of the passage** rather than merely the general issues touched in it. Also, you should **engage more critically with the ancient sources**, particularly in relation to their biases and problems. Further, you should **engage more with the ancient sources beyond the gobbet**. The best supporting evidence for any argument comes from other ancient evidence. Very importantly, you should **engage more with modern scholarship**; modern scholarship can provide you with information and opinions beyond what you can easily access on your own. Additionally, you should **research the subject more carefully to avoid mistakes** and miscomprehensions (see my comments in the text). Lastly, you should **endeavour to make the structure of your overall argument stronger**. You are flitting from point to point, often repeating yourself, which weakens your argument. The individual points in an argument must flow from one another, so that a coherent picture is conveyed to the reader.