



## Gobbet

### What is a Gobbet?

A gobbet can often be a passage of literature, an image, a cartoon, a photograph, a map or an artefact which provides a context for analysis, translation or discussion in an assessment.

### Structure of Gobbet Assessment

As an indication, three gobbets are equivalent to one essay question in terms of time in an assessment. The art of setting a good gobbet assessment depends on the gobbet the assessor chooses. A good piece of gobbet must be carefully selected to illustrate a particular theme. An answer to a gobbet is not a summary or paraphrase of the piece; unlike an essay it does not usually include an introduction and a conclusion. It is a precise and focused piece of writing that provides context of the gobbet, meaning of the gobbet and significance of the gobbet. Disciplines such as history or archaeology often use gobbets to assess students their deepen understanding of the subject, giving the students the opportunity to think, extract and analyze.

### Three concepts to answer gobbets

Context:

1. Where does the gobbet come from?
2. How does the gobbet fit in with the material around it?
3. When was the gobbet written or formed?
4. What comes immediately before and after it?

Meaning:

1. What is the gist or purpose of the gobbet?
2. What are the main ideas contained within the gobbet?

Significance:

1. Why is it important?
2. What are the implications?
3. Are there any direct applications?
4. What does it add to our understanding as a whole?

Y	Declarative	CHARACTERISTICS
Y	Functioning	
	Take Time to Set	
	Take Time to Answer	
	Take Time to Correct	
	Take Time to provide Feedback	
Y	Suitable for Large Class	
	Can substitute with Computers	
Y	Passive	
	Active	
	Process Oriented Method	
Y	Product Oriented Method	

P = Possibly Y =Yes



## Advantages of Gobbet Assessment

- A gobbet is short to answer but at the same time, it can assess many levels of learning outcomes similar to an essay. Suitable to give as an in-class assignment.

## Disadvantages of Gobbet Assessment

- Students require practices to answer gobbets, particularly in their time management.

## How to design a good Gobbet Assessment?

1. Ensure the students know what the objectives of the assessment are.
2. Provide students the time period, guidelines and assessment criteria. The students should also be aware who is going to assess them – tutor, peers and/or self? And if peers or self are going to assess, would the weightings be the same as the tutor.
3. Prepare a structured marking sheet for all assessors.

## Marking Rubrics

Below is a sample rubric for a gobbet. This is partly extracted from the Durham University, “Definition, purpose, and marking criteria: Gobbets”, Durham University (2008)

MARKING RUBRICS	Excellent	Proficient	Average	Poor
<b>Context:</b>	Outstanding grasp and a mature understanding of the gobbet and its contexts	Comments on the nature, authorship, and other material pertinent to the context and interpretation of the piece	Make some pertinent comments on the nature, authorship, and other relevant aspects of the gobbet.	Fails to expand on the nature, authorship, and other issues relevant to the gobbet.
<b>Analysis:</b>	Clear, coherent and compelling analysis	Demonstrates familiarity with the area under discussion	Demonstrates some familiarity with the area under discussion	May paraphrase rather than analyse the gobbet under discussion
<b>Meaning:</b>	Comprehensive coverage. This may be achieved by citation	Identify the point of the document or the theme that it illustrates	Identify the point of the gobbet – the subject or the theme which it illustrates	Fails to identify the point or the theme of the piece
<b>Citation:</b>	Economic and effective use of all material cited	Substantiates the points that are made from evidence	Contains some citation but not appropriately used to substantiate the piece	Contains no citation
<b>Significance:</b>	Identifies the gobbet's significance in an independent, distinctive, and authoritative way	Explores some of the significance of the gobbet with reference to such issues as typicality, representativeness, uniqueness, reliability, bias	Touches on the wider significance	Fails to identify the gobbet's wider significance



## Tips for students

(From "Marking and Assessment", Classics and Ancient History, Bristol University (2008))

When trying to gauge how long a gobbet answer should be, you should always be guided by how many marks it is allotted in comparison to other questions on the exam paper. For example, if the essay questions are worth 40 marks and the gobbets 20, the gobbets should be approximately half as long as the essay.

If time is short, it is better to jot down some notes for which you might pick up a few marks than to write nothing at all.

## DON'Ts and DOs for Students

From "Gobbet Guidelines", The University of Edinburgh, School of History, Classics and Archaeology (2008).

### DON'Ts

- **DON'T** write an essay about the subject the piece relates to. If you are shown a picture of bust of Pericles, don't write an essay about who Pericles was but when the bust was created, where it stood, and why it was created.
- **DON'T** just paraphrase what is already in the piece. You need to evaluate that information as well, that is the point of a gobbet.
- **DON'T** get carried away writing a short biography of the author: only include information of the author that is relevant to assessing the value of this particular piece.
- **DON'T** write an introduction and conclusion like with an essay.

### DOs

- **DO** include cross-references to any other primary sources, written or otherwise, that you are aware of that contrast or corroborate with what is said in this piece.
- **DO** feel free to answer in bullet-point form
- **DO** be PRECISE, CONCISE and STRICT about only sticking to relevant information: you've only got 20 minutes

## Web References and Resources

- Guidance on Commentaries and Gobbets, University of Oxford  
<https://www.classics.ox.ac.uk/files/commentariesandgobbetsguidelinespdf>

### Tips for Students

- Gobbets Assessment Guide, University of Exeter  
<https://projects.exeter.ac.uk/hercules/resources/assessment/Gobbets.pdf>

## To Reference these pages

### Copy and paste the text below:

Chan C. (2008) Assessment: *Gobbet*, Assessment Resources@HKU, University of Hong Kong [<https://ar.talic.hku.hk/>]: Available: Accessed: DATE