Below are extracts from two sample answers to the same question at different grades. Rear in mind that these are examples only, covering all four Assessment Objectives – you will need to check the type of question and the weightings given for each AO when writing your coursework essay or preparing for your exam.

**PART SIX: GRADE BOOSTER**

**ANNOTATED SAMPLE ANSWERS**

**Candidate 1**

**Question:** To what extent is the corruption of human nature central to Othello?

**A01** Should try to avoid repetition of the same word; could say ‘a central issue’ in the first sentence instead of ‘important’

**A02** Style could be more formal – this sounds like a spoken phrase

**A03** Consider alternative audience responses to Othello, demonstrating an open-minded approach

**Candidate 2**

**A01** Immediate focus on task and identification of key example, but could be more precise about the acts/scenes being referred to

**A02** Links handkerchief to the theme of corruption successfully; could make more of the theme of honour by relating it to Shakespeare’s historical context

**A03** Asserts own viewpoint clearly throughout this paragraph and arrives at a sense of overview, incorporating a critic fruitfully

**Grade C**

**Comment**

The material covered is relevant, and arguments make sense, but there is a tendency towards narrative description of events at times. Some helpful signposting, e.g. however, it is important to... Clear concluding paragraph which returns to the terms of the question.

The candidate has a grasp of some aspects of language and references to and appreciation of some aspects of structure or imagery for AO2.

For a B grade

- Instead of describing events, focus on commenting on them consistently for AO1.
- Make more detailed comments on language, structure or imagery for AO2.
- Make further, more detailed references to critics and different interpretations for AO3.
- Make references to Shakespeare’s context for AO4 e.g. Elizabethan attitudes to women/race/the nature of evil.

**Grade A**

**Comment**

The material covered is relevant, and arguments make sense, but there is a tendency towards narrative description of events at times. Some helpful signposting, e.g. however, it is important to... Clear concluding paragraph which returns to the terms of the question.

The candidate has a grasp of some aspects of structure e.g. how Othello’s characterisation changes from Act I to Act V. There are specific references to and appreciation of some aspects of language and imagery e.g. symbolism of the handkerchief.

There are some well chosen quotations and there is a grasp of different interpretations of Othello’s actions in Act V. Some apt references are made to critics. There is a strong sense of personal engagement at times.

More could be made of Shakespeare’s cultural and historical context.

For an A grade

- Instead of describing events, focus on commenting on them consistently for AO1.
- Make more detailed comments on language, structure or imagery for AO2.
- Make further, more detailed references to critics and different interpretations for AO3.
- Make references to Shakespeare’s context for AO4 e.g. Elizabethan attitudes to women/race/the nature of evil.