

# WSET Diploma in Wine & Spirits

## Candidate assignment brief November 2011

### The role of science and technology in wine production

#### **CONTENT, SUGGESTED APPROACH AND SECTIONS IN THE REPORT:**

##### **1. Context**

Viticulture and winemaking have changed dramatically over the last 50 years. Advances in science and technology have allowed producers to take a much more active role in fashioning their wines. In many cases, they are no longer powerless when things go wrong. Science and technology have also allowed much more efficient and profitable wine production. Whilst some developments may be controversial, others clearly bring benefits for both producers and consumers and therefore ultimately for the wine industry as a whole.

##### **2. Strategy and required sections**

###### a) Presentation and structure: (20% weighting)

Assignments should include a declared word count and a bibliography correctly referenced throughout the body of the text.

###### b) Introduction: (30% weighting)

Give a brief overview of how science and technology have improved or altered viticulture and winemaking over the last 50 years.

###### c) Impact on wine production: (40% weighting)

Select two areas of scientific research or technological progress that have been applied to wine production. One of these should relate to viticulture, and the other to winemaking. For each, outline the underlying science or technology, explain how it has been applied to the wine industry and discuss the impact on the resulting wines.

###### d) Conclusion and personal commentary: (10% weighting)

What developments in science or technology do you think may have an impact on wine production over the next 20 years.

## **MARKING**

### **Structure:**

The report should be of between 2500 and 3000 words in length (not including appendices, tables or diagrams) with a declared word count and bibliography which is correctly referenced throughout the body of the assignment. Appendices are exclusively for the inclusion of charts, diagrams, tables etc. Allocation of marks will be as follows:

Section a) – including structure and style (coherence, flair, fluency, use of examples), bibliography showing diversity of evidence of research which is used appropriately and correctly referenced, presentation (spelling, grammar, legibility) 20%

Section b) – Introduction 30%

Section c) – Impact on wine production 40%

Section d) – Conclusion and personal commentary 10%

Examiners will be looking for

- Explicit evidence within the body of the assignment of careful and thoughtful study of the course materials plus additional evidence of diverse and relevant research.
- Evidence that information for the assignment has been drawn from both the trade press and other industry sources.
- Examples and information to justify arguments made in the assignment
- Evidence that the information and examples uncovered by research have been the subject of careful study, analysis and reworking before being deployed in the assignment
- Good presentation and clear thinking. This includes good layout, contents lists and references.
- Evidence of original and reflective thought.
- Candidates must address all required sections and gain an overall minimum mark of 55% to qualify for a pass grade.