

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

D6, WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines



Assignment 2: July 2024 submission – regenerative viticulture

Context

The term 'regenerative viticulture' (RV) did not appear in the 2015 edition of the Oxford Companion to Wine but today is a much-discussed topic. The aim is not simply to maximise production but farm to improve the agricultural ecosystem with a view to long term sustainability. It is claimed that by improving soil health and increasing biodiversity, the health and resilience of the vineyard can be enhanced, the inputs and costs reduced, and a contribution made to restraining anthropogenic climate change. Whilst there are seen to be many benefits to RV, there are also challenges to its implementation.

[See below for required sections and allocation of marks]

Instructions for candidates

- Assignments must adhere to the word count of 3,000 words. A tolerance of 10% will be allowed which means the research assignment should be no fewer than 2,700 words and no longer than 3,300 words in length. The word count excludes references, bibliography, appendices, diagrams or tables.
- Candidates must include a bibliography showing the sources used to research the topic.
- Candidates are reminded of the need to draw on a range of sources in their assignment and that it will be necessary to read around the subject matter. It will not be sufficient to rely solely on the Diploma materials. There should be clear evidence of critical analysis of the source material and well-reasoned personal commentary, together with relevant examples to support the points made.
- There are 100 marks available, of which 15 are allocated to presentation (spelling, grammar, legibility, bibliography and referencing) and answer structure/style (coherence, flair, fluency and use of examples). Footnotes, references and appendices must be used correctly. Candidates are advised to read the *D6 Independent Research Assignment Guidelines* before starting their research.
- Candidates must address all required sections and gain a minimum overall mark of 55% to qualify for a pass grade.

Required sections and allocation of marks

Candidates must address the following required sections with reference to regenerative viticulture:

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| 1) An account of the aims and how they are achieved. | (35% weighting) |
| 2) A commentary on the commercial advantages and disadvantages. | (35% weighting) |
| 3) A personal opinion on the future of the approach. | (15% weighting) |

15% weighting is allocated to presentation and structure, as outlined in Instructions for candidates above.