

INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ASSIGNMENT

D6, WSET Level 4 Diploma in Wines



Assignment 1: January 2023 submission – closures

Context

Traditionally wine bottles were almost always sealed with a natural cork. More recently, many alternative (non-cork and cork) closures have been developed in response to the various problems related to the use of cork. There has been a response from the cork industry through improved effectiveness within the various cork closure options. There has also been a focus on promoting the benefits of cork.

[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 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:

- 1) Outline the reasons for the development of alternative closures to cork. (15% weighting)
- 2) Evaluate the non-cork closure options available for sealing a glass bottle. (35% weighting)
- 3) Examine the cork industry's response to the issues with its product and to the competition. (35% weighting)

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