

# Exploration of Implementation Path for Customized Assignments Design in Junior High School English Teaching under the Background of “Double Reduction”

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**Abstract:** Homework is an essential part of junior high school English teaching. It can not only assist students to inspect and access their leaning situation, but also helps teachers to get to know the English teaching better so that they can quickly make corresponding adjustments. Meanwhile, as the implementation of Double Reduction, the quantity of homework must be decreased. Thus, the quality of homework should be paid much attention. Customized homework is a key region of research. The paper comes up with a design model of customized homework and analyzes the case study in order to provide effective reference and facilitate English teaching in junior high school.

**Keywords:** Customized Assignments; Double Reduction Policy; English Teaching; Junior High School.

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## 1. Introduction

In 2021, the Ministry of Education issued the "Opinions on Further Reducing the Homework Burden and Extracurricular Training Burden of Compulsory Education Stage Students," proposing two major objectives: "firmly reducing extracurricular training in academic subjects" and "reducing the homework burden of compulsory education stage students." These goals aim to alleviate excessive homework burdens on students, strengthen school education, promote students' balanced development, and construct a favorable educational ecosystem. Additionally, the Ministry of Education's Office issued the "Notice on Strengthening Homework Management in Compulsory Education Schools," further standardizing school educational and teaching management and decisively addressing prominent issues such as excessive quantity, low quality, and functional alienation of school assignments. Against this backdrop, enhancing the quality while reducing the quantity of homework design and assessment has become an urgent matter.

Homework plays a crucial role in teaching across various subjects, aiding students in consolidating and internalizing knowledge acquired in school, while also assisting teachers in assessing teaching effectiveness for necessary adjustments. In the discipline of English, homework is no exception; it serves as a vital basis for English teachers to evaluate students' mastery of English knowledge. The "National English Curriculum Standards for Compulsory Education" stipulate that teachers should deeply understand the educational function of homework assessment, adhering to an emphasis on abilities and competency-oriented guidance. Homework design should facilitate both the consolidation of language knowledge and skills and the promotion of effective strategy utilization and enhanced learning motivation (Ministry of Education, 2022).

Given the context of "double reduction," how should English homework design conform to its requirements and reflect the practical effects of the double reduction policy? Currently, research on English homework design is relatively thorough, including unit-wide homework design, thematic homework design, reading, and listening-speaking

assignments. However, there has been limited exploration by scholars regarding personalized homework, such as personalized homework design and implementation strategies under the core competencies framework. Presently, there is a lack of relevant research on personalized homework design and implementation under the background of double reduction. This paper, based on the context of double reduction, establishes a model for personalized homework design and conducts practical analysis, thereby providing more reference paths for the implementation of personalized homework in junior high school English and enabling English homework to fulfill its role in assisting teachers in improving teaching efficiency.

## 2. Research on English Customized Assignments Design

Since the introduction of the "double reduction" policy, numerous scholars have explored it from various perspectives. These explorations primarily encompass innovations in personalized English homework design, students' emotional attitudes and learning autonomy under personalized English homework, and the enhancement of specific skills through personalized homework.

Popova et al. (2019) experimented with video formats for personalized homework design to enhance collaborative learning abilities among language study majors[1]. Wang et al. (2022) devised English writing assignments for online courses and designed a feedback platform to provide personalized writing assessments for students[2]. Bensalem (2018) utilized social software for personalized homework design to aid students in vocabulary acquisition [3].

Shang (2023) conducted explorations and practices on personalized English homework design, focusing on students' emotional attitudes, initiative, and enthusiasm towards personalized assignments [4]. Wang et al. (2021) developed a platform for personalized homework completion to foster students' self-directed learning abilities, aiming to improve their grammar learning outcomes [5]. Liu (2023) employed collaborative filtering algorithms to explore English teaching and homework design to enhance students' academic

performance [6].

AI-Tonsi (2023) undertook English personalized homework design to improve elementary students' lexical skills[7]. Xie et al. (2019) designed personalized homework for vocabulary teaching, assisting students in improving vocabulary learning efficiency through personalized vocabulary profiles [8]. Yuyun (2024) used digital tools to personalize English learning, which includes the design of homework. The research is aimed to improve students' reading skill [9]. Cepik(2013) investigated the effect of e-portfolio on the speaking skills and designed corresponding personalized English homework[10].

In summary, the research conducted by relevant scholars on personalized English homework primarily focuses on innovative design and the improvement of students' learning attitudes or skills. However, these studies have not contextualized homework design within specific educational environments. This paper conducts homework design research under the guidance of the "double reduction" educational policy, proposing a model for personalized homework design to enhance the efficiency of junior high school English teaching and provide frontline teachers with more personalized homework design references.

### 3. Design Model for English Customized Assignments in Junior High School

Through an investigation into current homework designs, it has been observed that there are issues with the present state of junior high school English assignments. These include a disregard for the design of homework tasks and the effectiveness of their completion, resulting in a failure to integrate assignments effectively into English instruction. Particularly concerning personalized assignments, there are notable deficiencies such as monotonous topics, minimal differentiation in complexity, and a lack of variety in format. To improve the design of personalized homework, it is imperative to emphasize hierarchical structure, enrich content, and broaden scope. Building upon theoretical research, this paper proposes the following model for personalized homework design in junior high school English:



Figure 1. Design Model

The model reveals three main dimensions of design: content, format, and level. These elements are intricately linked to form the foundation of personalized homework design in English. In addition to focusing on these fundamental aspects, the CMA (Content, Format, and Level) model of personalized English homework design places particular emphasis on the patterns of language knowledge acquisition by students, namely input and output. According to Krashen's Input Hypothesis, this process is crucial for

students' language learning. Therefore, this personalized homework model adheres to this principle while also addressing the aforementioned dimensions.

### 4. Practical Application of English Customized Assignments in Junior High School

Based on the CMA model of personalized English homework design, this study assigned personalized homework related to the Lantern Festival to a class of 40 students in the second year of junior high school. The assignment, which was not restricted in form, included basic language knowledge and allowed students to freely add additional content. From the completion status, it is evident that the assignment effectively stimulated students' creativity and engaged their interest in learning. The homework took various forms, including recording videos, creating posters, writing essays, completing reading comprehension questions, and making PowerPoint presentations. As shown in the image below, one student used vibrant colors to depict the lively atmosphere of the Lantern Festival, accompanied by an introduction to the festival. On one hand, the vivid drawing allowed the student to unleash their imagination and enhance their manual dexterity. On the other hand, based on the information provided by the teacher about the Lantern Festival, students needed to organize their language to introduce the festival based on their understanding, while considering the suitability of the text and illustrations.



Figure 2. Student's Customized Homework

Thus, this personalized homework closely aligns with students' daily lives and is rich in content. There are no restrictions on its format, allowing students to choose methods that suit their preferences. For instance, students who enjoy drawing may opt for creating hand-drawn posters, while those who prefer conventional homework formats may choose to complete exercises or write essays. Extroverted students may opt to record videos or even conduct interviews with foreign friends. Regarding complexity, this personalized homework provides basic language expressions related to the Lantern Festival for students at a foundational level, requiring them to demonstrate basic proficiency in using these language elements to describe the festival. Students with stronger language skills are expected to integrate their own interpretations or utilize online resources to independently learn more English expressions related to the Lantern Festival. This personalized homework is designed and structured to cater to students' individual needs in terms of content, format, and complexity, thereby enabling them to reinforce language skills according to their circumstances and encouraging them

to take a proactive approach to learning.

## 5. Analysis of the Case Study

Based on the implementation process of the personalized homework mentioned above, the assignment was realized in terms of content, format, and complexity dimensions. However, there are still areas for improvement in the design of the homework. Therefore, this paper will analyze the assignment from the perspectives of content, format, and complexity.

1. Customized Homework Design and Student Engagement: The personalized nature of the homework design resonates with students' individual circumstances, thereby increasing the efficiency of assignments. Collaborative efforts among team members ensure that the requirements regarding content, approach, and method are translated into actionable tasks, providing students with a spectrum of options to choose from. This flexibility empowers students to select completion methods that align with their interests and circumstances, whether it be through creating hand-drawn posters or recording videos. By allowing students to exercise autonomy in their choice of completion methods, enthusiasm and engagement in the learning process are effectively stimulated.

2. Enhancing Creativity through Diverse Formats: The adoption of diverse and innovative homework formats stimulates creativity among students. Unlike traditional assignments that predominantly rely on written compositions, customized homework encourages the exploration of various formats such as hand-drawn posters and videos. This departure from conventional methods fosters creativity by allowing students to experiment with different presentation methods that resonate with their interests and individual characteristics. By providing opportunities for creative expression, students are motivated to engage more deeply with the subject matter, thereby enhancing their overall learning experience.

3. Promoting Comprehensive Student Development through Differentiated Complexity: The customized homework assignments exhibit clear differentiation in complexity, facilitating comprehensive student development. Teachers tailor explicit requirements to accommodate the diverse needs and abilities of students. For instance, high-achieving students are challenged to delve into the Lantern Festival from historical, cultural, and reflective perspectives, while students with varying proficiency levels are provided with tasks commensurate with their abilities. This personalized approach ensures that students are appropriately challenged, thereby promoting deeper engagement and understanding of the subject matter. By catering to individual characteristics and abilities, customized homework assignments contribute to improved learning outcomes and overall student development.

## 6. Conclusion

In summary, homework plays a pivotal role in junior high school English education, functioning not only as a self-assessment tool for students but also as a means for educators to evaluate student progress and adapt instructional strategies

accordingly. This study delves into the realm of personalized homework design within the framework of the "double reduction" policy, with the objective of enhancing the quality, purpose, and efficacy of assignments while curbing their quantity. As a result, the paper introduces the CMA (Content, Format, and Level) model for personalized English homework design, advocating for assignments to be tailored according to content relevance, varied formats, and differentiated complexity levels. Through practical implementation, this model has shown promising outcomes, offering valuable insights into the development of personalized homework in the context of junior high school English education. Moving forward, further exploration and refinement of personalized homework design methodologies are imperative to optimize English instruction, ensuring enhanced student engagement and learning outcomes amidst evolving educational paradigms.

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