

Language A: Literature school supported self-taught oral commentary questions (May and November 2019)

The formal oral commentary is a close literary analysis of the passage or poem. It is expected that, in preparing for each of the 10 questions for the two works studied, students will pay attention to the way in which literary features such as language, style, tone and voice create particular effects.

Poetry

1. Explore the way that the poet has used figurative language in the selected poem.
2. Discuss to what extent the tone of the chosen poem is maintained, intensified or changed throughout the text.
3. Examine the suitability of the form of the selected poem to its meaning.
4. Discuss the effectiveness of the opening and closing lines of the selected poem and their impact on the reader.
5. Analyse the ways in which the poet has succeeded in creating a vivid portrayal of a person or a place in the chosen poem.

Drama

1. Analyse the techniques the playwright has used to bring the characters to life in the chosen passage.
2. Discuss the role that secondary or minor characters play in the selected passage.
3. Analyse the techniques used to provoke a moral response in the audience in the chosen passage.
4. Comment on the contribution of the chosen passage to the overall development of the themes of the play.
5. Analyse the techniques used by the playwright in the selected passage to create a turning point in the play.

Prose fiction

1. Comment on the involvement of the narrator in relation to what is being narrated in the chosen passage.
2. Discuss in what ways setting has been used in the selected passage to reveal or reflect character traits.
3. Explore the ways in which the chosen passage refers to or builds on the central conflict in the work as a whole.
4. Discuss how tone has been used to reveal the author's attitude to the theme in the selected passage.
5. Explore to what extent the chosen passage reflects the change or transformation in a character or in the relationship between two characters.

Prose non-fiction

1. Explore how the language used in the passage you have selected is representative of the author's style.
2. Analyse the strategies used by the author in the development of his/her reasoned discourse in the chosen passage.
3. Analyse the techniques used to captivate the reader in the opening passage of the work.
4. Discuss the ways in which the writer succeeds in creating closeness or intimacy with the reader in the selected passage.
5. Examine the ways in which personal issues interact with broader social and contextual issues in the chosen passage.