

Language A: Literature school supported self-taught oral commentary questions (May and November 2020)

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. Comment on how the choice of words in the selected poem creates an emotional response in the reader.
2. Explore how the poet conveys a particular insight into a theme in the chosen poem.
3. Analyse how imagery has been used to develop the theme in the selected poem.
4. Discuss how the lyrical voice used in the chosen poem creates a connection with the reader.
5. Explore the role and importance of stanzaic structure in the selected poem.

Drama

1. Explore how setting has been used to create a particular effect in the chosen passage.
2. Discuss the techniques used in the selected passage to present the inner life of characters.
3. Comment on the means used in the chosen passage to create a connection with the reader.
4. Analyse the treatment of time in the selected passage and discuss the effects created.
5. Explore how conflict contributes to the understanding of the main theme in the chosen passage.

Prose fiction

1. Discuss the effects created by the use of a chronological or non-chronological story line in the selected passage.
2. Analyse the use and effects of symbolism in the chosen passage.
3. Explore the portrayal of the hero or antihero in the selected passage.
4. Discuss the effects created by the use of a single voice or multiple voices in the chosen passage.
5. Examine the effects created by the selective use of detail in the selected passage.

Prose non-fiction

1. Examine how an important theme has been highlighted in the selected passage.
2. Explore how language has been used to establish context in the chosen passage.
3. Analyse the techniques used in the selected passage to convey an opinion or feeling.
4. Explore the ways in which the author builds the reader's expectations in the chosen passage.
5. Discuss how careful choice of detail has been used in the selected passage to give a sense of authenticity.