The individual oral

IB DP English A: Language and Literature internal assessment: the individual oral

The individual oral

- explain the format and criteria of the individual oral;
- turn a topic into a global issue from one of the five fields of inquiry;
- choose a **literary extract** and a non-literary text from a body of work;

The individual oral (2)

- structure 10 minutes of speaking from notes, not a script;
- write an opening that names the issue, the texts and your argument.

Choosing a global issue

- A global issue has three features: it is **significant** 重要的 (it matters to many people), **transnational** 跨国的 (it exists in more than one country) and its effects are felt in everyday life.
- It must belong to one of five **fields of inquiry** 探究领域:
- A topic ("marriage") is not yet an issue.
- An issue is a problem or tension: "the social pressure on women to marry by a certain age".

The two texts

- The **literary extract 文学节选** comes from a work you studied in class and is no more than 40 lines.
- The non-literary text comes from a **body of work** you studied: several texts by the same author or in the same campaign, such as a series of advertisements or an artist's set of cartoons.
- You choose a short text or extract from that body of work.
- Example pairing for the issue *the social pressure on women to marry*:

Structuring the 10 minutes

- *Plan the 10 minutes, then expect 5 minutes of questions*
- 1. **Introduction** (about 1 minute): name the global issue and the two texts, and give your main argument. 2. **Literary extract** (about 3½ minutes): analyse three or four features, each with a short quotation, and link each back to the issue. 3. **Non-literary text** (about 4 minutes): the same, using its own features: images, camera, layout, voice-over, captions. 4. **Comparison and conclusion** (about 1½ minutes): how the two texts present the issue differently, and why, given their forms and contexts.

Structuring the 10 minutes (2)

- You may bring the two extracts (clean copies) and up to 10 bullet points of notes.
- You must not read a script.

The criteria

- **Common mistakes:** spending eight minutes on one text; describing the issue in general without analysing the texts; choosing a non-literary text that is not part of a body of work you studied.
- Check the conditions before using the result.

Sources for this lesson

- International Baccalaureate, *Language A: Language and Literature guide* (first assessment 2021), individual oral criteria.
- SK-II, *Marriage Market Takeover* (April 2016), part of the "Change Destiny" campaign; reports in *The Guardian* and *Time* (April 2016).
- K. Chopin, "The Story of an Hour" (1894).
- L. H. Fincher, *Leftover Women: The Resurgence of Gender Inequality in China* (2014).

Common errors

- Choosing a topic ("marriage") instead of an issue ("the social pressure on women to marry by a certain age").
- Spending eight minutes on one text and two on the other.
- Describing the issue in general without analysing the texts.

Common errors (2)

- Choosing a non-literary text that is not part of a body of work you studied.
- Analysing a film as if it were printed words; use its own features, such as camera, images and voice-over.
- Reading a script; you may bring the extracts and up to 10 bullet points of notes.

Key terms

- **Individual oral (IO)**: the internal assessment: 10 minutes on a global issue through two texts, then 5 minutes of questions.
- **Global issue**: an issue that is **significant**, **transnational** and felt in everyday life.
- **Body of work**: several non-literary texts by the same author or in the same campaign.

Key terms (2)

- **Literary extract**: a passage of up to 40 lines from a literary work studied in class.
- **Field of inquiry**: one of five broad areas from which global issues come.

Check yourself

- 1.
- How long is the IO, how is it marked, and what is it worth at SL and HL? 2.
- Turn the topic "exams" into a global issue. 3.
- What is a body of work?