

## INDIVIDUAL ORAL COMMENTARY GUIDE

1. Remember that you should present a FORMAL oral commentary. Even if the register of the text is informal, your IOC should be academic
2. Organize your comment: intro, body & conclusion. Explain in your intro how your commentary will be organized
3. Be aware of the time
4. Provide a personal analysis, as much as possible.
5. Situate the extract in the work (context info) and indicate the significance of the extract for the work as a whole
6. Do not make comments/remarks assuming the listener knows what you are talking about
7. Do not paraphrase or summarize the extract
8. Take into consideration the genre of your extract and the specific characteristics of each genre in order to provide a thorough, well focused analysis
9. The more specific and the more detailed your analysis is, the more points it will get
10. Excellent candidates often offer more than one interpretation showing their understanding and appreciation for ambiguities or subtleties of the extract and for the extract in relation to the larger work.
11. Do not focus on literary devices without understanding the relevance they have for the passage.  
MEANING: Do not overly focus on features such as alliteration or onomatopoeia to the neglect of a full understanding of the manner in which a character is being shaped or truly understanding theme as a meaningful idea rather than just a topic or motif.
12. Each word, each image needs to be discussed in its own context to offer a valid discussion of its effect.  
Remember each extract is roughly 40 lines and every fifth line is numbered for ease of reference for both the candidate and the moderator
13. Avoid providing biographical or contextual info that is not relevant
14. Finish your commentary with a rounded conclusion that refers to the passage as a whole