

Preparation for the Oral Exam



How to use this section

- This section will prepare you for your oral exam in English and Communications. The oral exam is worth 4 credits.
- You will need to communicate effectively with the examiner about various elements of the course that you have participated in.
- Remember communication involves both speaking and listening.
- The exam will last no longer than 15 minutes and must be completed individually.
- This section provides sample questions and answers that you can prepare in advance, as well as key term charts to help you build your vocabulary. Use these key terms during the oral exam.
- Practise for the oral exam with your teacher and classmates.

Section 1: Personal and Social Communication

In this section of the oral exam, you will be asked questions about your studied texts. The texts can be the novel, short story or graphic novel that you have studied.

You may be questioned on the following areas:

- Language in everyday contexts
- Characters, identity and relationships between characters in texts studied
- Setting and plot structure in the studied texts
- Overall engagement with various aspects of the studied texts
- The challenge of writing.



Use these key terms when communicating about written texts:

Key Term

Character

Plot

Identity

Setting

Theme

Mood

Conflict

Dialogue

Imagery

Scene

Definition

A person who is part of the story

The story of a text

The elements that make up a character

The place and surroundings that the story of the text takes place in

A central idea or concept of the story

The general atmosphere of the story

An issue or argument that is central to the story

The conversations that take place between two or more characters

The use of words to create a picture in our minds

A section of the text where characters engage in dialogue or action

Sample Questions

1

Use these sample questions to prepare for this section.

1. Would you recommend the text you studied to a friend? Why/Why not?

Be honest! You can say that you would or would not recommend the text but you must be able to explain your answer.

Reasons Why You Would

Enjoyable/relatable theme

Interesting relationship between characters

Unusual or familiar setting (local area/ county/country)

Genre you like

Reasons Why You Would Not

Boring plot

Characters were unrelatable

Difficult language that you could not understand

Genre you do not enjoy

Sample answer

I would recommend the novel 'The Fault in Our Stars' by John Green because I really enjoyed the book. The book used simple language. This made it enjoyable for me to read because I could understand how the plot developed and see the different character relationships grow. Although the plot was quite upsetting because it is about a girl, Hazel, who has terminal cancer, it was interesting to see her perspective on life while going through such an ordeal. She meets a boy, Augustus, who also has cancer and they support each other through this. Their relationship grows throughout the story and there are some touching moments. They fall in love and it was so nice to see that something positive happened for both of them when they were going through a horrible illness. They face some real challenges and it made me feel lucky that I am healthy and do not have to worry about facing illness at such a young age. I really liked the story. It encouraged me to check on my friends to make sure they were doing okay. The genre is romance, so the audience for this book would be more focused on young adults.

Plan your answer to Q1.

Sample Questions

2. Describe your favourite character in the text.

For this question, you should describe what type of person the character is and how they contributed to the plot.

Here are some adjectives you could use to describe your favourite character. For each adjective you use, you should explain why you think the character is that type of person.

Helpful	Charming	Funny	Agreeable	Well written
Heroic	Brave	Courageous	Polite	Kind
Positive	Ambitious	Faithful/Loyal	Thoughtful	Loving
Victorious	Appreciative	Handsome	Beautiful	Popular

Sample answer

My favourite character is _____ because they are a very well-written and funny character. They are always making people laugh by the pranks they pull on their classmates. It is important for people to enjoy reading and this character always made me smile when I read about them. I also think they are very kind and thoughtful as they always try to protect their friends from the bullies in the class. In the scene...(describe a key scene in the book that explains the adjectives used).

Plan your answer to Q2.
