

How do I structure my Individual Oral?

big picture

Prompt: “Examine the ways in which the global issue of your choice is presented through the *content* and the *form* of two of the works that you have studied.”

- ✓ *Content* refers to the subject matter of the text. See criterion/row A on the rubric. You must demonstrate your understanding of the extracts **and of the works as a whole** as well as present your own interpretation of their implications in relation to the global issue (i.e. make a complex theme claim for each).
- ✓ *Form* refers to authorial choices that shape the text. See criterion/row B of the rubric. Authorial choices represent the form itself (e.g. fiction, drama, poetry) as well as the **structural and stylistic textual features**.

introductory statements (around 30 seconds)

Begin by introducing your global issue and your selected works in a single statement.

- Something like ... “*Today I will discuss **the ethical tension between self-sacrifice and self-preservation** in Alan Moore and Dave Gibbon’s graphic novel *Watchmen* and Wisława Szymborska’s poem “Autonomy”.*
- Include the authors’ full name, the work, and the form of the work in this statement

Offer a brief frame/introduction to the global issue. How does each work thematically address this global issue? Make a complex theme claim for each.

- In no more than three sentences, make your global issue relevant and specific; do this by connecting it to something in the real world: a personal experience, meaningful statistics, or a specific event or issue.
- Connect this idea to a specific theme in the works: Something like: “*Through the inherently hypocritical heroes who populate their graphic novel, Moore and Gibbons explore how Moore and Gibbons suggest that it is impossible for an individual to live a completely ethical life since contemporary society is intrinsically corrupt. In Szymborska’s poem, she presents the painful dichotomy of survival to explore how, when individual self-sacrifice becomes necessary for the greater good, it can challenge and fragment one’s own sense of identity.*

discussion of Text A (about 4.5 minutes)

30 seconds ... Offer a brief frame (some context) for your selected extract. For a play or novel, what is happening in this passage/scene? Or, for a poem, provide a concise summary of its literal meaning and any major contrasts. (Don’t waste too much time here!) Connect this frame in some explicit way to your chosen global issue.

- For example: *I have selected the scene at the end of Watchmen in which Dr. Manhattan confronts Rorschach about his intent to inform the world about the true nature of Veidt’s plan. Instead of compromising his ostensibly black-and-white values, Rorschach chooses his own annihilation. Moore and Gibbons present this self-sacrifice as ironically tragic, forcing readers to reflect on the sometimes shallow merits of one’s own value system.”*

2 minutes ... Discuss the global issue as it relates to a theme within the work as a whole.

- How does the author treat this global issue? What greater point do they make?
- Don’t just summarize here; make sure to connect your interpretation to characters, tone, and elements of structure. Be specific in your references to the work as a whole.

2 minutes ... Connect the treatment of the global issue to authorial choices within the passage.

- Make specific references to stylistic and structural elements that support the author’s presentation of the global issue (your interpretation of the work’s theme). Use literary terminology as appropriate. Intentionally connect your claims about authorial choices to relevant, cited evidence that you can connect back to your theme claim.

Discussion of Text B (about 4.5 minutes)

- Plan a sentence that allows you to transition from text A to B smoothly: it should be clear that you’ve switched texts.
- Repeat the same process as above for your second extract.
- Please note this about poetry: you **MUST** discuss the global issue in the “work as a whole” which means the **BODY** of poet’s work.
 - ✓ Link this global issue to two other poems by the poet, including specifics from these poems.
 - ✓ Mention the collection in which the poem was originally published.
 - ✓ Identify some trends in the poet’s work as a whole: thematic motifs, specific stylistic choices, or any patterns that lend themselves to global issue. For example, Szymborska frequently uses irony and paradox; how does this trend serve her exploration of your chosen global issue?

Conclusion (30 seconds at most)

- Make a statement that pulls your two works together.

Individual Oral Procedures

Preparation before the Exam

- Make sure the clean copies of your passages uploaded to the assignment “IA PASSAGES” are up-to-date.
- PRACTICE your oral with your outline and extracts. You have a lot to accomplish in 10 minutes. Practice makes perfect. Time yourself. Your entire delivery should be 10 minutes (no longer) with 5 minutes devoted to one text and 5 minutes to the other.
- Don’t spend too much time on either the extracts or the works as a whole. The time between these aspects should be roughly divided (i.e. 2 ½ minutes for the extract & 2 ½ minutes for the work as a whole).
- PRINT two clean copies of your passages. BRING THESE WITH YOU.
- Prepare your final outline (with a maximum of ten bullet points) to use during your exam. Consider highlighting your theme claims. BRING THIS WITH YOU.

Arrival Procedures

- Double-check your scheduled day and time on the schedule posted to BentonEnglish.com. You need to be outside the room several minutes before your scheduled time.
- Arriving on time is a grade. On time = 20 points. If you are driving in, leave plenty of time for traffic, checking in at the front office, going to the bathroom, etc.
- There will be a chair outside the classroom. Wait outside the room. Do not knock as we may be wrapping up an exam when you arrive.
- When the door opens, everything will be prepared for you (e.g. stopwatch, audio recording equipment).

During the Exam

- At the beginning of the oral you will say: “I will be delivering my Individual Oral on (state the name of your works and the authors).” You will not say your name or candidate ID number.
- Next, introduce the global issue you will discuss.
- Your delivery time is 10 minutes.
- During your delivery, balance your oral between both texts (roughly 5 minutes each); also balance between the extract and the work as a whole. Your focus is the global issue. Remember that this is a literary analysis task, so make sure you discuss how the authorial choices and textual features in each work help express the global issue in the form of a literary theme.
- Your delivery is followed by five minutes of Q&A where I will ask you questions to help raise your score.
- Don’t forget to breathe!
- Afterwards, you will leave campus and congratulate yourself on a job well done!

Final Checklist	Yes	No
Have you uploaded clean copies of your extracts to the Canvas assignment titled “IA PASSAGES”?		
Have you printed both your passages and your outline?		
Have you practiced your oral using a timer for pacing? (Delivery should be 10 minutes in total with 5 minutes per work. Time per work should be divided evenly between the extract and the work as a whole.)		
Have you checked and double-checked your scheduled time and date?		
Have you reviewed the “preparation before the exam,” “arrival procedures,” and “during the exam” parts of the handout above?		