

Internal assessment

Purpose of internal assessment

Internal assessment is an integral part of the course and is compulsory for both standard level (SL) and higher level (HL) students. It enables students to demonstrate the application of their skills and knowledge in a different setting and to pursue their personal interests without the constraints that are associated with written examinations.

The internal assessment consists of a task in the form of an individual oral. Both SL and HL students are required to deliver an individual oral in response to a prompt, using an extract from one work and an extract from one non-literary text to focus their analysis of how perspectives on a global issue are presented in them.

The internal assessment should, as far as possible, be woven into normal classroom teaching and, to this end, will depend upon the students reflecting their study, analysis and exploration of how global issues are presented in their learner portfolios.

Guidance and authenticity

The individual oral submitted for internal assessment must be the student's own work. However, it is not the intention that students should decide upon a topic and be left to work on the internal assessment component without any further support from the teacher. The teacher should play an important role during both the planning stage and the period when the student is working on the internally assessed work. It is the responsibility of the teacher to ensure that students are familiar with:

- the requirements of the individual oral
- the standards for academic honesty
- the assessment criteria.

Teachers and students must discuss the internally assessed work. Students should be encouraged to initiate discussions with the teacher to obtain advice and information, and students must not be penalized for seeking guidance. As part of the learning process, teachers should give advice to students on how to best prepare for the individual oral. This should include guidance on the choice of two texts the student will focus on to address the global issue of their choice, and on the suitability of the chosen global issue to the two texts. It could also include practice of the individual oral with texts and global issues different from those the students will use for their internal assessment. The teacher should provide feedback on areas of the student's work that could be improved so as to better fulfil the assessment criteria on the basis of such practices. As the process of preparation for the oral is drawing to a close, teachers may provide feedback on the outlines the students have created but may not rehearse the actual oral with the students.

It is the responsibility of teachers to ensure that all students understand the basic meaning and significance of concepts that relate to academic honesty, especially authenticity and intellectual property. Teachers must ensure that all student work for assessment is prepared according to the requirements and must explain clearly to students that the internally assessed work must be entirely their own.

All work submitted to the IB for moderation or assessment must be authenticated by a teacher, and must not include any known instances of suspected or confirmed academic misconduct. Each student must confirm that the work is his or her authentic work. Once the oral has been completed at the time designated by the school, it cannot be redone, and once the oral has been submitted, it cannot be retracted. The requirement to confirm the authenticity of work applies to the work of all students, not just the sample work that will be submitted to the IB for the purpose of moderation. For further details, refer to

the IB publications *Academic honesty in the IB educational context*, *The Diploma Programme: From principles into practice* and the relevant articles in *General regulations: Diploma Programme*.

Authenticity may be checked by discussion with the student on the content of the work, and scrutiny of one or more of the following:

- the student's initial proposal
- the usual quality of the student's work.

The same material cannot be submitted to meet the requirements of both the internal assessment and the extended essay. The texts used in the internal assessment must be different from those used in other assessment components

Time allocation

Internal assessment contributes 30% to the final assessment of the SL course and 20% to the final assessment of the HL course. This weighting should be reflected in the time that is allocated to teaching the knowledge, skills and understanding required to undertake the assessment, as well as the time needed to conduct the oral.

Conducting the individual oral will require time:

- for the teacher to explain the requirements of the internal assessment
- to review the academic honesty documents
- for students to work on the internal assessment component and ask questions
- for consultation between the teacher and each student
- to review and monitor progress, and to check authenticity
- to conduct the orals and submit all documentation.

Requirements and recommendations

The individual oral must be conducted in the language A studied. The procedures and characteristics of the individual oral can, and should, be practised during the course, as should the development of verbal interaction between student and teacher. Students should be discouraged, however, from committing their individual orals to memory. Memorization tends to distance the speaker from the listener, thus making it unlikely that the oral will be effective or convincing.

Each student's individual oral must be audio recorded and the files must be of high quality. Each recording is to be retained according to the procedures set out in *Diploma Programme Assessment procedures*. Samples of the internal assessment selected for moderation must be submitted in the form of an audio file.

Using assessment criteria for internal assessment

For internal assessment, a number of assessment criteria have been identified. Each assessment criterion has level descriptors describing specific achievement levels, together with an appropriate range of marks. The level descriptors concentrate on positive achievement, although for the lower levels failure to reach certain minimum requirements may be included in the description.

Teachers must judge the internally assessed work at SL and at HL against the criteria using the level descriptors.

- The same assessment criteria are provided for SL and HL.
- The aim is to find, for each criterion, the descriptor that conveys most accurately the level attained by the student, using the best-fit model. A best-fit approach means that compensation should be made when a piece of work matches different aspects of a criterion at different levels. The mark awarded should be one that most fairly reflects the balance of achievement against the criterion. It is not necessary for every single aspect of a level descriptor to be met for that mark to be awarded.

- When assessing a student’s work, teachers should read the level descriptors for each criterion until they reach a descriptor that most appropriately describes the level of the work being assessed. If a piece of work seems to fall between two descriptors, both descriptors should be read again and the one that more appropriately describes the student’s work should be chosen.
- Where there are two marks available within a level, teachers should award the upper marks if the student’s work demonstrates the qualities described to a great extent and the work is close to matching the descriptors in the level above. Teachers should award the lower marks if the student’s work demonstrates the qualities described to a lesser extent and the work is closer to matching the descriptors in the level below.
- Only whole numbers should be recorded; partial marks, (fractions and decimals) are not acceptable.
- Teachers should not think in terms of a pass or fail boundary, but should concentrate on identifying the descriptor that best matches the student’s work for each assessment criterion.
- The highest level descriptors do not imply a faultless performance; they should be achievable by a language A: language and literature student. Teachers should not hesitate to use the extremes of the mark range if they are appropriate descriptions of the work being assessed.
- A student who is awarded a mark in a high level in relation to one criterion will not necessarily reach high levels in relation to the other criteria. Similarly, a student who is awarded a mark in a low level for one criterion will also not necessarily be placed in low levels for the other criteria. Teachers should not assume that the overall assessment of the students will produce any particular distribution of marks.
- Teachers are expected to make the assessment criteria available to students and ensure that they understand them.

Internal assessment details—SL/HL

Individual oral

Duration: 15 minutes (10 minutes: student individual oral; 5 minutes: teacher questions)

Weighting: 30% for SL, 20% for HL

The nature of the task

The individual oral addresses the following prompt:

Examine the ways in which the global issue of your choice is presented through the content and form of one of the works and one of the texts that you have studied.

Explanation of the task

The individual oral is based on the exploration the student has carried out in the learner portfolio. During this exploration process, the student will have investigated a series of non-literary texts and literary works and a variety of global issues. In the lead up to the individual oral, the student must make a decision about which global issue and which text and work will be explored in the task. One work and one non-literary text must be selected. An extract of no more than 40 lines should be selected from each which is representative of the presence of the global issue in it. In forms or text types where the number of lines may not be applicable, teachers should be guided by the volume of text that can be discussed in sufficient depth in the time available.

Selection of text, work and extracts

The work and text selected must have a clear connection with the global issue. The individual oral should be a well-supported argument about the ways in which both represent and explore the global issue. Students must select two extracts, one from the text and one from the work, that clearly show significant moments when this global issue is being focused on. Normally these extracts should not exceed 40 lines or present an unmanageable amount of material to be analysed. As the student brings unannotated copies of these extracts to the individual oral, extracts which are too lengthy may hinder their ability to effectively expand the discussion to the text or work as a whole. An extract may be a complete text in itself, for example a whole poem or an advertisement.

If the extract is from a literary text which is part of a larger work studied, such as a short story, or if it is a complete text which is part of a work studied, such as a poem, students should discuss relevant aspects of the broader work as a whole in their individual oral.

If the extract is a complete non-literary text, students should discuss relevant aspects of the broader body of work of the author of the text. In the case of a photograph, for example, the broader discussion should refer to other photographs by the same photographer. If identifying the single author of a non-literary text is not possible, students should use an ampler definition of authorship to broaden their discussion of the global issue. In the case of an advertisement, for example, students could refer to the other advertisements or commercials belonging to the same campaign, to other campaigns of the same brand or to other work produced by the advertising agency. In the case of an article, students could refer either to other articles by the same author or to the general editorial line of the medium in which the article was published. In cases such as the latter two, students should make explicit what constitutes their definition of authorship.

The extracts are meant to help students focus their responses, remove the need to learn quotations and enable them to explore more precise issues, such as style, specific devices and other distinct techniques used by authors to present the global issue. The choice of extracts should show the student's understanding of the relevance of the part to the whole and enable coverage of larger and smaller choices made by the writers to shape their perspectives on the global issue.

Determining the global issue

A global issue incorporates the following three properties:

- It has significance on a wide/large scale.
- It is transnational.
- Its impact is felt in everyday local contexts.

Students may look to one or more of the following fields of inquiry for guidance on how to decide on a global issue to focus their orals on. These topics are not exhaustive and are intended as helpful starting points for students to generate ideas and derive a more specific global issue on which to base their individual oral. It should also be noted that there is the potential for significant overlap between the areas.

Culture, identity and community

Students might focus on the way in which texts explore aspects of family, class, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender and sexuality, and the way these impact on individuals and societies. They might also focus on issues concerning migration, colonialism and nationalism.

Beliefs, values and education

Students might focus on the way in which texts explore the beliefs and values nurtured in particular societies and the ways they shape individuals, communities and educational systems. They might also explore the tensions that arise when there are conflicts of beliefs and values, and ethics.

Politics, power and justice

Students might focus on the ways in which texts explore aspects of rights and responsibilities, the workings and structures of governments and institutions. They might also investigate hierarchies of power, the distribution of wealth and resources, the limits of justice and the law, equality and inequality, human rights and peace and conflict.

Art, creativity and the imagination

Students might focus on the ways in which texts explore aspects of aesthetic inspiration, creation, craft, and beauty. They might also focus on the shaping and challenging of perceptions through art, and the function, value and effects of art in society.

Science, technology and the environment

Students might focus on the ways in which texts explore the relationship between humans and the environment and the implications of technology and media for society. They might also consider the idea of scientific development and progress.

In selecting the global issue for their oral, students must be careful not simply to select from the broad fields of inquiry above, but to determine a specific issue for discussion that can be reasonably explored in a

10 minute oral. The global issue chosen for consideration should be significant on a wide scale, be transnational in nature, and be an issue that has an impact felt in everyday local contexts. The issue should be clearly evidenced in the extracts or texts chosen.

For example, within the field of culture, identity and community, the theme of gender in itself might be unsuitably broad for an individual oral. A student interested in this theme might explore instead how gender bias manifests itself in different contexts; how this can be evidenced in many ways in texts of different sorts; how different authorial choices will determine what is meant by gender bias; whether bias should be viewed positively or negatively, allowing the students to evaluate the writer's choices and the impact they might have on the different readers' or viewers' understanding.

The oral itself will only be concerned with the aspects of the global issue relevant to the two texts chosen. The student should ensure the oral offers a balanced approach, giving approximately equal attention to both texts. Thus, it is important that the student selects extracts/texts that offer equally sufficient material for the discussion.

The learner portfolio and the individual oral

The learner portfolio is not specifically assessed but it is an important place for students to explore and reflect upon their works in relation to global issues.

In relation to the preparation of the individual oral, the learner portfolio provides an opportunity for students to:

- keep an ongoing record of the different global issues that could be related to each of the texts they read
- explore links that could be established between different texts on the basis of common global issues they address
- explore how key passages in the texts they have studied represent different or similar perspectives on one global issue through both form and content
- trace the evolution of their thinking and planning in connection with the global issue and how its cultural value, its definition and application to the texts they read have changed through their inquiry
- reflect on the challenges that the internal assessment poses for them as individual learners.

Conduct of the individual oral

Students have the flexibility to use any of the texts from their course of study up until the time of the assessment. It should be remembered that texts chosen for the individual oral cannot then be used for any other assessment component. Students should select their own oral topics. Teachers should monitor and guide students in their selection of viable global issues, relevant texts and effective choice of extracts, but they should not suggest topics to students nor tell them what to do. Though teachers play a critical role in helping students prepare, this must be a student inspired and created oral.

The oral may be conducted at any time after a significant number of the texts have been studied in the course. All of the texts used for the oral need to be featured as part of the teaching of the course. It is recommended that the oral takes place either in the last part of the first year or the first part of the second year.

The place and time of the oral is chosen by the teacher. Teachers may conduct all the orals on one day or over several days. Students must be given adequate notice of when the oral will take place. Schools will be provided with a form for students to create an outline of their oral. Students should prepare this in advance as it will provide them with a springboard for their oral. Students should not read the outline as a prepared script. The form gives students a maximum of 10 bullet points to help provide structure to their oral. Individual bullet points must not be excessively long. Schools will be required to keep all copies of the outline form until after the results are issued. In order to determine authenticity of student performance, schools may be required to submit these forms to IB.

Copies of the extracts chosen by the student must be provided to the teacher for approval at least one week before the individual oral assessment takes place. Teachers will have their own copies of the extracts during the assessment and these may help the teacher frame suitable questions for the student.

The extracts must be clean, unmarked copies; the student may only take the extracts and the outline into the room where the individual oral assessment will take place.

The individual oral takes place between the student and teacher. The teacher asks questions to probe further into the student's knowledge and understanding of the extracts/texts and their analysis of the choices made by the authors in relation to the global issue chosen. In the case of less confident students, teachers must encourage them to give them the opportunity to expand on unsubstantiated or inadequate statements.

The individual oral lasts 10 minutes, followed by 5 minutes of questions by the teacher.

The individual oral is internally assessed and externally moderated by the IB. Audio recordings of the oral, together with the relevant extracts, are required for the purpose of moderation. To this end, all materials and recordings must be clearly and accurately assembled and kept. Care must also be taken to provide a suitably quiet environment for the recordings.

Internal assessment criteria

Individual oral

There are four assessment criteria.

Criterion A	Knowledge, understanding and interpretation	10 marks
Criterion B	Analysis and evaluation	10 marks
Criterion C	Focus and organisation	10 marks
Criterion D	Language	10 marks
Total		40 marks

Criterion A: Knowledge, understanding and interpretation

- How well does the candidate demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the extracts, and of the works/texts from which they were taken?
- To what extent does the candidate make use of knowledge and understanding of the extracts and the works/texts to draw conclusions in relation to the global issue?
- How well are ideas supported by references to the extracts, and to the works/texts?

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	There is little knowledge and understanding of the extracts and the works/texts in relation to the global issue. References to the extracts and to the works/texts are infrequent or are rarely appropriate.
3–4	There is some knowledge and understanding of the extracts and the works/texts in relation to the global issue References to the extracts and to the works/texts are at times appropriate.
5–6	There is satisfactory knowledge and understanding of the extracts and the works/texts and an interpretation of their implications in relation to the global issue. References to the extracts and to the works/texts are generally relevant and mostly support the candidate's ideas.
7–8	There is good knowledge and understanding of the extracts and the works/texts and a sustained interpretation of their implications in relation to the global issue.

Marks	Level descriptor
	References to the extracts and to the works/texts are relevant and support the candidate's ideas.
9–10	There is excellent knowledge and understanding of the extracts and of the works/texts and a persuasive interpretation of their implications in relation to the global issue. References to the extracts and to the works/texts are well-chosen and effectively support the candidate's ideas.

Criterion B: Analysis and evaluation

- How well does the candidate use his or her knowledge and understanding of each of the extracts and their associated works/texts to analyse and evaluate the ways in which authorial choices present the global issue?

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	The oral is descriptive or contains no relevant analysis. Authorial choices are seldom identified and, if so, are poorly understood in relation to the presentation of the global issue.
3–4	The oral contains some relevant analysis, but it is reliant on description. Authorial choices are identified, but are vaguely treated and/or only partially understood in relation to the presentation of the global issue.
5–6	The oral is analytical in nature, and evaluation of the extracts and their works/texts is mostly relevant. Authorial choices are identified and reasonably understood in relation to the presentation of the global issue.
7–8	Analysis and evaluation of the extracts and their works/texts are relevant and at times insightful There is a good understanding of how authorial choices are used to present the global issue.
9–10	Analysis and evaluation of the extracts and their works/texts are relevant and insightful. There is a thorough and nuanced understanding of how authorial choices are used to present the global issue.

Criterion C: Focus and organization

- How well does the candidate deliver a structured, well-balanced and focused oral?
- How well does the candidate connect ideas in a cohesive manner?

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	The oral rarely focuses on the task. There are few connections between ideas.
3–4	The oral only sometimes focuses on the task, and treatment of the extracts, and of the works/texts may be unbalanced. There are some connections between ideas, but these are not always coherent.
5–6	The oral maintains a focus on the task, despite some lapses; treatment of the extracts and works/texts is mostly balanced.

Marks	Level descriptor
	The development of ideas is mostly logical; ideas are generally connected in a cohesive manner.
7–8	The oral maintains a mostly clear and sustained focus on the task; treatment of the extracts and works/texts is balanced. The development of ideas is logical; ideas are cohesively connected in an effective manner.
9–10	The oral maintains a clear and sustained focus on the task; treatment of the extracts and works/texts is well-balanced. The development of ideas is logical and convincing; ideas are connected in a cogent manner.

Criterion D: Language

- How clear, accurate and effective is the language?

Marks	Level descriptor
0	The work does not reach a standard described by the descriptors below.
1–2	The language is rarely clear or accurate; errors often hinder communication. Vocabulary and syntax are imprecise and frequently inaccurate. Elements of style (for example, register, tone and rhetorical devices) are inappropriate to the task and detract from the oral.
3–4	The language is generally clear; errors sometimes hinder communication. Vocabulary and syntax are often imprecise with inaccuracies. Elements of style (for example, register, tone and rhetorical devices) are often inappropriate to the task and detract from the oral.
5–6	The language is clear; errors do not hinder communication. Vocabulary and syntax are appropriate to the task but simple and repetitive. Elements of style (for example, register, tone and rhetorical devices) are appropriate to the task and neither enhance nor detract from the oral.
7–8	The language is clear and accurate; occasional errors do not hinder communication. Vocabulary and syntax are appropriate and varied. Elements of style (for example, register, tone and rhetorical devices) are appropriate to the task and somewhat enhance the oral.
9–10	The language is clear, accurate and varied; occasional errors do not hinder communication. Vocabulary and syntax are varied and create effect. Elements of style (for example, register, tone and rhetorical devices) are appropriate to the task and enhance the oral.