

Commentary Skills (Oral and Written)

- **Read** your chosen extract carefully.
- Plan a central **thesis statement**, based on the implicit ideas found in the extract as a whole, which you will prove in your response.
- Provide the **context**, if appropriate, for your extract.
- Plan at least three clear and distinct **points** to prove your thesis.
- Use **textual evidence** to support your points.
- **Evaluate** the significance of every point you raise (in relation to character, theme, and your understanding of the bigger picture).
- Each paragraph should commence with a **topic sentence**.
- Write/Speak about the events in the extract in the **present tense**.
- Include, wherever appropriate, how the writer utilizes **literary features/ devices** to highlight implicit ideas/characterization/tone/etc.
- Discuss the **writer's intention** and the **effect on the reader** throughout your response (effect on the reader includes your personal response).
- Your **conclusion** should make an overall judgement on the effectiveness of the extract, in terms of your thesis.

Remember the assessment criteria:

- A. Knowledge and understanding of the text or extract**
- B. Understanding of the use and effects of literary features**
- C. Organization**
- D. Language**