

Assessment Prep with Kognity

IBDP English A: Language and Literature

What is this guide for?

This guide is designed to help you make the most out of Kognity as a tool to prepare students for success both in formative assessments and IBDP exam preparation.

How does Kognity help with assessment preparation for IBDP Business Management?

According to [John Hattie](#), Professor of Education and Director of the Melbourne Educational Research Institute at the University of Melbourne, Australia, feedback is an important driver for improving teaching and learning. Formative assessments play a large role in consistent feedback throughout the year as students prepare for their IBDP exams. Kognity provides efficient tools for immediate feedback to the student.

“

“Think of feedback as received, not given.”

John Hattie

For students:

Students can test their analytical and interpretative skills in IBDP English A: Language and Literature through completing an interactive activity and then revealing the solution to receive immediate feedback on their response. In addition, at the end of each content section, students can complete knowledge check questions that are auto-graded, allowing them again to receive feedback right away on their progress.



Activity

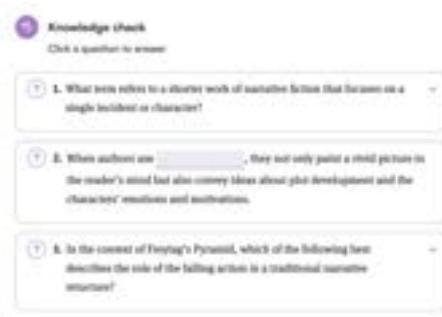
Revise the traditional plot structure and read the paragraph below in the context of the extract. Drag the words to fit in the blanks.

This extract from 'The Saxon River' corresponds to the [redacted] because it involves a significant increase in [redacted] through [redacted] and [redacted]. During this part of the novel, the [redacted] that contributes to their [redacted] experiences and the [redacted] tension of the narrative. [redacted] realisation that he [redacted] does not recognise him after a long [redacted], and the [redacted] weight of the moment when he sees his mother for the first time, are prime in the [redacted] development. The passage illustrates the tension between time and space, as well as the internal conflict [redacted] faces as he [redacted] with his changed identity.

Using action: Transformation: Conflict: [redacted]

Check

Interactive 1. Put (development) and the specific techniques of description in the Saxon River by Peter Sissons



Knowledge check

Click a question to answer

Q1. What term refers to a cluster of narrative actions that focus on a single incident or character?

Q2. When authors use [redacted], they not only paint a vivid picture in the reader's mind but also convey ideas about plot development and the characters' emotions and motivations.

Q3. In the context of Fyodor Dostoevsky's 'The Idiot', which of the following best describes the role of the falling action in a traditional narrative structure?



Below you will find some ways teachers can use Kognity's resources to successfully prepare their students for IBDP English A: Language and Literature assessment components.

Click on each link to explore more in Kognity English A: Language and Literature!

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Activity sheets

To provide students with resources for self-directed active recall study, use Activity Sheets to help them identify areas of weakness.



Figure 1. Page 4 from *Maus* by Art Spiegelman.

Credit: Art Spiegelman, *Maus*¹

[More information for figure 1](#)

Exercise questions

In this extract from *Maus*, which feature of graphic novel layout creates the emotional shift between Artie skating with his friends and sitting alone in tears?

Gutter

Accepted answers

Gutter

Also accepted

Gutters, Negative space

Which of the following visual choices are used in the extract to shape the reader's understanding of Artie's emotional experience?



How does Kognity help with formative assessments?

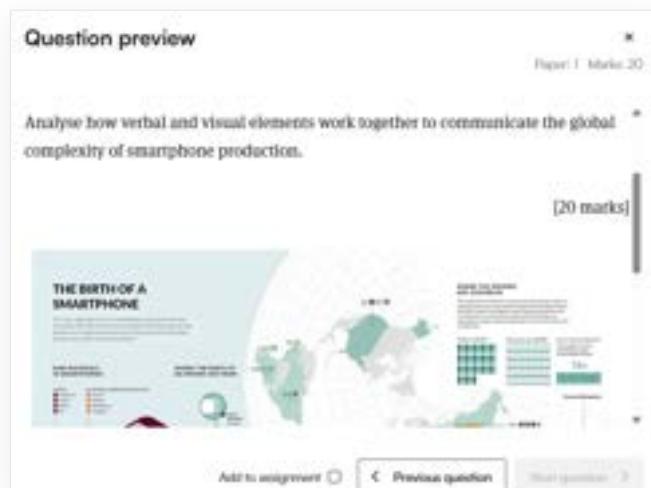
Templates

Kognity's templates invite students to revisit, reframe, and refine the critical thinking, textual analysis, writing, and speaking skills learned and apply them to their own texts—drawing connections between concepts and honing the craft of interpretation. Though not scored automatically, they open a window into each learner's thinking, helping teachers surface misconceptions and shape meaningful next steps. They are springboards for customised learning and deeper insight!



Exam-Style Questions

Kognity provides exam-style questions and guidance on how to answer them that teachers can use in a variety of different ways with their students. For example, teachers can assign exam-style questions for students to do independently, in small, cooperative learning groupings or as a whole class. The guidance provided can be reviewed with students.



How does Kognity help with formative assessments?

Learner Portfolio Reflective Prompts

Learner Portfolio Reflective Prompts provide students with an opportunity to reflect on their learning. They encourage students to return to the subtopic's thinking prompt, consider what they've learned, and write down their thoughts.

Learner Portfolio Reflective Prompts are an excellent assessment tool for gauging students' development and engagement with the material. As a teacher, you can use the Learner Portfolio Reflective Prompts as an additional tool to assess their conceptual understanding of the course.

Learner portfolio reflective prompt

Section

Feedback

The goal of this section is to encourage you to reflect on the ways in which you have developed a deeper understanding of **literary text types**, their key features and their role in shaping meaning and purpose, while emphasising their importance in IB DP assessment.



Learner portfolio reflective prompt

Think back to what was asked in The big picture, **How do the key features of literary text types shape their purpose and meaning?**

Write a reflection of approximately 500 words that addresses how your knowledge of literary text types may help you succeed in this course. You can use the following questions and prompts to guide you:

- What have you discovered about the unique features of narrative, poetry and drama?
- How do specific author choices within narrative, poetry and drama shape their purpose and meaning? Use examples.
- Which literary text type do you feel most confident analysing and why?
- What specific examples can you recall where understanding a text's type helped you uncover deeper layers of meaning?
- How has your awareness of genre and form enhanced your ability to identify an author's intentions?
- How will your knowledge of literary text types assist you in IB DP assessments, and how do you plan to apply your understanding of these to further develop your analytical skills?
- Apart from narrative, poetry and drama, what other literary text types are there, and how much do you know about them?



How does Kognity help with IBDP English A: Language and Literature Assessment Preparation?

Internal Assessment - The Individual Oral

To ensure success in the Internal Assessment - The Individual Oral, teachers must spend time introducing and explaining the criteria and responsibilities to their students. Kognity's "Skills for the Individual Oral" subtopic is a great resource for both teachers and students to understand and develop the skills needed and review examples for planning and executing them—from choosing their extracts and constructing their global issue to creating their outlines. The provided templates guide students through structuring their oral presentation, refining textual analysis, and using terminology with precision.



The big picture

How can understanding the purpose and structure of the Individual Oral help you effectively prepare and perform in this assessment?

The Individual Oral is a speaking assessment. It allows you to think about global issues that are significant to you and the world, and that connect with literary works and non-literary bodies of work you study. It is important to understand the purpose and structure of the Individual Oral. This will enable you to prepare and communicate your insight and analysis about the texts you have studied within the assessment's framework.

At this level and grade, it is essential to consider your place in the world. Figure 1 shows the famous Earthrise photograph. This revolutionary image of Earth rising beyond the lunar surface was taken by the first humans ever to orbit the Moon. It has since inspired generations to reflect on the common and interconnected nature of the world, our choices and their local impact. When developing your global issue and analysis for the Individual Oral, consider this image and the significance of our connectivity as a global community.

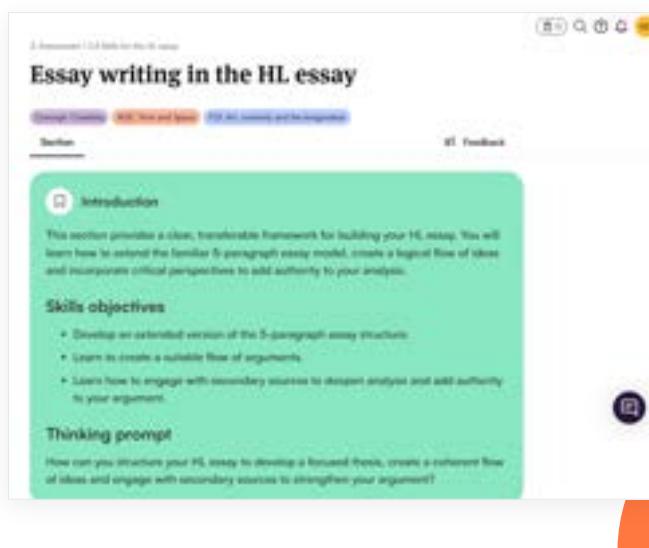
Figure 1: Earthrise photograph

The Higher Level Essay

The HL Essay challenges students to conduct independent inquiry, requiring them to develop a focused research question and sustain a formal, critical argument. Kognity's "Skills for the HL Essay" subtopic supports this with carefully designed templates that help students conceptualise, structure, and refine their essays. From formulating lines

How does Kognity help with IBDP English A: Language and Literature Assessment Preparation?

of inquiry to integrating secondary perspectives and citing sources appropriately, the guidance provided fosters academic independence while giving teachers tools to supervise the process effectively.



Essay writing in the HL essay

Introduction

This section provides a clear, transferrable framework for building your HL essay. You will learn how to extend the familiar 5-paragraph essay model, create a logical flow of ideas and incorporate critical perspectives to add authority to your analysis.

Skills objectives

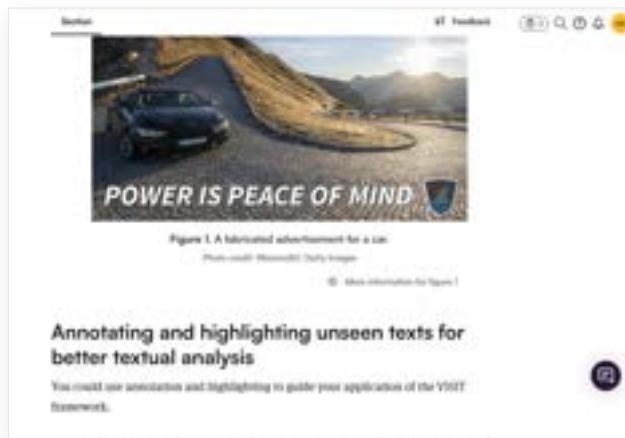
- Develop an extended version of the 5-paragraph essay structure.
- Create a suitable flow of arguments.
- Learn how to engage with secondary sources to develop analysis and add authority to your argument.

Thinking prompt

How can you structure your HL essay to develop a focused thesis, create a coherent flow of ideas and engage with secondary sources to strengthen your argument?

Paper 1

For Paper 1, success hinges on students' ability to engage critically with unfamiliar non-literary texts under timed conditions. Kognity's "Skills for Paper 1" subtopic helps develop key skills and analytical strategies—from unpacking the question to writing their guided analysis. The templates guide students through reading unseen texts and planning their writing. These tools also support teachers in modelling responses and providing formative feedback on conceptual depth and clarity.



POWER IS PEACE OF MIND

Figure 1. A fabricated advertisement for a car.
Photo credit: Hemera/Hemera Images

More information for Topic 1

Annotating and highlighting unseen texts for better textual analysis

You could use annotation and highlighting to guide your application of the YLT framework.

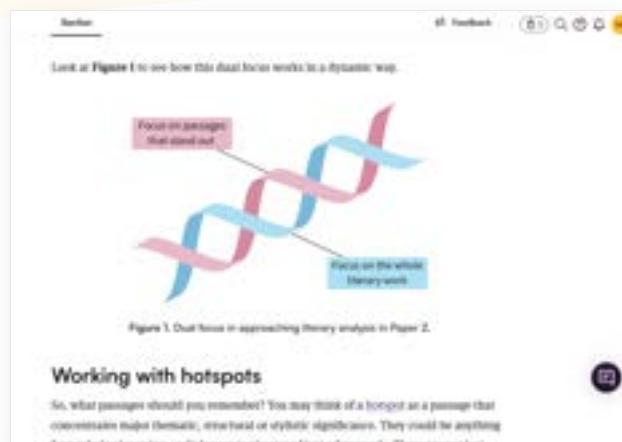
- Verbal language: Try to highlight and annotate verbal elements that stand

How does Kognity help with IBDP English A: Language and Literature Assessment Preparation?

Paper 2

Preparing students for Paper 2 involves building their ability to compare and contrast literary works through sustained, comparative argumentation.

Kognity's "Skills for Paper 2" subtopic offers structured content and templates that help students choose an essay prompt or question that aligns with their texts, and recognise suitable rich passages or hotspots for comparative analysis. The emphasis on critical thinking and textual analysis frameworks enables students to refine their comparative lens while giving teachers a clear path to scaffold these higher-order thinking skills.



Look at Figure 1 to see how this dual focus results in a dynamic way.

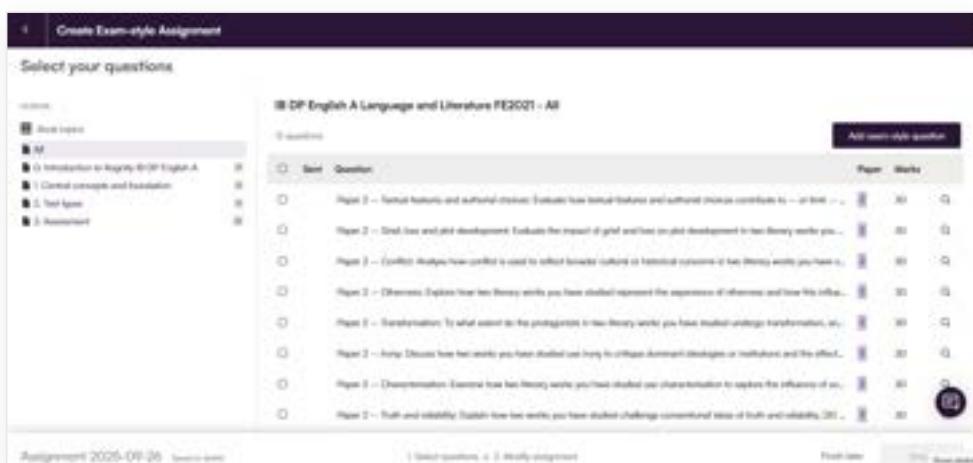
Figure 1. Dual focus in approaching literary analysis in Paper 2.

Working with hotspots

So, what passages should you remember? You may think of a hotspot as a passage that conveys major thematic, contextual or stylistic significances. They could be anything from whole plot points or dialogue to phrases or just a few words. These are not just

IBDP Exam Papers

Kognity's exam-style questions are all based on Papers 1 and 2, and contain questions and guidance on how to answer them that are written by subject matter experts and examiners just for Kognity! Using these exam-style questions can provide students tips for success and a student can also add a timer when using an exam-style assignment to model real exam conditions!



Create Exam-style Assignment

Select your questions

IB DP English A: Language and Literature PE2021 - All

Add exam-style question

Question	Paper	Works
Page 2 -- Focus: Authorial and authorial-reader Evaluate how textual features and authorial choices contribute to ... or how ...	20	0
Page 2 -- Grief: loss and grief development Evaluate the impact of grief and loss on plot development in two literary works you ...	20	0
Page 2 -- Conflict: Analyse how conflict is used to reflect broader cultural or historical contexts of two literary works you have ...	20	0
Page 2 -- Differences: Explore how two literary works you have studied represent the expression of difference and how this influen...	20	0
Page 2 -- Transformation: To what extent do the protagonists in two literary works you have studied undergo transformation, and ...	20	0
Page 2 -- Irony: Discuss how two works you have studied use irony to critique dominant ideologies or institutions and the effect ...	20	0
Page 2 -- Dissonance: Examine how two literary works you have studied challenge conventional ideas of truth and reality. Do ...	20	0
Page 2 -- Truth and reality: Explain how two works you have studied challenge conventional ideas of truth and reality. Do ...	20	0

Assignment 2025-09-26 (version 1) Selected questions, 0.2. Ready to submit