

## IB English 11 Works in Translation Written Assignment

You are required to produce an essay of 1,200–1,500 words in length **on a literary aspect** of one work.

“The written assignment needs to grow out of the supervised writing” (Subject Report 2012)

- You will develop the essay with my guidance from one of the pieces of supervised writing completed in class.
- From the ideas in the supervised writing, you must develop a topic and your final essay.
- I must keep an unedited copy of the chosen supervised writing on file until the end of the examination session.
- You will choose **one** of your pieces of supervised writing to develop into the essay required for submission.
  - **There must be an apparent connection between the supervised writing and the final essay**, but you are encouraged to provide your own title and to develop the chosen prompt in an independent direction.

**Sample titles:** Mrs. Linde as role model in *A Doll’s House*; The Vicario brothers as champions of honour; The contrasting roles of ice and snow in *Dr. Zhivago*

### My role

- Provide guidance on the development of the essay topic.
- Discuss the connections between the supervised writing and the essay.
- Ensure that the topic is suitable to the length and the focus of the task.
- Read the **<first draft>** of the essay and provide feedback to you. (I cannot annotate or edit your draft.)

### Completion of the essay for submission by the student

After receiving feedback on the first draft, you must complete the written assignment **without further assistance**.

*NOTE: The essay must be your own work, and you must authenticate it as such. You will also submit your essay to turnitin.com.*

### Formal requirements

- **Length** 1,200–1,500 words. If you exceed the limit, assessment is based on the first 1,500 words.
- **Submission** You will submit the final essay for assessment **along with the relevant reflective statement**. The essay should be a well-presented, formal piece of work.
- **Assessment** You will receive a mark out of 22 using assessment criterion B, C, D and E.

You are encouraged to initiate discussion with me to obtain advice and information during the initial planning stages of this assignment. You will be able to sign up to conference with me during the essay work days.

### Calendar:

<u>Thursday, 5/18</u>	Select piece of supervised writing you want to use.
<u>Friday, 5/19 (end of period)</u>	Submit Topic Proposal
<u>Friday, 5/19</u>	Work Day* & Conferencing** (computer lab)
<u>Monday, 5/22</u>	Work Day* and Conferencing** (laptop computers)
<u>Friday, 5/26</u>	Work Day* and Conferencing** (combo of small lab & laptops)
<u>By 12 noon Sat., 5/27</u>	Submit <b>&lt;first draft&gt;</b>
<u>Wednesday, 5/31</u>	Final Revision & Proofreading
<u>Monday, 5/5</u>	Submit Final Paper (electronic by 7:25AM; hard copy in class)

### Outline Format:

- This should be a “point” outline, and thus **not written in complete sentences**.
- Support **must be in the form of direct quotations**, not just references to the text.
- NOTE: when going from outline to first draft, paragraphing should follow ideas, not Roman numerals on your outline. Each new idea gets its own paragraph.
- Do not outline your introduction and conclusion.

*\*if you have your own personal device, these would be great days to bring them  
\*\* I will conference in class on non-computer work days as well*

Your outline should look like this...

Title

Main Thesis:

- I. First sub-argument
  - A. Support
    1. Analysis
    2. More analysis and or more support
  - B. Support
    1. Analysis
- II. Second sub-argument
  - A. Support
    1. Analysis
  - B. Support
    1. Analysis

Etc.

### **Notes from the Subject Report:**

#### **Regarding students demonstrating understanding that the works are constructed by an author:**

“The other improvement can be found in the consideration of literary features and the ability to discuss texts as literature: works that have been constructed by an author, as opposed to texts that are about real people. There is less of the, —If Nora had been more honest with Torvald then...ll type of comment.

#### **Regarding culture and context:**

“As of May 2013 (the upcoming exam session), the candidate’s understanding of the cultural and historical background of a work will be of much greater importance. At present, candidates studying *Mother Courage* who show no awareness of the terrible conditions in Germany during the Thirty Years War are not penalised unduly but in future they will not gain high marks.”

#### **Regarding Quality of work:**

“ While writing an essay the candidate should have the book beside them so that they can give close references and quote accurately. Essays where characters’ names are misspelt and events are misplaced are not acceptable in coursework.”

#### **Regarding Pet Peeves of the IB Gods:**

“ Increasingly candidates from some centres describe characters from older literature using modern popular psychological terms. Aeschylus was not setting out to show that Medea was a dysfunctional mother and nor was Kafka suggesting that Gregor was seeking closure when he dies. Candidates seem to love using biographical information and relating it to a text. At times this may be relevant but often it is a distraction that hinders the proper understanding of a work.”

#### **Regarding Essay Structure:**

“A good essay should have an introduction which guides the reader in to what to expect from the essay. If the essay deals with abstractions then they need to be defined so that the candidate knows precisely what he or she will be writing about. Introductions often contain a thesis which will form the centre of the argument in the essay. The body of the essay should present an argument or provide an insight into the chosen aspect of the text. It should contain detailed references to the text and integrated quotations. The conclusion should synthesize the information and not just repeat what has already been stated. Some candidates have a habit of telling the reader what the essay is about three times, each time adding a little more information. This is not a very successful technique as it is likely to lead to repetition and fragmentation. Writing a successful essay requires skills that need to be taught and also practiced.”

#### **Regarding Paragraphing and Quotation Integration:**

“ The most basic skill of all is being able to write in paragraphs. More and more examiners wonder why this skill does not seem to be taught effectively anymore. The other skill that must be taught is how to integrate quotations seamlessly into the essay. Quotations are not self-explanatory. They need a context and should be directly related to what is being discussed.

#### **Regarding Works Cited:**

“A works cited page which contains the date, translator and edition of a work is important, especially with earlier works where there may be very different texts.”

#### **Regarding Proofreading:**

“What does need more attention though is proof reading. Nowadays, when spell-checks are readily available, spelling mistakes are not acceptable. Careful reading should pick up other technical errors. Sometimes it seems that candidates have been encouraged to make use of a thesaurus. This is fine but candidates need to be told that not all synonyms can replace each other. Overuse can result in unintended connotations or in a pretentious, overblown or even incomprehensible syntax.”