



Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

In general, students in 2005 chose more appropriate topics and texts than those in previous years, and most students chose their texts from the fields of literature and/or the arts. They were well informed about the general procedure for the oral examination. However, students need to be aware that they should not wear their school uniforms or mention their own or their school's name during the examination.

Teachers should ensure that students are fluent and have a wide range of vocabulary for both the Presentation and Discussion sections.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Presentation

Students need to prepare this section prior to the examination. Most students were well prepared and presented their topic well; however, a few students did not seem to perform at their best due to nervousness and a lack of confidence. Unfortunately, this is an important factor of the oral examination. In their preparation it is recommended that students not only concentrate on their scripts but also on their presentation skills.

Most students who prepared supporting materials used them effectively. However, some students were more focused on the supporting materials than the actual presentation, which often interrupted the flow of their presentation. Support material should only be used moderately to support the presentation.

The content of the presentations was generally of a high standard. However, students need to be aware that they should not merely retell the story line of the texts studied.

Section 2 – Discussion

In general, students appeared to be less confident in the Discussion section than the Presentation. Many students appeared to have prepared responses to basic questions, but had difficulty when asked to present their own ideas/opinions on their chosen topics and texts. One way to avoid this situation is for students to always choose topics that are interesting to them.

Most students confidently answered questions relating to the each of the texts studied, but often could not answer common questions related to all three texts. On some occasions, students could not explain the meaning of vocabulary they had used in their discussion. This appeared to be a result of quoting directly from the Internet or other references without undertaking further research or ensuring that they had a thorough understanding of the topic.

Students should practise more in order to expand their opinions and thoughts logically and be able to discuss their topic with a sense of ownership.