

GENERAL COMMENTS

There were four centres, with 19 candidates overall, with 11 candidates present in the largest centre.

For the conversation on literary topics much depends on the candidates' ability to demonstrate factual knowledge, analysis and comparisons in their topic discussion, but also to express these adequately in German on mother-tongue level. If candidates are confident about using the terminology and analysis skills acquired in class as well as about their mastery of German, they will score highly. For the highest marks it is important that candidates show that their knowledge as well as language skills are sufficient to maintain a conversation on a prepared literary topic.

Demonstration of knowledge and application of correct terminology as well as good speaking abilities and oral first language mastery were generally more of a given this year than in the years before 2020, which can be attributed to the fact that all Grade 11 German First Language candidates took the NSSC Ordinary examination this year and last, not only candidates considered too weak for Higher Level.

Quality of conversations

Most candidates were fairly confident, some very confident, in the oral presentation of their factual knowledge and the manipulation of language structures.

First Language proficiency was not detected with some candidates. It has to be added that examination techniques of the examiner in the biggest centre did not sufficiently stimulate candidates to display their full ability and knowledge and sometimes even hampered flow of conversation.

In a number of cases conversations did not flow naturally and occasionally seemed slightly rehearsed. There were a few incidences of verbatim renditions of wording from the literature assignments.

Most examiners still need to take more care not to pre-empt answers and not to make evaluating remarks like "sehr gut" or "richtig" or "genau". For this paper it is very important that candidates be given the chance and be stimulated to show the full range of their knowledge and speaking abilities.

Topics

Within the centres, the range of topics chosen for prose was limited to one text (either only "Der Besuch der Alten Dame" or only "Der gute Mensch von Sezuan" or "Homo Faber") and topics chosen within centres were similar or the same. Learners should be encouraged to find original, creative and interesting topics and possibly exposed to more than one prose text. Topics and texts chosen for poetry were slightly more diverse, and some candidates chose poems that were never chosen in the previous eight years.

Overall, it was good to see that knowledgeable interpretation and analysis as well as individual appreciation has slightly increased since 2020. This can probably be attributed to the fact that all Grade 11 German First Language candidates took the NSSC Ordinary examination and not only candidates considered too weak for Higher Level.