

GENERAL COMMENTS

These comments are to be read in conjunction with the Teachers' Notes for November 2020. Most centres conducted the Speaking Test well and most examiners prepared themselves thoroughly before the examination. Candidates were usually examined with sympathy and friendliness, and were encouraged by their examiners to achieve their best.

In the Topic/General Conversation, it is important to ask appropriate questions to bring out the best in the candidates. Open-ended questions achieve this more successfully than closed ones. A few examiners tended to dominate the conversation and not allowing the candidates to showcase their abilities. Some examiners ask for points of general knowledge which is inappropriate in this type of examination.

Most centres kept to the stipulated timings, which are one to two minutes for the Presentation and approximately 5 minutes on each of the conversations.

Overall, CD recordings were very clear.

Examiners are reminded to familiarise themselves with the content of Examiner's Notes before conducting the oral sessions, and make sure that the candidates are familiarised with the procedure of oral tests throughout the Senior Secondary phase. At times, the moderators had the impression that the candidates had not been prepared carefully enough for these oral tests.

In order for proper examination and moderation to be conducted, the orals have to be 15 minutes, including the warm-up session of 2 minutes. Please stick to the time. Shorter orals disadvantage the candidates. In some cases the preparation for the picture stimuli was read.

Range of sample

The range of sample was well covered by most examiners. Most examiners created a conducive atmosphere and put the candidates at ease during the warm-up session.

The moderators would like to remind the examiners to keep the warm-up sessions short, as they are not assessed.

Task 1: Picture Stimulus

The examiner should **NOT** read the questions to the stimulus, as the candidate enters the examination room with the prepared answers to the questions. The examiners must give the candidates the opportunity to elaborate on the questions without being interrupted, until all the questions have been answered.

Then a conversation should develop from the picture by pursuing the theme of the picture and related themes, with the candidate developing certain issues and applying them to his/her own circumstances. This is necessary in order to evaluate the candidate on his/her impression and responsive mark.

Card A: Few candidates attempted this question.

Question B and C, candidates struggled with the content and sentence structure, while responding to the questions.

Card B: Very few candidates attempted this question.

Question B was generally answered in one sentence, most of the candidates did not have the insight to answer the question in detail.

Question C was answered efficiently by candidates with an extensive vocabulary.

Card C: This question was attempted by a fair number of the candidates.

Question A, was answered efficiently by most of the candidates.

Question B, candidates did not present efficient vocabulary to make comparisons.

Question C, was answered efficiently by candidates with an extensive vocabulary.

Card D: Most candidates attempted this topic.
Question A was answered fairly accurately by the candidates.

Card E: Few candidates attempted this question.
Question B and C were generally misinterpreted.

Task 2: Topic conversation

The purpose of this session is to test the oral skills of the candidates. A lot of candidates read their prepared oral or learnt it by heart. When the questions were asked the candidates were not able to express themselves on the same level as during the prepared oral.

The candidate should speak uninterruptedly for approximately 2 minutes in order to test the quality of the preparation; thereafter the examiner should ask prepared questions about the topic.

Neither a monologue nor a series of prepared questions and answers is allowed.

Topics like "My school", "My family", "My daily routine" etc. should be avoided. The candidates should be able to talk about, for example "The influence of technology in our lives" etc. Candidates can be tested sufficiently with a theme in which they have to give their own opinion and state facts.

Administration

Recording of marks on the OASF should be copied in the order of the MS1.

Individual record cards have to be included and sent in numerical order.

A number of corrections had to be made for wrong additions and transfer of marks from the Oral Examination summary sheets to the MS1 sheets.