

GENERAL COMMENTS

Overall, the quality of the recording submitted was good. It was evident that some examiners were well prepared for this examination, thus creating the adequate environment to conduct an oral. However, there were a still few examiners who did not follow correct procedures and failed to create conducive environment to the candidates.

It is very important that the examiners take their time to read all the instructions and prepare a set of questions for each of the topics presented.

The warm-up session is crucial to set the tone for the rest of the examination and this will impact directly on the performance of the candidate. Examiners should ask the candidates some personal questions, namely name, age and other personal details but refrain from exploring the personal life of the candidate and never ask questions regarding other members of the candidate's family.

This examination should be prepared beforehand and examiners should read carefully all the Booklet of the Examiners Notes.

Most centres forwarded the CD samples. However, there were still some USBs that were submitted blank. Before USBs are dispatched, spot checks must be done to assure that every candidate's recording is clear.

Administration work was carried out as stipulated this year. In order to ensure fairness in this examination throughout all centres, all the examiners should comply with the notes and procedures of the speaking examination.

Task 1: Picture Stimulus

It is crucial that all examiners know that it is the examiner who selects one picture from the five pictures given and that the examiner should use the questions provided as a guideline. As stated in the Examiner's Notes, a conversation should develop from the picture but the examiner should abstain from taking the lead in the conversation and from not allowing the candidates to express their opinion.

Open-ended questions should be asked by the examiners to allow the candidates to develop the conversation. It is very important that examiners are prepared to reformulate a question in case the candidate doesn't understand the questions asked. It is also very important that the examiners prepare a set of questions according to each picture before hand so he/ she can use them as the examinations proceeds. It is of the utmost importance that candidates are given the opportunity to develop the questions without being interrupted. Examiners should focus on always asking questions related to the theme chosen, rather than deviating from the theme of the picture.

Card A: *Planos para o Futuro*

Most of the candidates were able to develop this theme.

Card B: *Desportos e Tempo Livre*

This topic was well discussed by candidates, as most of the candidates were very familiar with this theme.

Card C: *Poluição*

This topic was well answered by some candidates, but some weaker candidates failed to answer adequately.

Card D: *Viajar*

This topic was well answered by the candidates with a knowledge of the world around them, as some weaker candidates struggled to develop this theme due to their limited knowledge of vocabulary as well as surroundings.

Card E: *Dieta Saudável*

This topic was well answered in general by the stronger candidates because they were very familiar with it, but some weaker candidates failed to develop more than just the description of the food in the picture.

Task 2: Presentation of a topic

It was clear that some candidates were well prepared, thus they were able to develop their presentation and expose their ideas.

However, in the range of the samples submitted, it was evident that some examiners did not consider this part of the examination, some examiners didn't allow the students to develop their ideas freely, some examiners did not inform the

candidates that they could choose a topic, which they had to prepare beforehand, and some examiners encouraged the candidates to talk in this part of the examination about themselves or their life. More attention should be given by the examiners to how this part of the examination is conducted. It is of utmost importance that all candidates have the same opportunities to present their selected topic in the conducive environment to assure fairness and equality in the examination process.

Quality of recording

Most of the recordings were clear. A few USBs were blank. After transferring the content into the USB, examiners should check and listen to the USB to make sure that the examination is recorded, as well as to guarantee that the sound is good.

Range of samples

A good range of samples was submitted.

Examination techniques

Some of the examiners conducted the examination in a very calm and assuring attitude, creating the perfect atmosphere for the candidates to excel. The warm-up session are crucial as examiners should remember that the warm-up session sets the tone for all examinations. Some examiners forgot their role during the examination and failed to allow candidates to speak their minds and present their point of views and ideas. Examiners should allow candidates to expand their questions and refrain from speaking more than the candidates themselves. Candidates should be asked open-ended questions to allow them to extend their answers. Examiners are advised to not allow candidates to enter the oral examination room with notes, as they tend to read as they present.

A few examiners were clearly unprepared and unaware of the procedure of such an examination.

Administration

Some centres submitted blank USBs and back-ups had to be requested. It is highly appreciated when an examiner's work is tidy and correct.

Internal moderation

Administrative checking must take place at the centres.

POSITIVE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXAMINERS

Examiners should take into consideration the previous' years question papers and prepare the candidates throughout the year. Candidates should be well aware of the structure of the oral, as this will result in a more positive and confident attitude of the candidates towards this particular examination. Examiners should run a mock-up session during the school year to assure that he/she are familiar with the structure. It is also to ensure that the candidate is at ease with the examination. Examiners should focus on the warm-up as it sets the tone for the entire examination.