



2008

LOTE: Armenian GA 3: Examination

Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

A smaller cohort than in recent years with a mix of native and non-native speakers presented for the oral examination in 2008. Students were generally well prepared and confident for both the Conversation and Discussion.

Vocabulary, fluency and expression were of a good standard and students were able to engage the assessors using the correct register and appropriate constructs. Pronunciation was accurate with clear and audible utterances, crisp consonants and correct intonation and stress.

Discussion themes were well prepared. There was evidence of substantial research in all topics studied in this section. The assessors were impressed with the use of rich vocabulary and the prevalence of responses to questions that were both logical and spontaneous.

Students are to be commended on their preparation and performance.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Conversation

As in past years, a wide range of topics were covered in the Conversation, including students' personal background, current studies, family structure, career aspirations, hobbies, travel plans or experiences, part-time employment and future plans. Some students also commented on relatives overseas and their family's migration experience. Students were well rehearsed in describing their personal situation, schooling and subject selections as well as recreational activities and entertainment pursuits. All students engaged with the assessors confidently. Responses were direct, highly relevant and spontaneous. As in past years, it appeared that many students could have continued for much longer than the allocated time for this section, demonstrating a strong sense of self-awareness and reflection.

Students used an excellent range of vocabulary, structures and expressions accurately and appropriately. Sentence structure, pronunciation, register and expression were very good, and assessors expressed satisfaction with the depth, breadth and complexity of the conversation, especially in response to open questions. A good standard of grammar was demonstrated; students easily used the correct tense and appropriate cases in sentence construction.

Section 2 – Discussion

The Armenian Genocide, the Armenian-speaking communities, specifically in Singapore and Australia, the All Armenian Fund, as well as the links between Armenia and the Diaspora, were the topics used for reports. Students were very well prepared and had mastered their chosen sub-topic. Follow-up questions of an open nature were fielded well. The ensuing discussion flowed comfortably and students demonstrated a capacity to engage the assessors by using appropriate responses. Students also influenced the direction of the discussion by clarifying or elaborating on answers.

Students carried out this task successfully. They demonstrated comfortable body language, good expression and sentence construction. Students demonstrated an affinity with the topic area and had mastered most of the subject matter. This was evidenced by the excellent answers given to questions, both in the content and quality of language used, which could not all be rehearsed. Probing questions were handled spontaneously, logically and linguistically correctly.