



Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Students generally performed well on the 2012 Bosnian oral examination.

Students needed to use more complex sentence structures and vocabulary in both the Conversation and the Discussion.

Students are reminded that the Conversation section will consist of a general conversation about the student's personal world; for example, school and home life, family and friends, interest and aspirations. However, even though these issues seem familiar, students should take time to prepare and speak about such issues using Bosnian, so that they are ready for the assessors' questions.

In the Discussion section of the examination, in particular, students' presentation of opinions and arguments needed further depth in the 2012 oral examination.

Students are reminded that, especially in the Discussion, they should focus on the main ideas they wish to discuss, providing opinions and well-thought-out arguments. The Discussion is based on the research that students have completed before they enter the oral examination and so students should prepare for this part of the examination in some detail. An outline of the Detailed Study that forms the basis of the Discussion section of the oral examination can be found on page 23 of the *VCE Bosnian Study Design*. If students read the outline and the requirements of the Detailed Study and then follow the advice given, they will find they have more on which to base their discussion and will not run out of information, ideas and interesting aspects of the topic they have chosen to investigate. As this part of the study design emphasises, the Detailed Study should be given 15 hours of scheduled class time.

Full details of the structure of the oral examination are given on page 30 of the *VCE Bosnian Study Design*.

Areas of strengths and weaknesses noted in 2012 included the following.

Strengths

- use of different types of media and sources to obtain a range of information, including talking to parents and grandparents
- use of idioms
- excellent posters

Weaknesses

- a limited range of vocabulary
- unclear pronunciation
- short sentences and grammatical mistakes (mostly choice of case)

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Conversation

Generally, students were well prepared for the oral examination, in particular when discussing their personal experiences and school aspirations. They talked confidently about themselves, their families, their experiences of migrating to Australia and travelling to Bosnia and Herzegovina. There were strong opinions about aspirations and plans for the future.

Students are reminded that the assessment criteria for the oral examination can be found in the VCAA's *Assessment Handbook*. A VCAA leaflet containing the assessment criteria is also made available for students at the same time as they receive information about the venue and time of their examination.

Popular pastime topics included music, sport, Internet connections with relatives, leisure time and work, and many students were able to express their views using correct grammar and appropriate vocabulary. However, a few students used some English expressions, or translated phrases literally, which resulted in a different meaning.



Section 2 – Discussion

Students should be able to discuss their chosen Detailed Study topic in depth. However, when choosing their topic, students should also be aware of the availability of data and appropriate resources. Students are reminded that they may support the Discussion with objects containing minimal language, such as photographs, diagrams and maps. (Notes and cue cards are not permitted.) Students' vocabulary requires improvement. Again, both teachers and students are urged to read page 23 of the Study Design in order to have a very clear understanding of the Detailed Study (the basis of the Discussion section of the oral examination).