Oral component

GENERAL COMMENT
At total of 1894 students sat for the 2010 Chinese First Language oral examination. A range of ability and proficiency was demonstrated. The majority demonstrated an excellent understanding of the requirements of the examination and a good variety of new topics and resources were selected.

Most students’ use of cue cards was good. However, a small group of students were confused with the size and the content of the cue card. Students are advised that if the cue cards do not conform to the required specifications, the assessors will confiscate them. The cue card must be no more than 20 cm x 12.5 cm and notes should be written in point form.

Students are reminded that they should not disclose their name or the name of their school during the examination. Students should not wear school uniform to examination venues.

Lateness was still an issue this year; students need to make sure they are on time. They should arrive at the examination venue at least 30 minutes before their scheduled time.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Section 1 – Presentation
A large group of students completed this section confidently. They demonstrated good preparation, presented a good range of information, ideas and opinions and delivered their speeches fluently and within the time limit. Many were able to embody a clear stance on the issue selected and clearly related their stance to the sub-topic chosen for detailed study. Their speeches were well supported with evidence.

The topic selection was very broad. Many new topics were heard and were supported by a large variety of resources. Students were aware of the appropriate style of the presentation.

While most students were able to keep to the time limit, there were some students who were unable to complete their speech within four minutes. Students should be aware that if the presentation exceeds four minutes, they will be interrupted politely at the earliest appropriate point. A small group of students were not able to deliver a four-minute presentation due to inadequate preparation. A few students started the exam without a proper introduction. Students should refer to the VCE Chinese First Language Study Design for more information regarding the oral examination.

The following are some good topics presented in this examination.

无以规矩不成方圆
百忍能成器
官场潜规则限制中国社会发展
中国应该减少贫富差距
中国人应树立荣辱观
国之强盛在于明君
团结是中国的唯一出路
父母在应远游
做人应低调
人生需要张扬
做人贵在反省
人不应只为己而活
人应懂得变通
骄兵必败
距离产生美
应重视方言的保护
社会应重视临终关怀
人应该敬畏自然
门不当户不对是婚姻的隐患
农民工是推动城市化进程的幕后英雄

Section 2 – Discussion
Many students’ performance in this section was not as strong as in the Presentation section. Some were not able to clarify or elaborate on the points presented, and some were not familiar with the texts selected.

It must be emphasised to students that the more they are familiar with the texts, the more effectively they can support and elaborate their ideas and opinions with evidence.

Students should expect the discussion to range beyond the issue selected to broader, related areas.

The Discussion section was as important as the Presentation section in this examination. It appears most students put more emphasis on presentation than discussion. Students should be aware that both sections are awarded equal marks.