

2021 VCE Auslan Interactive Sign external assessment report

General comments

The Auslan Interactive Sign examination assesses students' knowledge and skills in using signed language. The examination has two sections – a conversation and discussion of approximately seven minutes, during which students converse with the assessors about their personal world, and a presentation and response of approximately eight minutes.

It should be noted that during the oral examination:

- students may be asked a variety of questions of varying levels of difficulty. Questions may also be asked in a different order from the one students anticipate
- assessors may interrupt students to ask questions during either section of the examination; this should be regarded as a normal process in a discussion
- assessors may also repeat or rephrase questions
- normal variation in assessor body language is acceptable.

Students are reminded that they must be prepared to use language spontaneously in unrehearsed situations. Students are not expected to be 'experts'; they are expected to have learnt strategies in order to respond to unexpected questions. It would be valuable for students to learn phrases such as, 'I have not studied this aspect of the topic, but I think ...', 'I don't know, but I feel ...' and 'I am not sure about this question, but I know ...'

Three criteria are used in assessing both the conversation and discussion and the presentation and response: communication, content and language. Details of the assessment criteria and descriptors are published on the VCAA website. It is important that all teachers and students be familiar with the [criteria and descriptors](#), and that students use them as part of their examination preparation. This will help students to engage in a lively and interesting exchange with assessors. Although there are similarities between the assessment criteria for the conversation and discussion and the presentation and response sections of the examination, the criteria assess two very different aspects of performance. Students who are well prepared are generally able to demonstrate their abilities and proficiency in the language.

Specific information

Most students were well prepared for the 2021 VCE Auslan Interactive Sign examinations. The students performed well in both sections.

Section 1 – Conversation and discussion

The conversation and discussion will consist of an informal conversation about the student's personal world, for example, school and home life, family and friends, interests and aspirations. It is an organic conversation about the student's personal world. These examples provide students with a basis for preparing a range of

interesting and engaging ideas about their personal world, so that they can engage in a spontaneous discussion with the assessors about things that interest them.

Conversations that scored highly:

- included a high level of interaction and maintained the exchange well with the assessors
- elaborated on information, opinions and ideas rather than waiting for the next question to be asked
- demonstrated a very good range of vocabulary and grammatical structures (e.g. depicting signs, use of space and facial expression).

Conversations that did not score well:

- did not expand on information, opinions and ideas given
- did not demonstrate a range of vocabulary or grammatical structures (e.g. depicting signs, use of space and facial expression) when they had an opportunity to do so.

Section 2 – Presentation and response

Following the informal conversation and informal discussion the student will indicate to the assessor(s) the topic chosen for presentation and response from the student's area of interest. The student may support the presentation and response with objects such as photographs, diagrams and maps. Notes and cue cards are not permitted. Upon completion of the presentation, the student will respond to questions raised on the presentation by the examiners.

Presentations that scored highly:

- clearly demonstrated preparation by giving evidence and facts
- elaborated on information in responses
- appropriately used a formal structure, including an introduction, body and conclusion
- demonstrated a very good range of vocabulary and grammatical structures.

Presentations that did not score well:

- did not demonstrate a high level of preparation
- did not include enough depth in responses (e.g. providing reasoning and examples or evidence)
- did not demonstrate a good range of vocabulary and Auslan grammatical structures.