



Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

All students were well acquainted with the assessment criteria in both sections of the oral examination. Most students were able to give extensive responses and to advance the conversation effectively. It was pleasing to note that students were able to provide opinions and additional information in the general conversation. The chosen topic for the Detailed Study was Annie M.G. Schmidt. Most students had researched their Detailed Study very thoroughly and were able to speak confidently without needing to be prompted by the assessors. The most capable students demonstrated an in-depth knowledge of the topic and were able to expand on it using excellent linguistic skills. They had studied a variety of resources, articles and video clips, as well as a number of Annie M.G. Schmidt's poems. A few students were less able to carry the discussion forward and it was evident that these students had not prepared sufficiently for this section of the examination. Students must not simply present rote-learned material as the discussion must be spontaneous and reflect serious and consistent research as well as the capacity to interact with the assessors.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Conversation

Students were very enthusiastic and interacted intelligently with the assessors on a wide range of topics. They were generally able to go beyond the required response and some used humour. The conversation enabled students to speak confidently on aspects such as home and school life, personal interests, travel and hobbies. However, some students had difficulty moving the conversation forward and gave only minimal responses to questions. Common grammatical errors included anglicisms, genders, word order, the incorrect use of tenses and, in a few cases, errors in pronunciation.

Section 2 – Discussion

It was evident that students had enjoyed studying the popular Dutch writer Annie M.G. Schmidt and were able to express their own personal opinions. They chose interesting and stimulating resources and were inspired by some of Annie Schmidt's more in-depth and subtle poetry. Some students were not able to express themselves with clarity and did not show a good understanding of the topic, but most students reached a good level of communicative competence. Attention in this section must be paid to the correct use of grammar as well as a broader range of vocabulary. A number of students commented that they had learnt a great deal from their study of Annie Schmidt and had greatly enjoyed it. Students maintained good eye contact and interaction with the assessors. Linguistic competence and skill in many presentations was good.