



2011

Languages: Dutch GA 3: Examination

Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Students were well acquainted with the assessment criteria for the seven-minute Conversation and the eight-minute Discussion of the 2011 exam. Generally, students had prepared thoroughly for the Detailed Study and very little prompting by the assessors was needed. It was interesting to note how enthusiastic and willing students were to demonstrate their well-researched knowledge of the Detailed Study. Capable students were able to demonstrate a linguistic fluency in both sections of the oral examination, although there were a number of grammatical inaccuracies. Students maintained good eye contact and interacted well with the assessors.

It is crucial for students to practise their oral skills consistently during class time throughout the year, not just in the few weeks prior to the oral examination. Students should make a point of listening to spoken Dutch as often as they can and should practise speaking Dutch whenever and wherever they can. Students should access films and other sources of entry into the Dutch language and culture.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Conversation

Students were very confident in this area and generally seemed to enjoy the interchange with the assessors. Many students went beyond the required responses, quite often adding a humorous touch to the conversation. They were willing to expand readily on the topics of home and school life, leisure and hobbies, travel and future aspirations. A few weaker students were not able to move the conversation forward and only gave minimal responses. There were a few grammatical errors in areas such as gender and tense, and some errors in pronunciation.

Section 2 – Discussion

The Detailed Study topic concerned the popular Dutch writer and poet Annie MG Schmidt, and it was clear from the start that almost all students both loved the topic and felt inspired by the poet. There were some outstanding, in-depth answers and animated discussions. All students felt that they had learnt a great deal from the study. Nearly all students maintained a good level of fluent Dutch, although there were some grammatical and pronunciation errors.