



## Oral component

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Student performances in the 2006 oral examination ranged from good to outstanding. The topics used for the Detailed Study were 'Love and Nature in Mihai Eminescu's poems', 'Mihai Eminescu – famous Romanian poet' and 'History portrayed in Mihai Eminescu's poems'.

Students' pronunciation and level and appropriateness of vocabulary were very good. Most students were well prepared. Some students arrived with interesting visual displays, which added a further dimension to their Discussion.

### SPECIFIC INFORMATION

#### Section 1 – Conversation

Overall, student performances were very good. Most students were very successful in dealing with the topic of the student's personal world. Strong students thought about what answers they could give and expressed their opinions well. They elaborated on their answers and tried to make them interesting and meaningful.

Some students did not give full answers or answered every question in very short one-sentence replies, which restricted their ability to deal with the content of the Conversation. Initiating topics and completing the Conversation without excessive support from the assessors is vital for achieving excellent results.

#### Section 2 – Discussion

All students spoke about Mihai Eminescu and his poems. Some mentioned a lot of poems but when asked could only talk about some. It is advisable to clearly state the topic and sub-topic and the texts prepared during the one-minute introduction. It is acceptable to say, for example, 'I know that Eminescu wrote other love poems such as..., but I have studied in detail for today...'

The level of language used in this task was very high. Most students were well prepared for the discussion of their chosen topics. More successful students memorised quotations from the poems and had plenty of opinions and ideas. Common mistakes were made in using the right verb and noun endings. When choosing poems or other texts, students need to remember that it could be a disadvantage to choose very short pieces about which they can say very little. Some students also chose very different poems, but could not say how they differed or what they had in common.

The Detailed Study should have been researched over 15 hours in class so the students are expected to know their topic well.

## Written component

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Students responded well to the written exam and to the variety of topics. Answers varied from good to excellent according to the difficulty of the texts and the level of language used. Some students struggled with spelling and the correct use of grammatical forms.

### SPECIFIC INFORMATION

#### Section 1 – Listening and responding

##### Part A

General comprehension was good, but students must read and follow the instructions more carefully and convey the information more precisely.

##### Text 1

The questions on Text 1 were answered quite well by most of the students.

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## Question 1a.

Because of either:

- its sound frequency
- the sound of the purring.

## Question 1b.

Three of:

- it calms you down
- it relieves you from stress
- it detects physical pain
- it cures your pain.

## Text 2

Most students gave correct responses. Those who identified specific information and conveyed it precisely scored highly; however, some students did not pay attention to detail.

## Question 2

Any five of:

- picturesque landscape
- choices in accommodation
- exotic dishes
- museum
- castle
- shepherd villages.

## Text 3

### Question 3a.

Hobby	Benefits
gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• keep in touch with nature</li><li>• gives you affection through colour and perfume</li></ul>
music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increases your patience and perseverance</li><li>• creativity, sense of criticism</li></ul>
painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increases your imagination</li><li>• gets rid of stress</li></ul>
knitting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• relaxes you</li><li>• gives you satisfaction</li></ul>

### Question 3b.

All of:

- they use the informal register (for example, familiar address, personal information)
- Ion asks Maria about her health
- Ion tells Maria about retiring.

## Text 4

### Question 4a.

People who have pets.

### Question 4b.

- canary: shedding feathers
- dog: scratchy, itchy tail

### Question 4c.

- It is advice on how to care rather than an illness.
- The rabbits are not too sick.

## Part B

Students listened to one short and one longer text and responded to them in Romanian.



**Text 5**

**Question 5a.**

Two of:

- she says the best thing in life is to balance duty, family and personal life
- she is proud to be an ordinary person
- she aspires to be like her daughter.

**Question 5b.**

Four of:

- interested in the environment
- able to negotiate
- interested in Romanian arts
- able to compromise
- maintains good terms with political peers
- a skilled debater
- a beautiful woman
- stubborn but reasonable
- a correct person.

## **Section 2 – Reading and responding**

### **Part A**

Students were required to read two texts and respond to them in English. Many students did not pay enough attention to the correct way of conveying information.

**Text 6**

**Question 6a.**

All of:

- the change of season celebrated through a carnival
- on Palm Sunday people plant a tree
- the young men decorate a tree and give it as a present to their fiancé
- children collect small green branches to make a nest for the red eggs.

**Question 6b.**

Any two of:

- go egg-hunting
- make nests
- collect greenery for nests.

**Question 6c.**

Any two of:

- use of nouns
- enumeration of traditions
- lots of information
- impersonal style
- written in the third person
- objective stand point.

**Text 7**

**Question 7a.**

Any two of:

- repeated adjectival phrase
- fog covered mountains
- strange sounds
- dark morning
- harsh, unknown language.

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## Question 7b.

Any two of:

- their language
- their physical appearance
- their history of folklore.

## Question 7c.

Any four of:

- they bake their own bread
- they grow potatoes
- they hunt for meals
- children attend school only if weather permits
- they depend on horses.

## Question 7d.

Dangers

- invading enemies
- wolves and bears attacking their horses

Dealing with dangers

- clever and brave stallion protects them
- houses built on hill

## Part B

### Question 8

There were many good responses to this question, and students generally scored well against the criterion of 'understand general aspects of a text'. The main points to cover in responses included:

- computers of the future will be more human
- they will have personality
- one can talk or write to them
- the washing machine will be activated by mobile phone
- you can give orders to your fridge
- cars will not pollute
- rockets will fly you
- universal robots and drugs.

## Section 3 – Writing in Romanian

Students had a choice of four questions with all questions proving equally popular. Generally, students scored well against the criterion of 'relevance'; however, the 'depth of treatment' criterion could have been more successfully addressed.

### Question 9

Students were asked to write a diary entry focusing on their personal experience of the events and the atmosphere of the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne. Some students who wrote on this topic failed to really express their personal experience, instead writing more generally about the games and what one could experience.

### Question 10

Students had to write an imaginative story for primary students and build on the sentence, 'During a bushwalking trip I lost my balance and fell into a deep creek...' Students with strong writing skills wrote excellent stories; others struggled and forgot that the story was targeted at primary school children.

### Question 11

Students had to write an evaluative report for their school magazine in which they compared and contrasted the Romanian and Australian school systems. This was quite a popular choice and students did quite well, being able to present differences and similarities of both school systems. Some students used anglicisms (such as the names of different subjects) as this was a topic they were probably more familiar with in English.

### Question 12

Students needed to write an article for a consumer magazine persuading Australian customers to buy a Romanian product. This was not a popular topic. The grammar used was generally excellent as was the breadth and range of vocabulary used.