

**Comments on candidate performance****General comments**

Number of entries in 2012: 177

Average Speaking mark =22.6 /30

The 2012 paper seems to have been well received by both teachers and candidates. The weaknesses in grammatical knowledge and accuracy were in evidence across both papers. E.g. agreement of adjectives, prepositions, incorrect definite and indefinite articles, prepositions, plural nouns and adjectives, especially those ending in –co and –go, confusion between tu, voi and si, irregular past participles, direct and indirect object pronouns, possessive adjectives.

**Candidate performance in Reading and advice to centres**

Paper 1 Average mark: 31.9/45

- Candidates seem to have coped well with the subject matter of this paper. The majority achieved good results with a few managing to achieve full marks.
- Performance in translation proved to be problematic, with an average mark of 5. Candidates clearly found difficulty here (particularly in two out of the five sense-units) and there were many instances of outright mistranslation and awkward English. A worrying number of candidates were unable to translate large numbers accurately.
- Candidates should be advised to tackle Paper 1 in the order in which it comes. This year there were several instances of either the translation or directed writing being done first, followed by the comprehension questions. This sometimes compromised performance.
- In the Reading Comprehension, candidates should be encouraged to make sure that Questions are read carefully and answered accurately and succinctly, avoiding the temptation to translate chunks of language. They should not include information from the translation section in their comprehension answers.
- Candidates should ensure enough time is left to do the Translation thoroughly. Evidence suggests that the question had been rushed by a few. Candidates should also check carefully for accuracy and possible omissions, especially of single words as these can often incur a one or two point penalty. Special caution is needed when translating numbers, especially the larger ones.

**Candidate performance in Listening and advice to centres**

Paper 2: Average mark 19.1/30

- There was a slight improvement in overall performance, and listening was mainly well done
- Candidates should be trained to use the questions in advance to anticipate the kind of information they might hear. They should listen carefully to numbers, times, dates and days, as many careless mistakes are made here.
- Candidates should make sure that they include relevant adjectives in their answers, as these are often essential for a point or points to be awarded.
- Candidates should also ensure that any rough working is clearly scored out.

### **Candidate performance in Writing and advice to centres**

- It was pleasing to note that the majority of candidates had been well prepared for the directed writing. Candidates were (for the most part) able to adapt pre-learned material effectively.
- Very few penalties were applied this year for the omission of bullet points, although some candidates barely covered individual bullet points and had difficulty generating original language to address them. Candidates must be encouraged to read the whole scenario carefully and ensure that they cover all bullet points in adequate detail
- It is disappointing to note that, in some centres, candidates write almost identical essays or almost identical paragraphs to specific bullet points.
- Candidates should also ensure that they set aside sufficient time for effective proof-reading of what they have written.
- Performance in the Short Essay was good; the majority of candidates fully addressed the topic, and there were very few instances of irrelevance, although there were frequent problems with the use of the impersonal 'si', particularly with reflexive verbs
- Candidates must ensure that they read the essay question carefully and attempt to address the precise issues raised. When the essay is in two parts, there should be an attempt to deal with both in equal detail.