

Comments on candidate performance**General comments**

Number of entries in 2012: 402

- In general, candidates' performance was satisfactory. A small number of candidates got full marks in the both the Reading and Listening papers.
- Candidates performed reasonably well in the Reading papers, particularly at F/G levels, and well in Speaking and Writing

Candidate performance in Reading and advice to centres

- In Foundation reading, Qs 1, 2a, 3, 5, 6, and 9 were well done
- In General reading, Qs 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 5 and 8 were all well done
- In Credit reading Qs 1, 2 and 3 caused difficulties. For specific examples refer to full report on SQA website
- Some candidates had difficulty with basic vocabulary; singular and plural; months; family members and answers were imprecise, for example, failing to pay due attention to singular/plural, tense, possessives, person of the verb
- Centres should continue to reiterate the importance of checking over answers.
- Dictionary misuse continues to be an issue. Candidates should be reminded not simply to accept the first entry for a given word, but to double-check the meaning in the context of the passage.
- In supported questions where candidates are asked to tick a certain number of boxes, some candidates did not use the maximum number of ticks available

Candidate performance in Listening and advice to centres

- In Foundation listening, Qs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 8, and 10 were well done
- In General listening, Qs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 11 were all well done
- In Credit listening, Qs 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, and 11 caused difficulties. For specific examples refer to full report on SQA website
- Some candidates had difficulty with basic vocabulary; singular and plural; months; family members, and answers were imprecise, for example, failing to pay due attention to singular/plural, tense, possessives, person of the verb
- In supported questions where candidates are asked to tick a certain number of boxes, some candidates did not use the maximum number of ticks available.

Candidate performance in Writing and advice to centres

- Candidates were able to write about familiar topics, and there was clear evidence of careful preparation and support, though at times too much, with little variation in candidates' work.
- Many centres continue to prepare candidates for Folio topics such as 'School' or 'Family' which may be restrictive and repetitive for more able candidates, unless there is development by way of range of language structures, tenses and vocabulary.