

Comments on candidate performance**General comments**

Number of entries in 2012: 3263

- There was a small decrease in the number of candidates presented
- Results in Speaking were the best for many years at Grade 1
- There was a very small increase in awards at Grade 2, but decrease in awards at F/G level

Candidate performance in Reading and advice to centres

- In Reading, performances at Credit Level were disappointing, but F/G results were very much in line with the last three years.
- At Foundation Level Qs 1-9 and Q10 were all well done, although Q12 caused problems
- At General Level candidates performed well in: Q1a, Q2, Q3b, Q5, Q7a, Q9a, c, Q10 in part, but candidates lost marks in Q 1b, 2a, 4c, 5, 8, 10, 11
- At Credit Level Reading satisfactory results were achieved in Q1a, b, and particularly d and f. Q3 a, b and c Q4 c and e, but Q1 c, 1e, 3 c ('las vacaciones en quincenas' and 'a mitad de semana' caused problems, as did Q4a, 4b and 4c
- The importance of reading both stimuli and questions cannot be over-emphasised.
- Candidates should be made aware that marks are being lost, particularly at Credit level through lack of detail
- Centres should reinforce basic vocabulary, numbers, food, school subjects, weather, family
- Centres should ensure that candidates are aware of the extraneous rule.

Candidate performance in Listening and advice to centres

- Credit Listening produced better results than the reading paper, and once more General was in line with previous years. Foundation proved more of a test than last year.
- At Foundation Level candidates performed well in Q1, Q2, Q4, Q5, Q6, Q7, Q9, Q11, but less well in Qs 3, 8, and 12
- At General Level Qs 1-7 were well done, but Qs 8a, b, c, and Qs 10a and b were not well done
- At Credit Level, Q1, Q2, Q3, Q4a were well done and Qs 5, 6 and 7 were satisfactory, although Q4b and 7 proved difficult
- Candidates should be made aware that marks are being lost, particularly at Credit level through lack of detail
- Centres should reinforce basic vocabulary, numbers, food, school subjects, weather, family
- Centres should ensure that candidates are aware of the extraneous rule.

Candidate performance in Writing and advice to centres

Awards at Grade 1 (19%) are the highest since 2009, there is 5 % improvement at Grade 3, and the total for Grades 1–4 is the best of the last four years.

- Tasks and topics chosen should be appropriate to the level of ability of the candidate. Topics such as ‘Myself’ will not necessarily provide sufficient scope for more able candidates, while essays on ‘My Favourite Film’ will not be suitable for those of lesser ability.
- Centres should be aware that a wider range of topics might be undertaken to provide candidates with a more stimulating experience of language learning.
- Centres must ensure that materials accurately reflect the demands of the course. Prelim papers must contain the correct number of supported marks; total marks for papers should match the final exam; there must be at least one question on the world of work at every level in reading: the level of demand must be appropriate
- Centres should consult the specimen papers available on the SQA website.
- Marking keys should be adhered to, and that all the required evidence (including listening transcripts) is submitted when required.