

## **ORAL EXAMINATION**

### **HOW TO PREPARE for the DETAILED or IN-DEPTH STUDY DISCUSSION**

You must be prepared to discuss the aspect of culture that you studied and researched 'in depth'. Personal experience may of course be brought in to the discussion, but the discussion is about what you have researched, so there is a clear expectation that the topic will be discussed in depth. Just talking about what you did in your holidays in [Country] is not going to be sufficient.

Topic selection is crucial. The topic of discussion must be drawn from one of the prescribed themes or prescribed contemporary issues, or explore links between themes or contemporary issues as detailed in the syllabus document. If it is difficult to map your topic to either a theme or contemporary issue, then you will need to choose a different topic for your research. You can also choose something new, an issue you research and study which contains an aspect or aspects of a topic associated with 'The [Language]-speaking Communities' or 'The Changing World' themes (see example below):

#### **The [Language]-speaking Communities**

- **Lifestyles**

*For example, rural and urban life, teenage life, lifestyles past and present.*

- **Visiting [Country]**

*For example, travel, customs, banking, shopping, eating, finding accommodation, obtaining assistance or advice, tourist attractions and health.*

- **Arts and entertainment**

*For example, modern and traditional art, literature, music, film.*

#### **The changing world**

- **Environmental issues**

*For example, conservation, pollution, major environmental disasters.*

- **World of work**

*For example, people at work, including different types of jobs, changing job roles of men and women.*

- **Social issues**

*For example, law and order, addictions, housing now and in the future, the changing nature of the family.*

Select a topic that actually allows for analysis and reflection, because this is what 'in depth' means. Hence, a topic such as 'My trip to [Country]' may not get you there if you just talk about how you travelled, the food you ate, some of the sights you visited and other 'superficial' things. Focus on a particular aspect of [Language] society and culture, and compare/contrast that to the way this is here in Australia. In essence, the detailed or in-depth study needs to show evidence of research and personal reflection, your opinion counts – it is not just about 'knowledge'.

You also should demonstrate personal engagement with the topic and be prepared for a question such as: "How has the study of this particular topic affected you?" or "How has your study of this particular topic changed your thinking?" In this way, you reflect at a deeper level, which requires you to support your reflection with your research findings.

A range of different texts relating to the topic of the detailed study should be selected for analysis and interpretation, so that you are able to explore your topic in sufficient depth.

At least three of the texts should be in [Language]. The texts that form the basis of the detailed or in-depth study will depend upon the availability of appropriate resources. These could include, for example, community members who speak the language, newspaper articles, websites, documentaries, films, short stories, songs, interviews, and oral histories, either in their original form or adapted for language learning. Texts used may also be subtitled, or produced in English, if appropriate.

The assessment of the detailed or in-depth study should enable you to demonstrate what you have learnt about the topic and to share your findings, information, opinions, and interpretations with others.

## **ORAL EXAMINATION (approximately 15 minutes)**

### **Purpose**

The oral examination is designed primarily to assess the student's knowledge and skill in using spoken [Language].

### **Specifications**

The oral examination has two sections.

### **Section 1: Conversation (approximately 7 minutes)**

The examination will begin with a conversation between the student and the examiner(s). It will consist of a general conversation about the student's personal world, e.g. life, family and friends, interests and aspirations.

### **Section 2: Discussion (approximately 8 minutes)**

Following the Conversation the student will indicate to the examiner(s) the subject of the detailed or in-depth study chosen for the Discussion. The focus of the Discussion will be to explore aspects of language and culture of the [Language]-speaking communities. The detailed or in-depth study may be selected from any of the sub-topics suggested for study in the table on page 5, or may range across the prescribed themes and topics. The student will be expected to make reference to texts studied. The student may also wish to refer to personal experiences related to the subject of the detailed or in-depth study.

### **Additional information**

Students will need to reflect about their experience in undertaking the detailed or in-depth study and in their response may consider the following:

- How their research has increased their understanding of the topic
- How the research experience was similar to or different from their preconceptions
- How cultures, values and beliefs are represented in texts studied
- How their learning may have changed their thinking
- How they may use this experience in the future.

The following questions are suggested as useful starting points in preparation for the Oral Examination. The questions are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

- Which topic did you choose for your detailed or in-depth study?
- Tell me about your detailed or in-depth study
- What resources did you use? How useful were they?
- Was it difficult to find adequate resources for your detailed or in-depth study? Why?
- Did you make personal contact with someone regarding your detailed or in-depth study?
- Did you conduct interviews? Whom did you interview?
- What did you learn from your detailed or in-depth study?
- What aspect of the topic did you find most interesting? Explain.
- Why did you choose the topic?

Questions about importance, previous knowledge, student's interest in the topic, and how the study has impacted on them may also be included.