

Attempted by 65 candidates	Mean 61.65(/100)	Max 94.92	Min 23.74
Section means were:			
Section One: Response: Listening	Mean 15.17(/30)	Max 28.42	Min 2.37
Section Two: Response: Viewing and reading	Mean 27.46(/40)	Max 38	Min 7
Section Three: Written communication Part A: Stimulus response	Mean 7.24(/12)	Max 12	Min 0
Section Three: Written communication Part B: Extended response	Mean 12.00(/18)	Max 17.5	Min 5.5

General comments

Candidates performed better on the practical than the written component, but in the practical examination, too many candidates read from their notes in Part B instead of engaging in spontaneous conversation. In the written examination, the listening section proved the most difficult.

Practical examination

Advice for candidates

- Candidates need to refrain from reading from their notes when discussing the stimulus. Candidates are encouraged to maintain eye contact with the interviewer.
- Candidates are advised to focus on practising how to convey their ideas, thoughts and views clearly when preparing for the practical examination. This will assist with improving language accuracy and fluency.

Advice for teachers

- Teachers need to prepare students adequately to tackle stimulus questions relating to 'communicating in a modern world', particularly on topics about how technologies are used in a changing world to build and maintain relationships. There appeared to be a lack of interest in the stimulus relating to the use of the internet for social networking and for learning.
- Teachers are advised to assist their students to develop skills related to the appropriate use of notes in Part B Discussion of stimulus. Students should be trained to use notes only as a tool for recalling a point that leads to spontaneous spoken language rather than reading from them directly.

Written examination

Advice for candidates

- Candidates are reminded of the importance of time management and are advised to follow the suggested working times for each section.
- Candidates are advised to read the questions carefully. This is particularly important for written communication responses. For example, Question 39 was about how young people in general will cope for two weeks without the Internet and mobile phones. It was not about personal experience or what specifically 'I' would do in that situation.
- Candidates need to focus on understanding key messages in Listening and Reading texts. When answering questions about a text, it is important to make sure the answer is relevant and to the point.

Advice for teachers

- A longer listening text was introduced for the first time in 2016 as part of the new syllabus. The examination results indicated that some candidates were not adequately prepared for the task. Teachers are advised to focus training on this area for 2017, as students will need help to develop skills for processing more complex audio texts.

Comments on specific sections and questions

Practical examination

Part B: Discussion of stimulus

Attempted by 65 candidates. Mean 34.89(/50) Max 50 Min 12

Candidates showed a strong preference for topics about 'the individual' and 'the environment' topic, and generally avoided topics that related to the learning context of 'the changing world'. Candidates did reasonably well on the topics they chose, as could be judged by the relatively high marks many received for their 'language range' (vocabulary and grammar), which was traditionally a weaker part of candidate performance.

Part C: Conversation

Attempted by 65 candidates Mean 35.29(/50) Max 50% Min 12

Candidates performed as well as they did in Part B.

Written examination

Section One: Response: Listening

Attempted by 65 candidates. Mean 15.17(/30) Max 28.42 Min 2.37

Candidates appeared to be inadequately prepared for handling a longer, more complex text. This was reflected in the low marks received for Questions 15 and 16.

Section Two: Response: Viewing and reading

Attempted by 65 candidates Mean 27.46(/40) Max 38 Min 7

Most candidates did reasonably well in this section. There were no major issues.

Section Three: Written communication Part A: Stimulus response

Attempted by 63 candidates Mean 7.24(/12) Max 12 Min 0

Some candidates explained the words appearing in the stimulus, instead of addressing the question.

Section Three: Written communication Part B: Extended response

Most students did reasonably well in Part B of Section Three.

Attempted by 65 candidates Mean 12(/18) Max 17.50 Min 5.50