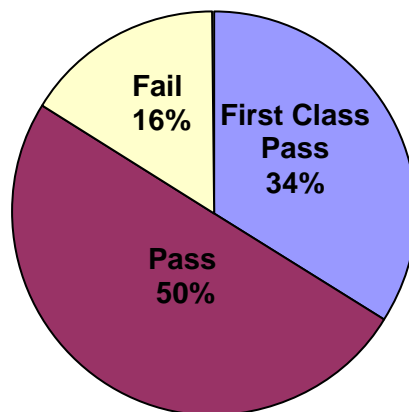


8984 International ESOL - Access

General observations

It is interesting to note that the Fail rate has increased from last year in line with that of the Preliminary level. While the overall Pass rate has not changed significantly, there has been a drop in the number of straight Passes and a small rise in the number of First Class Passes. It might be expected at the lower levels to see a larger proportion of First Class Passes than is currently being achieved.

A2



Areas of good performance

Candidates generally perform well in Listening Parts 1 – 3. They also tend to do well in Writing Part 1, many achieving full marks. Some candidates are also beginning to produce good communicative writing for Parts 3 and 4. Reading Parts 3 and 4 are normally handled successfully too.

Areas for development

Once again, candidates are losing unnecessary marks by not completing the tasks as instructed. Particularly in Writing Part 2, candidates do not always copy the text carefully, only needing to correct the stated number of errors (5) which include spelling, punctuation and word order. Listening Part 4 provides some difficulties in the completion of the notepad. The text in Reading Part 1 is sometimes misunderstood.

Recommendations

Candidates should have practice in the examination tasks themselves by working on mock examinations. They must be trained to read the instructions carefully and do exactly what is required. In Reading Part 1, candidates should realise that the text is a complete paragraph and should therefore read it through fully to understand the gist before attempting to complete the boxes. For Listening Parts 1 and 2, candidates should be discouraged from trying to write down the prompt they hear but instead encouraged to listen to digest the meaning in order to work out the best answer.

Tips

- Listen for specific details such as measurements, currency, am and pm – practise numbers, dates and times.
- Work on accuracy – pay attention to tenses and punctuation.
- Practise giving brief answers to listening and reading comprehension questions.

- In class, proof-read short texts produced by classmates.
- Practise linking sentences (with *and/but/or*) to avoid short staccato sentences.
- Where given word limits, keep to them.
- Practise the meaning of question words.

Additional comments

Candidates can be assisted to improve the general level of performance by having a 'balanced diet' across the skills: reading widely, listening to a variety of sources, writing at the micro and macro levels as appropriate for Access. As well as general language work, specific examination preparation is needed so that candidates are aware of the different task requirements and follow instructions. They also need to be more aware of time management so that they answer all sections of the paper and all questions.