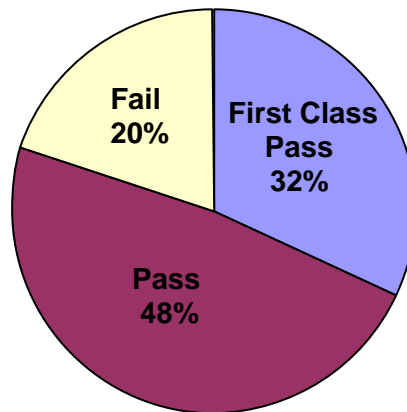


8985 International Spoken ESOL - Achiever

General observations

While the number of Passes is consistent with last year, there has been a reduction in the number of First Class Passes and a higher percentage of Fails. This would indicate that candidates are finding this level a little difficult and may not be fully prepared for all aspects of the examination.

B1



Areas of good performance

Good candidates have a good level of fluency, exploiting a wide range of functional language and are able to sustain a conversation with the interlocutor. There is generally a good level of pronunciation. If candidates are well-prepared for Part 3, they are able to initiate much of the interaction without relying on the interlocutor always taking the lead.

Areas for development

Part 3 is generally a weak area. Candidates are reminded that they need to offer opinions, ask questions of the interlocutor, discuss AND reach a conclusion. Weaker candidates are, as at earlier levels, unable to produce a long turn for Part 4 (2-3 minutes). At this level, according to the CEFR, candidates should demonstrate the ability to 'link discrete, simple elements into a connected, sequence'.

Recommendations

Candidates should be given practice in expressing their opinions on a range of topics, as taken from the list in the syllabus. They should be encouraged to agree and disagree with the interlocutor. They should be given problem-solving tasks and try to reach conclusions for them. They should check they fully understand the topic given to them to talk about in Part 4.

Tips

- Practise having debates in class where you agree and disagree with each other.
- Many coursebooks contain problem-solving games and activities – these would be useful for Part 3.
- Practise talking for 2-3 minutes on a wide range of topics, becoming familiar with topic-specific vocabulary.

Additional comments

Interlocutors must be well-prepared for all parts of the examination and use the full range of the material provided. They should plan the timings to allow the full exploitation of each part of the examination e.g. Part 3 should lead towards a conclusion. They should try to put the candidates at their ease. Mock examinations will benefit both candidates and interlocutors.