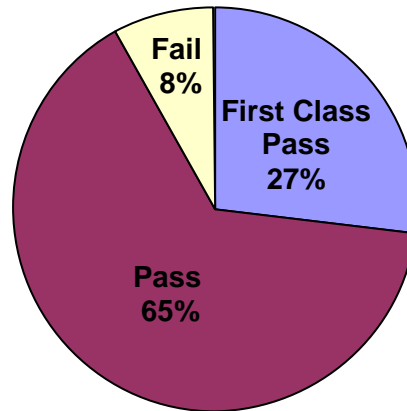


8985 International Spoken ESOL - Communicator

General observations

Apart from a slight reduction in the number of Fails at this level compared to last year, the results have remained very similar. This would indicate that candidates are well-prepared for the examination and entered at the right level. However, the percentage of First Class Passes compared to Passes means that most candidates are performing adequately but are not stretching themselves to reach the top of the range.

B2



Areas of good performance

Candidates are confident to conduct a discussion with the interlocutor. They respond well and, in Part 2, expand the situation and exploit a good range of functional language. Part 3 is generally conducted well, with many candidates able more or less to reach a conclusion.

Areas for development

Once again, as at the earlier levels, candidates find it difficult to sustain a long turn for 2-3 minutes on the given topic. The CEFR level descriptor states that a candidate should be able to 'interact on a wide range of topics and produce stretches of language with a fairly even tempo [and] give clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects'. In Part 1 too, some responses are rather limited.

Recommendations

Candidates need to develop confidence to expand fully on their contributions, by giving full answers to questions and by practising talking unaided for a few minutes. They need to become familiar with a wide range of topics and extend the vocabulary associated with them. They need practice in discussion and initiating the interaction by asking for opinions.

Tips

- Practise negotiating activities and discussions.
- Plan talks on different topics – research the vocabulary and prepare some opinions.
- Work on the accuracy both of grammatical constructions and of functional expressions.

Additional comments

Candidates should be prepared to extend their language so that it is at the appropriate level and not rely on the simplicity sufficient at lower levels. This means some complexity of sentence construction and a degree of fluency and spontaneity so that the interaction is sustained without undue strain. Candidates should give evidence that they can communicate opinions and ideas in a variety of social situations using a range of functional language. Interlocutors need to ensure they give candidates full opportunities to show this ability.