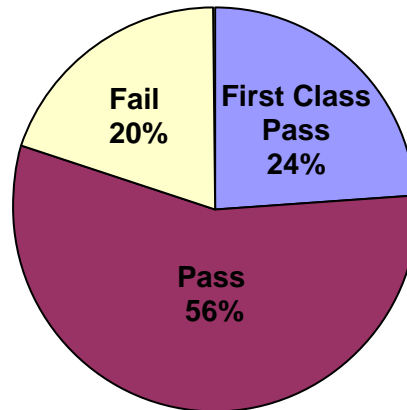


8985 International Spoken ESOL - Mastery

General observations

The levels of performance this year compared to last year have remained fairly consistent, although with a pleasing small increase in the percentage of First Class Passes. Many candidates are operating in English for either work or social purposes and this facilitates the ease with which many transfer their abilities to the examination situation.

C2



Areas of good performance

Good candidates have a good level of grammatical accuracy and use a wide range of vocabulary appropriate to the context. There is also a good level of fluency. The better candidates expand on their contributions rather than simply 'answering a question' and are prepared to take full responsibility for the effectiveness of the interaction.

Areas for development

There is some lack of fluency in the weaker candidates. Particularly in Part 2, an inappropriate amount of hesitancy is noticeable. Part 4 is an opportunity for the candidate to demonstrate the ability to structure a talk but the preparation time is not used as effectively as it might to exploit this fully.

Recommendations

Candidates should practise expressing their opinions with fine shades of meaning. They could incorporate more colloquial and idiomatic language as appropriate to this level. They should practise the preparation of a talk within the specified time as given in the examination. At this level, candidates should be able to discuss more abstract ideas from a wider, not only a personal, perspective.

Tips

- Listen to debates and discussions on contemporary issues and world events.
- Take part in role-plays in which you need to express views on a wide range of issues.
- Practise for Part 4 e.g. candidates could be given a discussion statement and asked to draw up in a few minutes an outline of key points for a talk which has structure and flow.

Additional comments

If candidates are to achieve their highest possible performance at this level, interlocutors must conduct the examination at the appropriate level. They must be prepared to offer their own views with shades of meaning and engage with the candidate on an equal footing where appropriate. For example, Part 3 needs careful preparation with some challenging opinions being offered and some prepared responses in anticipation of some possible candidate contributions in order to ensure the examination does not fall below the level. The examination must be conducted for the full stated time (15 minutes) and not be cut short.