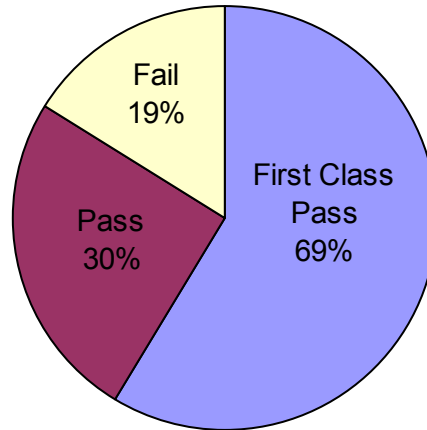


# 8969 Young Spoken ESOL - Basic

## General Observations

This examination provides a good launching ground for young candidates to achieve early success in speaking English.



## Areas of good performance

The majority of candidates perform well at giving basic information about themselves and their interests. They speak confidently, produce accurate and fluent sentences and show evidence of careful preparation and attention to detail. They also give information about themselves naturally and expanding suitably. There has been an improvement in performance in Part 2, with candidates showing they have a good range of basic functional language.

## Areas for development

Candidates need to be aware of the format of the examination and of the types of tasks they will be asked to perform. Some of them found difficulty in answering questions which involved numerical functions, such as age, birthday, height etc. Whilst many of them are happy to answer questions, they are often unwilling or unable to ask them and this is essential if good marks are to be gained. Some candidates need to practise the exchange of information required in Part 3. Rather than risk waiting for the Interlocutor to ask the next question, they should ask questions themselves. This makes the interaction more natural. Candidates should be sure that they bring with them an object about which they can talk about for nearly a minute. Sometimes their conversation dries up after a sentence or two.

## Recommendations

Candidates could benefit from more conversation practise about a variety of simple topics. They should practise talking about themselves and interact in the type of situations they encounter in Part 2. Good pronunciation and accurate speaking must be encouraged. Careful choice of the item to be talked about in Part 4 is essential; an uninteresting or restrictive item will not give rise to suitably fluent speech. Practise examinations using the tape recorder are essential.

## **Tips**

- Use the preparation time to check on the vocabulary you need to use.
- Speak as much as you can so that you become more confident.
- Practise speaking English with different people.
- Don't be afraid to ask if you don't understand.
- Choose an item for Part 4 that you like are interested in, so you can talk about it with enthusiasm and learn the vocabulary you need.
- Imagine the Interlocutor is your friend in class, just relax and be yourself. Imagine you are talking to your best friend in English class – what would you say?
- Speak loudly and clearly during the test.
- Practise having conversations about lots of different topics with different class mates.
- Find some interesting object (books, dvds, pictures, actors) and talk about them with your friend.
- Don't be shy, you can laugh, smile, hesitate, ask for something to be repeated – but don't dry up!

## **Additional comments**

Generally, Interlocutors have conducted interviews with tact, sympathy and humour and given plenty of friendly encouragement. To gain marks, candidates must be able to utter more than one or two words. Basic reading skills are required in order to prepare the information for the examination. Young candidates (9-13) would do well to take this examination rather than the Preliminary ISESOL.