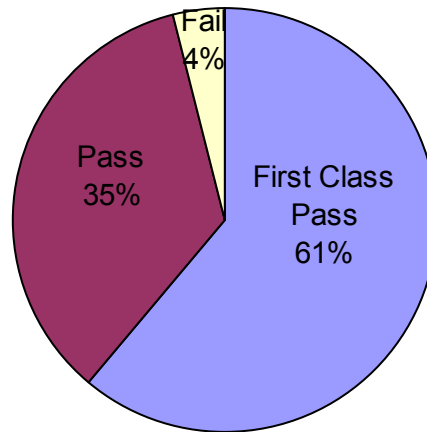


8969 Young Spoken ESOL - Basic

General Observations

The majority of young candidates perform well at this level, can then move into the adult series of Spoken ESOL examinations with confidence.



Areas of good performance

Candidates are generally well-prepared, speak enthusiastically and appear to enjoy their attempts at mastering the language. The role play in the Part 2 often develops beyond the level expected here and in other parts of the examination they speak confidently and imaginatively. More than 60% of candidates obtain a First Class Pass, with a further 30% being awarded a Pass.

Areas for development

Errors were particularly apparent in numerical contexts, such as age, dates, and school start times. Some candidates find it difficult to understand the information-gap activity in Part 3, where they need to ask questions as well as answering them. Good pronunciation and accuracy often need attention, as errors embedded at this stage are difficult to correct later.

Recommendations

candidates must be able to practise talking about themselves and asking other people questions so as to maintain a dialogue. Some candidates are unsure of how to respond with developed comments or to express a point of view. Items in Part 4 must be carefully chosen so that the candidate can prepare the vocabulary required and produce an interesting talk, as well as being able to respond appropriately to requests for further explanations.

Tips

- Speak as much as you can.
- Remember to ask questions as well as answering them.
- Use the preparation time carefully to find the information and vocabulary you will need in the examination.

- Choose your item for Part 4 carefully – bring something you like and want to talk about.
- Don't be afraid to ask someone to repeat if you don't understand.

Additional comments

Young candidates (9-13) can gain considerable confidence in speaking English by entering for this examination rather than Elementary ISESOL, as vocabulary and topic are more geared to their own experience. Interlocutors must encourage candidates to talk as much as possible so that marks can be adequately and fairly awarded on the performance given.