

ISIZULU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0531/01
Reading and Writing

General comments

The performance on the first year of this paper was varied. In a small number of cases the handwriting was very difficult to read or even illegible.

Comments on specific questions

Exercise 1

Most candidates were able to find the answers to most of the questions in the text. Candidates mostly answered (c) wrong.

Exercise 2

Candidates were required to write an address in isiZulu but some did not write the word 'road' in the language, and could therefore not be awarded the mark for this part of the Exercise.

Some candidates had problems explaining why they wanted to go to Durban and gave reasons that weren't motivated by the text.

Exercise 3

This exercise tested comprehension at a more advanced level than the previous two exercises in the form of note-taking. Most candidates did not do as well here. A small number did not attempt this exercise at all. Candidates should not be daunted by the size of the text on which this Exercise is based. They should also remember that they are asked to present their answers in note format and that they do not need to write their answers in long sentences. It is very important that candidates master the skill of note-taking, as it will help them with their summary in Exercise 4 but also with their Listening exam.

Exercise 4

Again, a few candidates did not attempt this Exercise, which was based on the same text as Exercise 4. Writing a summary proved to be difficult, and more practice and familiarity with the format of this Exercise is definitely required. Some candidates, however, did very well and scored high marks, while others were able to show they had grasped the basic requirements.

Exercise 5

The content of most of the short essays in this Exercise was generally good, but the linguistic ability shown was of a lesser standard. In most cases, the language was either average or below average. Even some of the candidates who performed well in the previous Exercises did not manage to maintain the same standard here, when, had sufficient care been taken, their performance could have been better. Candidates are advised to read carefully through the requirements of the task before starting to write.

Exercise 6

A few candidates did not attempt or complete this comprehension Exercise which required answers to open-ended questions, indicating that further practice is required. Most other candidates did well.

Exercise 7

Quite a few candidates did not attempt this question. Most of them had shown in their responses to previous questions that they struggle to produce isiZulu at Second Language Level. Other candidates found that they had run out of time. It is important therefore that candidates manage their time spent on each Exercise better.

ISIZULU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0531/02

Listening

General comments

The performance in the first year of this paper was as varied as it was on Paper 0531/01. In small number of cases the handwriting was very difficult to read or even illegible. Although spelling mistakes in isiZulu were tolerated as long as the words were recognisable and understandable, the use of modified Afrikaans or English words is not permitted, unless they are loan words in accepted usage.

Comments on specific questions

Exercise 1

Generally, candidates had few problems with this question and most scored full marks.

Exercise 2

This is the second objective test in the question paper. Some candidates struggled throughout the Exercise to identify the correct answers. It may help candidates to gain exposure to interviews in isiZulu on the radio, rather than TV, in order to practise close-listening skills.

Exercise 3

A few candidates did not attempt to answer any of the questions while others found it difficult to gather up marks. Incorrect answers mainly occurred where candidates had to write down numbers, such as –60, 96 (km/h), 90(%) and 13 000 (km), even though the units were given. Although they were not required to write the numbers in isiZulu in this Exercise (straightforward numerical transcription of the numbers was all that was required), Candidates need to have mastered numbers in isiZulu at Second Language Level. A few candidates mixed up the numbers in their answers.

Exercise 4

Most candidates scored 5 or more marks, which is a fairly good performance on this advanced Exercise. Most problems occurred at **Questions 15, 16 and 17**. Many candidates were able to provide only one correct example at **Question 17**.