

# ISIZULU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0531/01  
Reading and Writing

## General comments

Most candidates were well prepared and managed to achieve good performances this year. The overall performance in fact exceeded last year's performance. Only a small number of candidates did not read the questions properly and lost out on marks as a result.

Unfortunately, the handwriting of some candidates was not always legible, making it difficult or impossible to determine what their answers tried to convey. It is absolutely essential that candidates ensure that their answer is presented in a clear and legible manner.

A worryingly large number of candidates struggles to apply correctly what is an essential part of isiZulu: the class system. Some basic mistakes, such as switching between classes, should not occur, e.g.:

- '*indoda uyahamba*' instead of *indoda iyahamba*
- '*isikolo esi zihle*' instead of *isikolo esihle*

Other common errors included:

- the use of 'e' where an 'i' should be written, e.g. '*engane*' instead of *ingane* and '*Mina ngebona ...*' instead of *Mina ngibona....*
- leaving out the last letter (vowel) in words such as *bayahamba* ('*bayahamb*')

Although most exercises in this paper test comprehension skills and the ability to communicate effectively in writing, it should be remembered that grammar forms an integral part of the paper as candidates are assessed on the accuracy of their language in the summary and writing exercises. Candidates should also be reminded of the importance of punctuation. A fairly large number of candidates started new sentences with small letters instead of capitals.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Exercise 1**

Many candidates scored full marks for this exercise.

### **Exercise 2**

Most candidates achieved high scores here. A small number of candidates lost marks either because they had not read the source text closely enough, or because they forgot to fill in certain parts of the form.

### **Exercise 3**

A large number of candidates had no problems finding the relevant bits of information in the text, and most scored at least 5 out of the 8 marks available.

### **Exercise 4**

This exercise wasn't done as well as Exercise 3 as some candidates struggled to write a concise answer in the style of a summary using their own words. It should be emphasised that 'using their own words' here does not mean that candidates cannot use vocabulary from the text. What they have to avoid, however, is copying sentences and phrases word-for-word from the text instead of constructing their own sentences.

Candidates are also advised to break up overlong sentences into smaller units and to pay more attention to spelling.

### **Exercise 5 and 7**

On the whole, the writing exercises were done well this year, but spelling and grammar will, again, need to be looked at more closely if more candidates are to achieve higher marks in the future.

### **Exercise 6**

Most candidates performed well on this exercise, and there was a clear indication that comprehension skills have improved since last year

As mentioned in last year's report, candidates should be reminded that all questions have to be answered in isiZulu and that the use of English should be avoided at all costs.

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Paper 0531/02

Listening

## General comments

Candidates performed even better this year than last year on this paper. There were few problems with spelling or grammar as only short written answers were required for the last two exercises; as long as the meaning of the answer was clear and unambiguous, the mark was awarded.

Handwriting proved to be a problem in a small number of cases, as some answers were illegible, preventing the possible awarding of marks. Candidates are therefore strongly reminded to make sure their answers are legible.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Exercise 1**

There were some incorrect answers to **Questions 2** and **5**, but nearly all candidates scored full marks.

### **Exercise 2**

A small number of candidates struggled with **Questions 9** and **11**. Most candidates, however, scored full to near-full marks for this multiple-choice exercise.

### **Exercise 3**

This task was generally well understood. There were some minor mistakes, but this did not prevent a large majority of candidates from achieving high scores.

### **Exercise 4**

Again, few mistakes were made here. A small number of candidates got **Question 16** wrong while some only gave one of the two details asked for in **Question 18**.

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**Paper 0531/05**

**Oral**

The entry for this component was too small to validate the writing of a general report.