



### General Comments

As we have come to expect, most candidates performed very credibly.

### Oral Examination

Reading was very pleasing.

Most candidates clearly understood the questions, and were able to provide comprehensible answers. To earn high assessments candidates need to use verbs in full sentence answers so that examiners can make useful assessments of a candidates knowledge in this field. The best candidates also displayed great willingness to use quite complex structures. Other candidates who did use full sentence answers, generally used a wide range of tenses in a very natural fashion, and had clearly practised conversation on a wide range of common topics.

### Aural Comprehension

Some candidates had problems in the Aural Comprehension. Probably referring to 'colazione' as breakfast, when on a guided tour from 9 to 4 it was clearly lunch, was 1 suppose, a nervous slip in logic rather than a failure in vocab. Several candidates clearly did not know what Venezia's Lido is, and while we are not testing Criterion 10 this gap in cultural knowledge was disturbing.

### Written Paper

Question 1 (a) and (b) test Criterion 6. Process written language in order to solve problems and to carry out a variety of tasks. Some candidates linked the jobseekers with more than one of the advertised positions, or gave two different restaurants to satisfy a particular requirement. Generally only one truly fulfils the requirements and only one is expected in the answer.

Question 2 tests Criterion 7. Demonstrate comprehension of the written language by responding in English. Adjectives are important for complete comprehension eg, 'very' young, so cannot be ignored. Some answers to Question 2 (viii) clearly demonstrated the danger of answering a question peripherally or from commonsense rather than answering directly.

For many candidates there was a surprising discrepancy between the marks for Questions 1 and 2, which suggests that members of this particular cohort have better processing then comprehension skills. This impression was strengthened by the fact that candidates who dropped marks on written comprehension were also a little weak in aural comprehension.

Question 3, the sentences, testing Criteria 8 and 9, showed quite clearly that a number of candidates were unsure of or had not practised verb forms sufficiently; the weaknesses concerned both tense and person. Surprisingly many candidates did better on the sentences than on the essay.

Question 4, the essay, really gives candidates an opportunity to demonstrate their skills. While it is sensible to prepare for this question by practising writing about a wide variety of everyday topics, essays which have been learned by heart and have no connection with the nominated topic, cannot, no matter how well written, attract a

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high assessment. Unfortunately too, fifty word essays, no matter the quality of the writing, cannot attract an 'A' assessment.

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