



Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

The majority of students made an excellent attempt at each section of the 2010 Arabic oral examination. Most students listened carefully and were able to understand the questions in each section of the exam, asking for clarification when they were unsure.

Although the Conversation and the Discussion criteria are similar, they assess two different aspects of performance. In the Conversation section, students needed to speak and interact with the assessors in a linguistically and culturally appropriate manner while talking about their personal world. Most students were well prepared for the Conversation section as they were able to maintain and advance the exchange appropriately and effectively, expanding on their responses efficiently using aspects of their own world.

In the second section of the oral examination, the Discussion, the Detailed Study requires a more objective approach so that the language used is less predictable.

Teachers are advised to:

- avoid Detailed Study topics about political and religious issues
- provide written instructions about how to prepare for the Detailed Study.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Conversation

This section consists of a general conversation of approximately seven minutes and relates to the student's personal world. It was pleasing to see that, with a few exceptions, this year's students were able to converse competently on the conversation topics prescribed in the *VCE Arabic Study Design*. Most students had prepared adequately and gave appropriate responses to questions asked or to comments made by the assessors. Some of the more able students took the initiative and elaborated on their responses by providing details and introducing new ideas.

Section 2 – Discussion

This part of the oral assessment explores aspects of language and culture with reference to texts studied, and students need to show links between the resources they have used. The choice for the Detailed Study is extremely important. Topics need to lend themselves to discussion as well as generate various ideas and opinions. Although there was a significant shift in the Detailed Study topics selection this year, it was still evident that some students had only prepared themselves for this section of the examination in a relatively short time. The Study Design recommends at least 15 hours of class time be given to the Detailed Study.

Communication

Successful students were able to respond with confidence by advancing the exchange with original ideas and information. The majority of students prepared well and managed to introduce their topic and resources within the one-minute time frame.

It is recommended that students have many opportunities to discuss their topics and the selected resources. Students need to develop a number of relevant ideas for discussion. They should know how to avoid giving closed 'yes' and 'no' answers by elaborating on the points raised.

Content

This year, the Detailed Study topics related to issues in Arabic-speaking communities and the problems facing the younger generation. Topics should be analysed in depth in order to develop an adequate scope that extends beyond the basic concepts. Teachers are also reminded of the need to encourage students to choose the Detailed Study topics long before the examination date in order to accommodate the number of hours required to prepare to meet the overall key requirements of the examination.