2023 VCE Portuguese oral external assessment report

Refer to the relevant [study design](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/Pages/languages.aspx) and [examination criteria and specifications](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/assessment/vce-assessment/past-examinations/Pages/Languages-index.aspx) for full details on this study and how it is assessed.

Section 1: Conversation

What students did well

In 2023 students:

* engaged in a general conversation about their personal world, for example, school and home life, family and friends, interests and aspirations. The majority of students conversed about their daily routines and aspirations in an engaging way
* demonstrated an excellent level of understanding by responding readily and communicating confidently, and carrying the conversation forward with spontaneity. In this section, the majority of students were able to engage with the assessors in relevant conversations about their routines and likes and dislikes, and relate them to events happening around the world
* responded confidently and were able to advance the conversation, including the use of appropriate repair strategies as needed. Students would self-correct themselves whenever they committed a vocabulary or grammar mistake, which mostly occurred due to the influence of the English language
* used appropriate vocabulary. Students addressed teachers in the third person and chose vocabulary that was appropriate to the topic
* in general used appropriate grammar and sentence structures or used self-correction tools
* used appropriate expression, including pronunciation, intonation, stress and tempo. Students who spoke Brazilian Portuguese and European Portuguese did so with exceptional pronunciation, intonation, stress and tempo.

Areas for improvement

Students should:

* build confidence through practicing interactions in the language assessed. Some students were extremely nervous during this section, which was shown through their initial interaction with the assessors. If they noticed that one of the assessors spoke a different variety of Portuguese, they became nervous. It is suggested that students practise speaking with Portuguese speakers using different varieties of Portuguese to build up their confidence.

Section 2: Discussion

What students did well

In 2023, students:

* engaged in a discussion using relevant information, ideas and opinions
* clarified, elaborated on and defended opinions and ideas
* communicated effectively with assessors throughout the discussion
* used appropriate vocabulary
* used appropriate grammar and sentence structures
* used appropriate expression, including pronunciation, intonation, stress and tempo.

Areas for improvement

Students should:

* prepare a wide range and depth of information, ideas and opinions by researching a variety of resources
* make reference to the sources or texts studied for the detailed study in order to enrich the discussion. Some students brought an image while others didn’t. Those who did bring an image made poor or no use of it. Students need to practise including their image in their conversations to enhance their performance
* use the image to support the discussion on the subtopic
* revise grammar. It is suggested that students practise using different verb tenses, especially the subjunctive composed past perfect tense (past imperfect tense of the auxiliary verb ‘ter’ + past participle of the main verb) – e.g. (se eu) tivesse estudado / ([if I] had studied); and the subjunctive composed past tense (present subjunctive of the auxiliary verb ‘ter’ + past participle of main verb) – e.g. (que eu) tenha estudado ([that I] have studied).