



## Oral component

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Overall, the students were able to understand and appropriately answer the questions asked. A number of the students appeared to be under stress while others were relatively calm and concise. Students' performances ranged from exceptional to quite hesitant.

The students should be aware of the criteria for assessment and that the Conversation is an exchange and not a question/answer session. Understanding this would improve their ability to maintain a cohesive conversation and still express their opinions.

### SPECIFIC INFORMATION

#### Section 1 – Conversation

The students who achieved higher marks were able to switch from one tense to another without many problems and used a varied vocabulary. They were able to effectively converse with the assessors. Some students were unable to correctly use the gender of subjects or verb forms and often used anglicisms. At VCE level, students should be able to converse in basic tenses, such as present, past and future, and use the gender of subjects correctly.

#### Section 2 – Discussion

The students should pick a topic they are personally interested in as this will enable them to share ideas and opinions more readily. The most popular topic in 2006 was 'tourism'. Some students brought along materials such as photographs and diagrams to support their presentation.

The sub-topic chosen should suit the linguistic ability of the student and should lead easily to a discussion in which the student can express their opinions and ideas. If the sub-topic is poorly prepared, this will be evident in the student's results.

In the Discussion of the Detailed Study, the students should be able to:

- converse in a spontaneous manner
- use repair strategies
- be familiar with the vocabulary and structures of the language appropriate to this level
- engage in the discussion and make references to the texts studied
- clearly express and discuss their opinions on the topics.

Some students were unable to clearly express their opinions on or ideas about the material studied. These students often found it difficult to speak or discuss in detail certain areas of the sub-topic.

Most students handled the questions reasonably well and had a general knowledge of the chosen topic. Some students had memorised their information, which made the flow of discussion a lot harder to maintain as they would simply repeat their information instead of conversing with the assessors. When interrupted, these students often lost track of the topic and had reflect during the examination, thereby wasting time.

VCE teachers should encourage their students to discuss and converse in Portuguese during class in order to enhance their oral language skills.



## Written component

### GENERAL COMMENTS

Although some students did not complete the examination, most students finished all of the questions and responded correctly.

### Section 1 – Listening and responding

Most students demonstrated good skills in the Listening and responding section. However, a few students could not pinpoint the main ideas in the texts.

To improve their performance in listening and responding, students should:

- practise picking out key points
- practise with listening exercises
- acquire a range of vocabulary from the topics and themes in the Study Design
- pick up the key words in the question in order to respond accurately
- learn how to take notes while listening to texts
- listen to different texts in various text types
- listen to spoken Portuguese in films or on the news
- learn how to respond in full sentences.

### Section 2 – Reading and responding

Most students were able to select and reorganise the relevant information. Other students had difficulty selecting the correct information from the text and did not perform well on some questions due to their limited vocabulary and a lack of knowledge when translating into English.

To improve their performance in the reading section students should:

- make sure they understand the questions before answering them
- read with attention and check the dictionary for unknown words
- pay more attention to the key words and translate them accurately.

### Section 3 – Writing in Portuguese

There was a variety of topics to choose from in Section 3 covering different kinds of writing: personal, imaginative, informal and evaluative. The most popular topic was the imaginative, followed by the personal topic. Most of the students were able to write clearly; however, greater attention to detail when responding to a specific topic is recommended.

When responding to this section, students should:

- choose a topic they enjoy or know something about
- check the dictionary for unknown words
- read through what they have written to ensure that it makes sense and is as accurate as possible.