



Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Students should be aware that the oral assessment consists of an exchange between the student and the assessors, not just a series of questions from the assessors. Students should be able to clearly explain their own opinions about the topic chosen for the Discussion section of the oral examination.

The majority of students were able to engage with the assessors, understand the questions and answer them appropriately. A few students were able to converse and answer questions calmly and confidently.

Section 1 – Conversation

Students at this level should be able to converse using basic tenses such as past or future. High-scoring students were able to converse in the Portuguese language, interact with the assessors, demonstrate a broad range of vocabulary and use different tenses without much difficulty.

The less successful students had problems conversing well with the assessors and did not show a good understanding of the Portuguese language. Their answers were sometimes quite short and lacking in detail. Some of these students were unable to use the correct form of a verb or gender, and often used English words.

Section 2 – Discussion

The choice of topic and sub-topic for the Detailed Study is of great importance. If students are not interested in the chosen topic, they may struggle to be involved in discussion and may struggle to express opinions and ideas. Some students brought an object such as a photograph, a diagram or a map to support their discussion.

The sub-topic should be of interest to the student; students should be able to discuss and express opinions and ideas on their chosen Detailed Study topic.

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

- discuss and express opinions and ideas
- use the language spontaneously
- maintain the appropriate structures, vocabulary and use appropriate repair strategies
- communicate efficiently, engaging in the discussion and referring to texts studied.

Some students were well prepared and were able to handle questions with ease. However, some students who were not well prepared found it difficult to engage in a discussion. Some students had rote-learned information and had difficulty moving the discussion forward with assessors.

It is important that students practise the skills needed for the oral examination, especially the skills needed to maintain an exchange. Please refer to the *VCE Portuguese Study Design* for further information regarding the oral examination.