

Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

In the oral examination, students should be prepared to converse with the assessors, not just answer a list of questions methodically. Students should also be able to express their opinions about topics clearly and with some detail.

Most students were able to understand assessors' questions, respond accordingly and to converse adequately. A few students, however, showed signs of stress and did not perform well as they had not prepared for the oral examination.

Section 1 – Conversation

Students who obtained the highest marks were more capable of interacting with assessors in the Portuguese language, displaying a wide range of vocabulary and being able to switch tenses with ease.

Students who were less capable of conversing with the assessors in the Portuguese language and did not have a good understanding of the language were not as successful. Some students used English words and struggled to use the correct form of a verb or gender in Portuguese. These students generally gave shorter answers. Students should practise conversation by using basic tenses such as past, present and future.

Section 2 – Discussion

It is very important for students to choose a topic and sub-topic that they are interested in for the Detailed Study as they may find it difficult to maintain a discussion about a topic in which they are not interested. The sub-topic should enable the student to express their opinions and ideas clearly.

Students chose a range of topics. However, some students attempted to memorise their topic information, which meant they struggled to continue discussion on the topic when they were interrupted or when they were asked questions they were not expecting.

Examples of possible topics can be found in the *VCE Portuguese Study Design*.

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

- maintain the appropriate structures and use appropriate repair strategies
- communicate by using a broad range of language skills
- use the language spontaneously
- readily express their opinions and ideas
- engage in the discussion with assessors
- advance the conversation by using the appropriate linking words
- refer to texts studied.

The sub-topic selected should be designed to suit the linguistic ability of the student. It should lead to a comfortable discussion that includes the opportunity for the student to express opinions and ideas.

The students who were better prepared were able to converse more and discuss the questions with the assessors than those who did not prepare thoroughly.

Students who had not properly prepared for their chosen topic found it harder to engage in discussion with the assessors. In order to maximise their chances to provide excellent work students should practise the skills needed for a conversation and a discussion. 'Last-minute' revision is not conducive to excellent work.