

AFRIKAANS LANGUAGE

Paper 8679/01

Speaking

General comments

Candidates were generally well prepared and the recordings clear. Examiners prompted the candidates at the right times and kept to the instructions outlined in the syllabus.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1 Presentation.

Generally, candidates gave well-organised, lively presentations with sufficient coverage of their chosen topic. In all, there was a fair degree of fluency and accuracy in pronunciation. Although candidates used a number of idioms, the range of vocabulary tended to be quite limited.

Section 2 Topic Conversation.

Most candidates gave answers relevant to examiners' questions, with little hesitation. While most utterances were grammatically correct, some expressions, as well as the pronunciation of some words and phrases, were influenced by their mother tongue. Most candidates had a sufficient enough command of Afrikaans vocabulary to be able to expand on issues relating to their topic that were outside the remit of their presentation.

Section 3 General Conversation.

Candidates responded well to questions. As was the case in the Topic Conversations, candidates maintained relevance in spite of some hesitation and the occasional need for examiners to rephrase their questions in more straightforward terms

Examiners prompted the candidates at the right moments and asked appropriate questions which led to interesting discussions.

Some candidate translated idioms or words literally from their native tongues, so meaning was not always clear. A small number of candidates failed to ask the Examiner questions as required at the end of this section of the speaking test. Centres should remind candidates of this by asking prompting questions such as: "Would you like to ask me any questions?" or "Do you have any questions for me?"

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Paper 8679/02
Reading and Writing

Comments on specific questions

On the whole, performance was of a good standard, if not quite as good as last year.

Question 1

Candidates were asked to describe the meaning of items of vocabulary from Text 1 in their own words. A few candidates found the exercise rather challenging and were unable to provide answers for all the words. Candidates are advised to read widely in order to increase their vocabulary.

- 1 (a) Most candidates provided good definitions for this word.
- 1 (b) Quite a few candidates struggled to define this word.
- 1 (c) A few candidates found this question challenging.
- 1 (d) Candidates performed well on this question.
- 1 (e) Most candidates struggled to answered this question.

Question 2

Only a few candidates did not read what the question asked them to do and did not use their own words to complete the sentences. Most candidates, however, provided excellent answers in their own words.

- 2 (a) Most answered correctly.
- 2 (b) Most candidates answered this question well.
- 2 (c) Candidates gave a number of correct descriptions of *minderbevoorregte*.
- 2 (d) Most candidates did well here.
- 2 (e) A large number of candidates gave excellent explanations for this phrase.

Questions 3 and 4

Most candidates obtained good marks and provided thorough answers in their own words.

- 3 (a) This question was answered well by most candidates.
- 3 (b) Most had few problems with this question.
- 3 (c) A few candidates failed to notice that they also had to provide an explanation for their answer to the first part of the question.
- 3 (d) Most candidates didn't know what the phrase meant.
- 3 (e) This question was answered well.

- 3 (f) A few candidates failed to establish a link with the notion of the *vrywilliger* in their answer.
- 3 (g) Only the best candidates were able to answer this question comprehensively enough to gain full marks.
- 4 (a) Most candidates answered this question well, gaining both marks.
- 4 (b) A fairly large number of candidates did not possess the necessary vocabulary to answer this question well.
- 4 (c) This question was answered well by most candidates.
- 4 (d) A few candidates failed to recognise that they had to refer to the writer's view to obtain the marks.
- 4 (e) Quite a few candidates struggled to define the first part of this sentence ("*Geld wat stom is...*").
- 4 (f and g) Most answers were thorough. Most candidates obtained good marks.

Question 5

A large number of candidates performed well, although there were a few who did not appear to have properly read what the question asked them to do. Most displayed good writing skills, using a range of vocabulary and correctly structured sentences.

- 5 (a) Not all candidates were able to draw on the evidence from the two texts to a sufficient enough degree and digressed from the task in hand, providing their own ideas instead.
- 5 (b) Most candidates gained good marks. Although most gave a personal response as required, a few candidates failed to mention which skills they had to offer.

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Paper 8679/03

Essay

General comments

Most candidates displayed good writing skills and showed their ability to argue and draw logical conclusions in essays that were mostly relevant to the task set. However, candidates should be reminded that they need to read the questions carefully, as a small number of essays either quickly lost sight of the topic as the essay progressed or were barely relevant to the chosen task.

Comments on specific questions

- 1 Many candidates gave excellent, detailed descriptions of the tourist attractions in their country.
- 2 Most candidates gave well-illustrated examples of young people struggling to keep afloat financially while trying to achieve academic success at the same time. A small number of candidates failed to include studies in his discussion.
- 3 Candidates showed flair and imagination in providing new ideas on law enforcement. Many showed that they were very knowledgeable and articulate on the subject.
- 4 On the whole, candidates presented a good range of ideas on urbanisation, showing their ability to respond to the issues raised by this question. Some, however, would have benefited from planning their essays better, as their essays lacked focus.
- 5 Most candidates displayed good writing skills and the ability to express a range of ideas in clear language.
- 6 The candidates who selected this topic wrote interesting essays mentioning salient facts, giving their own opinions and drawing logical conclusions at the end. A tiny number misunderstood the question and wrote essays on technological advances.