

ISIZULU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0531/01
Reading and Writing

General comments

There has been an overall improvement in comparison with previous years: most candidates wrote and expressed themselves clearly and there was a good standard of spelling.

Candidates should be encouraged to develop good handwriting skills. In some cases handwriting was unclear, and marks were lost simply because it was not possible for examiners to read what had been written. The standard of isiZulu language usage had improved in comparison with previous years.

Candidates should also be advised that they must not use English words when they cannot remember the isiZulu. They would be better advised to simplify what they say in isiZulu and so avoid using English. Writing simply but correctly in isiZulu will earn them more marks than trying to say something complex in English.

To do well in the exam, candidates need to build up their isiZulu vocabulary over the years and have regular vocabulary tests and opportunities to use the language they have learnt. When speaking and writing isiZulu, they should be encouraged to avoid using English words.

Comments on specific questions

Umsebenzi 1

Generally, candidates understood the question well. A few left out question **1(a)** and some mistakes occurred with items **1(c)** and **1(f)**.

Umsebenzi 2

A number of candidates answered this question well.

Umsebenzi 3

In general, this question was answered well. In **3(d)** there were errors which suggested that some had misunderstood the text.

Umsebenzi 4

For this question, candidates needed to have a good standard of grammar, particularly the declension of nouns, and spelling; candidates with a sound knowledge in these areas were able to express themselves more clearly and earned higher marks.

Umsebenzi 5

Candidates who did well in this question had a good awareness of letter writing style and of the appropriate register. Candidates who seemed not to have had much letter writing practice tended to lose marks.

Umsebenzi 6

Overall, candidates did reasonably well in this question. A few left it out completely and therefore could not be awarded marks.

Umsebenzi 7

Most candidates answered this question well. Some lost marks because they gave the opinion of people rather than offering a personal response. Candidates must be encouraged to read the questions carefully so that they understand what is required of them.

Weaker candidates also lost marks through grammatical errors, most commonly in the use of possessives, and through spelling mistakes.

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Paper 0531/02

Listening

General comments

The exam generally went well and candidates had very few problems with listening to the CD.

There has been an overall improvement in comparison with previous years: most candidates wrote and expressed themselves clearly and there was a good standard of spelling.

Candidates should be encouraged to develop good handwriting skills. In some cases handwriting was unclear, and marks were lost simply because it was not possible for examiners to read what had been written. The standard of isiZulu usage had improved in comparison with previous years.

Candidates should also be advised that they must not use English words when they cannot remember the isiZulu. They would be better advised to simplify what they say in isiZulu and so avoid using English. Writing simply but correctly in isiZulu will earn them more marks than trying to say something complex in English.

To do well in the exam, candidates need to build up their isiZulu vocabulary over the years and have regular vocabulary tests and opportunities to use the language they have learnt. When speaking or writing isiZulu, they should be encouraged to avoid using English words.

Comments on specific questions

Umsebenzi 1

Most candidates achieved full marks for this question.

Umsebenzi 2

Again, most candidates achieved full marks.

Umsebenzi 3

In order to achieve full marks here, candidates needed to address the questions in full; where marks were lost it was because answers were incomplete.

Umsebenzi 4

This exercise was more challenging because candidates were required to write longer answers (phrase or sentence) in response to the open-ended questions. Weaker candidates lost marks because their answers were incomplete or inaccurate. Candidates would benefit from having plenty of advanced listening practice in order to develop their skill in handling this type of exercise.