

National Qualifications 2006

Senior Moderator Report

Subject: French (Intermediate 1, Intermediate 2, Higher)

Assessment Panel: Modern Languages

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on moderation which has taken place within National Qualifications in this subject.

COMPONENT / COURSEWORK IN NATIONAL COURSES

COMPONENT/COURSEWORK MODERATED

Speaking: Presentation and Discussion

FEEDBACK TO CENTRES

General comments:

Assessments were largely concordant with moderator judgements. Moderators identified a number of Very Good performances, but on the other hand there were also some centres where it was felt that the level of language being asked of the candidates showed insufficient progress from Standard Grade, where appropriate.

The role of the teacher/interlocutor was again identified as being the crucial factor in the successful conduct of the test, and in ensuring that a **real** discussion between teacher and candidate took place. There are still many instances, however, of candidates presenting a rehearsed or overprepared performance which the interlocutor fails to develop with any degree of spontaneity. There are many candidate monologues or 'mini speeches' which the interlocutor allows to be presented without intervention. This is clearly not in the spirit of the task. Centres need to be reminded that the **Discussion** element of the task should be a real discussion. This issue was commented upon by the moderators for **15** of the **96** centres.

Also, on a number of occasions, interlocutors did not give the candidate sufficient time to respond before repeating or rephrasing a question.

A number of centres, despite feedback and frequent references in the relevant documentation, conduct overlengthy tests which more often than not are not to the candidate's advantage.

Poor pronunciation remains an issue, even in the case of very able candidates.

There were many more administrative issues this year, especially with the completion of form **MS00**. There were more instances of incorrect completion of this form than in any previous year. Perhaps the form could be amended/clarified/simplified?

Many centres submitted materials (NABs, Prelim papers, etc.) which were not required for the moderation exercise.

Other centres failed to submit the candidate cassettes in clearface envelopes.

Centres' attention should again be drawn to the guidelines on the conditions for the conduct and recording of the tests in quiet surroundings. There were many examples of candidates whose performance was difficult to assess as a result of external noise, poor tape quality, or poor positioning of the microphone, which often seemed to be directed more towards the interlocutor than the candidate.