



## **National Qualifications 2007**

### **Senior Verifier Report**

**Subject: French**

**Assessment Panel: Modern Languages**

The purpose of this report is to provide feedback to centres on verification 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:

Centres' assessments were very largely concordant with Verifier judgments. Verifiers identified a number of Very Good performances at all three levels, but on the other hand there were still some centres where it was felt that the level of language being asked of the candidate at Intermediate 2 and Higher levels showed insufficient progress from Standard Grade.

The role of the teacher/ interlocutor was again identified as being a 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 a significant number of instances, however, of candidates presenting a rehearsed or over-prepared performance which the interlocutor fails to develop with any degree of spontaneity. There continue to be too many candidate "mini-monologues" 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 all members of the Verification team, and was indeed a contributory factor in the non-acceptance of three centres.

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

There were many fewer administrative problems this year, but some centres continue to submit materials (NABs, Prelim papers, etc.) which are not required for the verification exercise.

Centres' attention should be again drawn to the guidelines on the conditions for the conduct and recording of the tests in quiet surroundings. There remain too many examples of candidates whose performance was difficult to assess as a result of poor audibility and /or background noise.