Moderators' Report/
Principal Moderator Feedback

November 2015

GCSE English Language (5EN3A)

Spoken Language

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5EN3A Report to Centres

General Overview

5EN3A comprises:

Two pieces of writing, both set by Edexcel, which are internally assessed and externally moderated (48 marks total available):

One Spoken Language Study: (24 marks available) a commentary on two examples of spontaneous spoken language which the candidates have chosen and studied in advance. Centres may use their own sources or those provided by Edexcel but must choose to respond to one of two topics set by Edexcel.

The candidates have two hours to produce a piece of writing of up to 1000 words.

Candidates should exemplify and demonstrate their understanding of:
- The way spoken language works
- How language changes according to context
- The ways in which language use may influence other speakers and listeners.

One Writing for the Spoken Voice task: (16 marks available for A04 i and ii and 8 marks available for A04 iii technical accuracy).The candidates have two hours to produce a piece of writing of up to 1000 words. Candidates must respond to one out of three tasks which are set by Edexcel.

Candidates should:
- Express ideas that are relevant
- Have a clear sense of purpose and audience
- Select vocabulary for effect
- Organise their writing appropriately.
- Candidates should also use accurate spelling and punctuation and demonstrate a range of sentence structures.

Spoken Language Study Task.

Candidates engaged well with the tasks set by Edexcel for November 2015 entry which were the same as those for May 2015:

EITHER:

Using two examples of spontaneous spoken language, comment on how the language is used by two different age groups.

OR:

Using two examples of spontaneous spoken language, comment on the speech of the area where you live and the speech of another area.

Writing for the Spoken Voice.

Candidates engaged well with the tasks set by Edexcel for November 2015 which were the same as those set for May 2015:

Either:

Write a script for a film trailer OR radio advertisement OR TV soap (30 seconds - 2minutes of spoken language)

OR

Write the text for a podcast (up to 1,000 words) on a topic that interests you.

OR

Write a narrative (up to 1,000 words) in which direct speech is a key feature.

Spoken Language Study: The first task option, "…two different age groups." was the most popular choice in the November 2015 session. Many centres used the transcripted resources produced by Edexcel which allowed full exploration of the assessment criteria; some centres provided their own well-chosen resources which also allowed students similar scope. Popular transcripts in November 2015 were excerpts from Educating Essex/Yorkshire and The Apprentice; some centres used Youtube transcripts.

Most students performed well against the assessment criteria, demonstrating understanding of how language changes according to context and explaining clearly how language works. Some centres and their candidates, however, still made comparison of the sources their focus rather than providing an analysis of how language was adapted in each source separately.

Writing for the Spoken Voice: The range of available Edexcel tasks allowed centres to select appropriately for their candidature. All tasks were responded to and students produced some interesting writing. In the November 2015 session, the Podcast option was the most popular task choice; candidates were able to research and write about

their own interests and to adopt registers appropriate for their intended podcast audiences. Narrative writing in which speech was a key feature was also a popular option this session; care should be taken with regard to the inclusion of enough direct speech and the usage of correct speech punctuation when choosing this option.

The Spoken Language Study and Writing for the Spoken Voice tasks were accessible at all levels of candidature as demonstrated by the spread of total marks moderated in the November 2015 session.

Administrative issues

Centres are reminded to use the Edexcel 5EN3A Candidate Controlled Assessment Forms and to update these accordingly after internal moderation has taken place to ensure that centre marks match those entered on Edexcel Gateway. There is no need to send speaking and listening forms to the 5EN3A moderator.

Centres are asked to send the work of the highest and lowest candidates to the moderator in addition to the selected sample. Centres are also asked to substitute the work of absent/withdrawn/carry forward candidates called as sample with the work of additional candidates who are submitting new work in the respective session.

Moderators greatly appreciate summative comments and annotations on the controlled assessment responses; please note that comments should be addressed to the moderator and not to the candidate.
Clear evidence of internal assessment aids the moderation process.

Moderators appreciate work which is fastened with treasury tags.

Advice for future sessions

Spoken Language Study
- There is no requirement to compare the two sources.
- Chosen sources should comprise spontaneous- not scripted- speech situations.

Writing for the Spoken Voice
- Ask candidates to indicate audience and purpose and to demonstrate this within the response.
- Remind candidates that the focus of this task requires writing for the spoken voice.

Encourage candidates to proof-read their responses before submission for accurate punctuation of speech and to check for the inclusion of enough direct speech if choosing the narrative option.
Centres are asked to check that the controlled assessment tasks used are valid for the date of entry

Grade Boundaries

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:
http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx