

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

November 2009

IGCSE

IGCSE English as a Second Language (4357) Paper 02 - Listening

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General comments

The listening paper is divided into three sections. In this session, the first section was a monologue by a college librarian giving a presentation on a new library's facilities. Candidates were required to complete notes based on the information provided. In the second section, candidates listened to an interview between a school nurse and a student. Candidates were required to answer multiple choice questions. In the third section, candidates listened to a radio presenter talking about the threats to sea life around the coasts of Britain. Candidates were required to complete summary sentences based on the talk.

Each part of the paper presented challenges for the candidates. Candidates found section A of the paper the easiest and section C the hardest. There were two general types of questions on this paper: multiple choice and sentence completion. Generally speaking, candidates followed the instructions given in the rubric for this type of question.

Sentence completion

Generally these questions were well attempted, although there were some candidates who did not adhere to the word limit given in the rubric. Centres should remind candidates, that once the word limit has passed the examiner will read to next comma or full stop, whichever comes first. Therefore it is not in their best interest to write more than is necessary.

Two issues arose out of these types of questions which require candidates to provide the word or words for the answer themselves.

Spelling

This proved to be a problem for some candidates. The general rule applied during marking was that if the answer affected communication, candidates were not awarded a mark. Candidates were not penalised for misspelling a word if it sounded like the target word. For example Q5 (answer main desk), a spelling such as 'dask' was accepted. However, if the word sounded like a different word or was a different word (eg Q5 main disk), candidates were not awarded a mark.

Grammar

In a few questions eg Q24 (factory ships), candidates were required to complete a sentence using the correct grammatical forms. Although these forms were given in the recording, many candidates made errors in their answers. These were the most demanding of all the questions on this paper.

Advice to centres

It is recommended that centres prepare candidates for the listening examination by familiarising them with the style of the tests and with the types of questions they can expect to find on the paper. There are copies of past papers available to download from the ESL section of the Edexcel website: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/igcse/igcse-leg/english/4357/Pages/default.aspx>

Candidates should make good use of the time before the tape is played to predict possible answers and consider the context when providing their answers.

Candidates should be advised to follow the instructions in the rubric when answering questions and to adhere to the word limit.

Candidates should consider the grammatical fit of their answers in sentence completion questions.

Candidates should consider the spelling of words when providing their answers.

Statistics

IGCSE English as a Second Language

Grade	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Lowest mark for award of subject grade (Paper 01 and 02 only)	88	78	68	59	52	45	39	33
Lowest mark for award of grade for Paper 03, Speaking (optional)	19	17	14	12	10	8	6	4

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