



## **GENERAL COMMENTS**

Students performed admirably again in 2004. They presented confidently and were at ease with the format, pace and direction of the examination. Students this year were predominantly native speakers who had only been in Australia for two years or less. In terms of language, fluency and the other criteria by which performance is measured, the standard was outstanding, as is expected from native speakers who have communicated exclusively in Armenian all their lives, notwithstanding their brief time in Australia. Pronunciation was accurate, with crisp consonants and an absence of any foreign language influences – not just anglicisms.

Discussion themes were well researched and prepared. The vocabulary range used was rich, and responses to questions were carefully considered. It was clear that students had been drilled in justifying their answers readily. As in past years, students did not hesitate to engage the examiners by steering the conversation or discussion, and by taking the initiative and offering clarification or asking questions. Students were comfortable with the content, pace and direction of the whole process and all presented in a calm and relaxed manner. Finally, open questions were handled eagerly and comprehensively.

The examiners were very pleased with the standard of the students and their efforts this year.

## **SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

### **General Conversation**

Topics covered in the conversation included personal background, family arrangements and structure, career aspirations, future plans and other issues emanating from these topics. Some students also commented on their family's migration experience in this section. All students were able to discuss these subjects in detail without any hesitation. Clearly, students had spent some time considering these topics and their extended answers indicated previous reflection and a readiness to elaborate appropriately.

Sentence structure, pronunciation, register and expression were excellent, and examiners expressed satisfaction with the depth, breadth and complexity of the conversation, especially in response to open questions.

### **Report and Discussion**

The proclamation of Christianity as the state religion in Armenia, the invention of the Armenian alphabet and the Armenian Genocide were popular topics for the reports. The examiners again felt that the students were very well prepared and had no difficulties or unnatural pauses in their deliveries. Follow-up questions were answered confidently and accurately. This allowed for a free flowing discussion where students demonstrated a capacity to engage the examiners by using appropriate responses and also the ability to influence the direction of the discussion.

Students carried out this task confidently, as evidenced by comfortable body language and good volume, inflexion and intonation of utterances. There was clear evidence of adequate preparation, with students comfortably handling issues and open questions that diverged from their prepared script, such as their opinions on issues that might not have been confronted or rehearsed before. The depth and the accuracy of knowledge demonstrated by the students greatly impressed the examiners.