



Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

Students were once again very well prepared, confident and at ease with the structure, pace and direction of both the Conversation and Discussion.

As in past years, vocabulary, fluency and expression were of a very good standard. Students were able to converse clearly and confidently, using appropriate constructs and the correct register throughout. In 2007, students' grammar was of a higher standard. Pronunciation was accurate with clear and audible utterances, crisp consonants and correct intonation and stress.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Conversation

A wide range of topics were covered in the Conversation, including students' personal background, current studies, family structure, career aspirations, hobbies, travel plans or experiences, part time employment and future plans. Some students also commented on relatives overseas and their family's migration experience. Students were well rehearsed in describing their personal situation, schooling and subject selections as well as recreational activities and entertainment pursuits. All students engaged with the assessors confidently. Responses were direct, highly relevant and spontaneous. As in past years, it appeared that many students could have continued for much longer than the allocated time for this section.

Students used an excellent range of vocabulary, structures and expressions accurately and appropriately. Sentence structure, pronunciation, register and expression were very good, as was the depth, breadth and complexity of the conversation, especially in response to open questions. Grammatical structures showed noteworthy improvement this year; students easily used the correct tense and appropriate cases in sentence construction.

Section 2 – Discussion

The Armenian Genocide, the Armenian speaking communities, specifically in Sydney and Melbourne, as well as the links between Armenia and the Diaspora were the topics chosen for the Detailed Study this year. Students were very well prepared and showed that they had researched their chosen topic. There was evidence of extensive research in all topics studied. Students used rich vocabulary and responses to questions were generally both logical and spontaneous. Most students presented cheerfully and enthusiastically. Follow-up questions of an open nature were considered carefully and answered logically, impressing the assessors. The ensuing discussion flowed comfortably and students demonstrated a capacity to engage the assessors with their responses. Students also influenced the direction of the discussion through clarifying or elaborating on answers.

Students completed this task successfully. They demonstrated appropriate body language, good expression and sentence construction. Students demonstrated an affinity with the topic area and were confident with the subject matter. This was evidenced by the excellent answers that were given to open questions, both in content and the quality of language used, as answers were spontaneous and not rehearsed. Probing questions were handled spontaneously, logically and were linguistically correct.