



2013

Languages: Dutch GA 3: Examination

Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

All students were very well prepared for the 2013 Dutch oral examination, and were very confident in the use of the language, both in the seven-minute Conversation and in the eight-minute Discussion. Once again, all students seemed to have thoroughly researched their chosen topic and gave the impression that they had enjoyed their study. Most students were able to demonstrate linguistic fluency in both sections of the oral examination, although there were still many inaccuracies in grammar and vocabulary.

Students need to practise their oral skills throughout the year. Some students leave this kind of practice until the last minute, just before the oral examination; this is not helpful for students. Students should also watch as many appropriate Dutch films as they can.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Conversation

Most students were very confident in this section and voluntarily expanded on the questions they were asked. There were some weaker students who were not able to move the conversation forward and gave only the minimal response. A few students found it difficult to understand the question, but with clarification from assessors were able to reply. A number of grammatical errors were made and these included errors in pronunciation, wrong tenses and incorrect vocabulary and gender. Some more able students used an excellent range of vocabulary and were able to include idiomatic expressions in Dutch accurately and appropriately.

Section 2 – Discussion

There were some really well-prepared discussions on the topic of the Dutch author and poet Annie MG Schmidt. This proved to be a very popular topic. Some students offered in-depth and animated responses, and were able to expand on their responses, presenting a good range of opinions and information on the topic. Some students made a number of grammatical errors in Dutch. Students may benefit from writing down and learning a number of the more difficult key Dutch words that are relevant to their Detailed Study.