



2011

Languages: Punjabi GA3: Examination

Oral component

GENERAL COMMENTS

In general, student performance during the 2011 Punjabi oral examination was very good. Some students demonstrated excellent pronunciation and spoken language skills. Other students did exceptionally well, speaking fluent Punjabi and using traditional words when describing Punjabi culture. A number of students used English and Hindi words, but most students used repair strategies successfully.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION

Section 1 – Conversation

Students were required to engage in a conversation about their personal world, including family, friends, hobbies, school and lifestyle. Many students were very well prepared for this part of the examination.

Section 2 – Discussion

Students prepared a variety of topics for discussion, including festivals, the contribution of women in society, pollution, refugees and the Punjabi language in Australia. Most students were well prepared and confident during the examination. Students who achieved excellent results demonstrated thorough preparation, with a good level of knowledge. There was also evidence of thorough research into the topics they had chosen. These students often brought materials to support their discussion, including posters, portraits, booklets and charts. However, weaker students' preparation was not sufficient to continue the discussion for the required length of time and these students needed to be prompted by assessors.

Teachers are advised to choose the topic for detailed study carefully to ensure the topic offers opportunity for discussion. Students should speak Punjabi during the exam and avoid Hindi and English words. It is suggested that discussion topics should be about an aspect of Punjabi society/culture. Students should utilise three or more texts when preparing for the examination in order to be able to participate in a serious discussion. Students will need to respond critically to spoken and written texts that reflect aspects of the language and culture of the Punjabi-speaking communities. Use of appropriate language, a good range of vocabulary and grammar, quotes and idioms can highlight the student's preparation and understanding of the topic. Students must make reference to the texts studied.