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# Moderators' Report/ Principal Moderator Feedback

November 2017

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) English  
Language (1EN0)  
Paper E Spoken Language Endorsement

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## **Spoken Language endorsement for GCSE (9 – 1) English Language**

There was a comparatively small entry this series with most candidates retaking the examination and many of those carrying their spoken language endorsement grades over from the summer.

The standard of candidate performance was similar to summer 2017 with most centres providing samples which follow the guidelines and awarding grades accurately. However, a significant number of centres were found to be over-rewarding candidates with merits or distinctions, and sometimes even with passes. This is almost invariably due to centres awarding grades when not all criteria for that grade had been met, most commonly:

- a lack of challenge in the topic selected or in the way it was treated.
- a lack of organisation and structure due to the brevity of a presentation or its delivery as part of a group discussion
- a disregard for audience needs, often characterised by the reading of scripts
- a failure to ask candidates questions, or to ask questions which pose challenge and therefore limited access to merit or distinction grades.

Candidates were often more successful when they chose a topic about which they were enthusiastic and had clearly worked with their teacher to ensure the topic was given a deeper dimension or included an element of controversy which enabled development.

Successful candidates also spoke for up to ten minutes and were given a chance to elaborate on their ideas by responding to questions. They also made some attempt to interest their audience by speaking directly to them and using strategies to involve them. It was clear that group discussions rarely allowed all candidates involved the opportunity to fulfil the criteria for merit and distinction grades because contributions tended to be uneven or lacked structure or because questioning was not focused or sustained.

I would urge all centres to revisit my report on the summer 2017 examination and to refer to the Administrative Support Guide which is to be found on the Pearson website under GCSE English Language Course Materials (Forms and Administration).

