

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2010

GCSE

GCSE English A/English B (1203/1204)
Paper 1A Speaking and Listening

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1A (Speaking and Listening) 1203 & 1204

The oral coursework component of GCSE remains very stable.

The usual dual system of centre visits operated during the course of the year, the Training and Advisory visits taking place mainly before Christmas and the Moderation visits in the spring. Over the years this inter-group procedure has helped to ensure that teachers, nation wide, apply the marking criteria accurately and consistently, and create tasks which address the specification requirements and help candidates to reach their full potential in speaking and listening.

Centre marking is very sound; there was little need, other than in exceptional circumstances, to change marks. Teachers are now very familiar with the marking grid and for the most part apply it with considerable skill. Where problems arise it tends to be because the centre over-estimates the attainment of its own candidates rather than rank-orders them incorrectly. It is particularly important for centres to ensure that teachers mark according to performance rather than expectation during visits. Candidate marks must always be closely referenced to the marking grid.

Many centres now have excellent systems for delivering the speaking and listening requirements. Most structure oral work as an integral part of their work schemes and have effective methods of internal moderation; some have days set aside specifically for this purpose. Systems of recording marks are also much more formalised and in some instances very sophisticated.

Overall the level of candidates' performance in speaking and listening continues to impress visiting moderators. In general the marks awarded for this component are marginally higher than for written coursework marks and this reflects the fact that candidates are now very self-assured and experienced in this aspect of their work. The contrast with the days when oral work consisted solely of answering questions in class and making formal speeches in class debates could not be more marked; candidates now show confidence in all aspects of speaking and listening, and, in particular, discussions and individual presentations.

Moderation and Training visits will continue for the final year of the specification to ensure that this important component is adequately monitored.

GCSE English: 1203 Grade Boundaries

Option 1 - 1A, 1B, 2F, 3F

C	D	E	F
60	47	34	22

Option 2 - 1A, 1B, 4H, 5H

*	A	B	C	D	E
82	72	62	52	41	35

Option 3 - 1AT, 1B, 2F, 3F

C	D	E	F
60	47	34	22

Option 4 - 1A, 1BT, 2F, 3F

C	D	E	F
60	47	34	22

Option 5 - 1AT, 1BT, 2F, 3F

C	D	E	F
60	47	34	22

Option 6 - 1AT, 1B, 4H, 5H

*	A	B	C	D	E
82	72	62	52	41	35

Option 7 - 1A, 1BT, 4H, 5H

*	A	B	C	D	E
82	72	62	52	41	35

Option 8 - 1AT, 1BT, 4H, 5H

*	A	B	C	D	E
82	72	62	52	41	35

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.

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