



Examiners' Report Principal Examiner Feedback

January 2019

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Spoken Language Endorsement A

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Publications Code 4EA1_E_1901_ER

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The series saw a very small number of entries. The correct samples were invariably received before the deadline and recordings were generally clear in sound and vision, although some clips were poorly lit, especially when powerpoint slides were being used by candidates in their presentations.

There was some inconsistency in the way that candidates were identified on screen and centres are referred to instructions in the subject specification and to the Pearson Administrative Support Guide for GCSE : Instructions for the Conduct of the Spoken Language Endorsement.

It was pleasing that candidates had been encouraged to speak on topics that interested them. However, candidates aiming to achieve Merit or Distinction grades often need guidance to ensure that the subjects they choose and their treatment of these subjects hold sufficient potential for challenge or sophistication.

The awarding of Pass grades was accurate. Pass candidates spoke on straightforward subjects, based on their own experience, sometimes supported by research. These subjects were usually factual and did not carry with them any element of controversy or debate.

The awarding of Merit and Distinction grades was much less accurate and consistent. A significant proportion of candidates was awarded grades by their centres which did not take sufficient account of the assessment criteria. For example, candidates who read from notes or whole scripts cannot be said to engage their audience or achieve the purpose of their presentation. Other candidates chose topics which could not be described as challenging or sophisticated. One candidate awarded a Distinction by his centre spoke for three minutes on a straightforward topic and, in this case, the awarding of a Pass would have been more appropriate.

Centres are reminded that, to be awarded a Distinction, candidates must use 'an effective range of strategies to engage the audience'. Centres are also reminded of the importance of question and response at Distinction level. Candidates must respond 'perceptively' and can only do so if questions are sufficiently demanding. It therefore helps if the candidate presents a developed viewpoint which the audience is able to challenge with open and probing questions.

It is in the nature of the Endorsement that candidates' strengths and weaknesses are very similar from series to series. I therefore recommend to centres that they refer to Principal Monitor feedback reports from previous series, both for iGCSE and GCSE.

