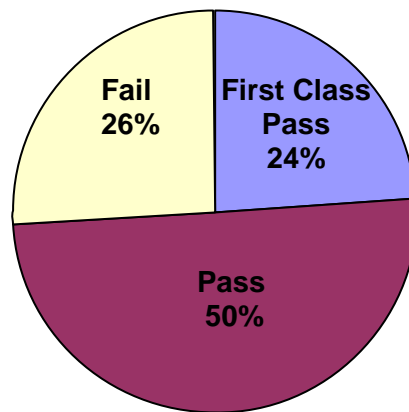


8984 International ESOL - Achiever

General observations

Although the Fail rate remains disappointingly high at this level (and more than twice that of Access level), there has been a marked improvement over last year's performance with a significant rise in First Class Passes. Candidates continue to do generally better with the Listening and Reading than with the Writing.

B1



Areas of good performance

Good candidates have confidence in their ability and an appropriate sense of what is required of the task. In Reading Part 3, candidates use the different reading texts well. They generally perform well with multiple choice questions for both Reading and Listening.

Areas for development

Writing Part 1 is a task frequently misunderstood where the instructions are not adhered to. This task is often the weakest of the IESOL paper. Candidates often struggle with completing the notepad for Listening part 3. For Reading Part 4, candidates lose marks by not keeping to the word limit for their answers.

Recommendations

Candidates need examination training as well as general language work. Specifically for Writing Part 1, candidates should have practice with mock examinations to become used to the exact nature of the requirements in both circling the error and providing the correction at the end of the line. Good general examination practice will pay dividends, with such general advice as reading all the questions through in the given preparation time, ensuring all parts of a writing task are addressed and so on. More work is still needed on language basics: grammar, particularly of tenses, spelling and punctuation.

Tips

- In mock examinations, practise reading all the items on the note-pad and any other questions before you start reading or listening to the text. This will help you listen and look out for the information required.
- If the instruction is to write using a fixed number of words, keep to the number – sometimes you'll need to cut out articles or unimportant prepositions.
- Practise listening for details from a variety of sources e.g. flight or rail announcements, news and weather broadcasts. Train yourself to filter out unimportant and redundant information.

- Proof-read your own writing and that of your classmates.

Additional comments

Centres are encouraged to pay close attention to the CEFR descriptors which for B1 cover the ability to understand main points, convey information and produce simple, connected texts with a sufficient range of vocabulary and reasonable accuracy. Of course, candidates need to do more than the minimum to achieve a First Class Pass. Candidates therefore should be encouraged to read widely and listen to a variety of sources, to become familiar with different voices and to be able to identify relationships and the moods/feelings of the speakers. Writing practice should be provided which goes beyond sentence level to continuous text level.