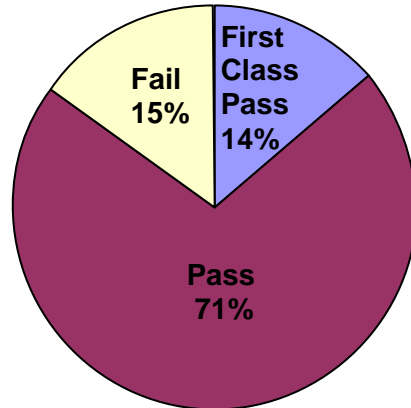


8985 International Spoken ESOL - Expert

General observations

While there is a very good Pass rate here, and while it is encouraging to see a slight reduction in the Fail rate compared to last year, there has been a significant move from last year in seeing an increased number of Passes compared to a reduced number of First Class Passes. As with the Communicator level, candidates are performing adequately but are not stretching themselves as much as they could.

C1



Areas of good performance

Candidates are generally confident. Good candidates have a high level of accuracy with a good range of vocabulary. There is also a good degree of fluency and use of register. Part 1 was generally well-executed showing a good range of language.

Areas for development

Some candidates show misunderstanding of certain topics in Part 4. Weaker candidates show an inability to express their views with sufficient accuracy and clarity. There is some lack of complexity of language as appropriate for the level.

Recommendations

Candidates need practice in expressing views clearly and accurately. Some focused accuracy work is needed but activities should also be incorporated which encourage fluency and spontaneity. Candidates should practise formulating ideas on a wide range of topics at quite a complex level.

Tips

- Listen to discussions and debates on TV and radio.
- Practise expressing and qualifying opinions in well-structured speech, showing control of cohesive devices.
- Make full use of the preparation time during the examination and for Part 4 choose a topic carefully which you can talk about at length and will be ready to expand on when questioned with a good range of related vocabulary.

Additional comments

This is a high level examination which requires a degree of complexity of expression on the part of the candidate. For candidates to perform to the best of their ability, interlocutors need to be very well-prepared in order to stimulate the appropriate level of interaction in Part 2 and to challenge the candidate by the appropriate questioning in Part 4. For Part 3, interlocutors should engage with the candidate in voicing their own opinions, discussing and debating the issue but also allow the candidate to take the initiative. Interlocutors must keep to the stated timings.