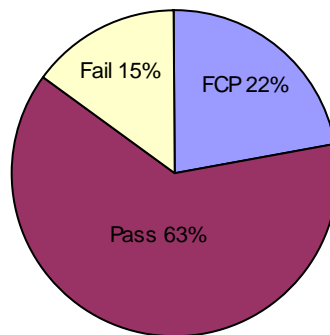


8985 International Spoken ESOL – Access

General Observations

The performance compared with last year mirrors that experienced at A1: although the Pass rate has increased, this has been very slight, while the Fail rate has gone up from 9% to 15% and the First Class Pass dropped by about a third. This is very disappointing and we would hope that the Fail rate would reduce for next year.

ISESOL Access - A2



Areas of good performance

As with A1, candidates perform well on Part 3 and use the picture prompt effectively. Candidates show they have a suitable range of vocabulary, using nouns verbs and adjectives well and particularly show that they can use prepositions accurately. They also tend to respond well to requests for information from the interlocutor.

Areas for development

Part 2 tends to be a weak area where often candidates lack the understanding of the given situation to produce a suitable response. In this Part, the B section where the candidate has to initiate the conversation rather than respond proves the most challenging and often leads either to silence or a request to repeat the prompt.

Recommendations

Part 2 tends to be a weak area where often candidates lack the understanding of the given situation to produce a suitable response. In this Part, the B section where the candidate has to initiate the conversation rather than respond proves the most challenging and often leads either to silence or a request to repeat the prompt.

Tips

- A functional approach to lessons – in addition to grammar – will benefit students as Part 2 in particular is situational and requires candidates to use a range of functional language.
- Try games of talking on a one-word prompt for one minute. During any pause, either the speaker has to fill with a suitable filler ('I mean', 'That is' etc) or someone else can jump in with a question to ask for repetition or explanation.

- Do some warm up activities with candidates before they enter the exam room so that they are in 'English-speaking mode' and are not nervous at the onset.

Additional comments

An A2 candidate should, according to the CEFR descriptors, be able to 'communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities'. More practice talking on a range of topics as set out in the syllabus will increase the candidates' vocabulary and allow them to produce more meaningful responses.