

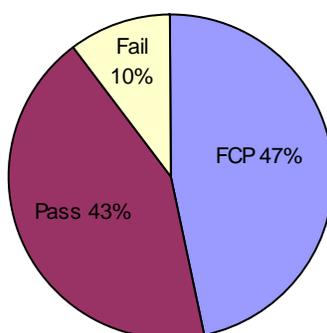
## 8984 International ESOL - Access

### Chief Examiner report for 2009/2010

#### General observations

It is pleasing to see that the Fail rate, which had increased last year, has fallen from 16%. However, unfortunately the Pass rate has fallen although only slightly. The significant rise in the number of First Class Passes from 34% is very encouraging and is what we would hope to see at this level. This should prove highly motivational for candidates.

IESOL Access - A2



#### Areas of good performance

One of the strongest sections for candidates at this level is Listening 1 as candidates respond well to the picture prompts. Generally Reading parts 2, 3 and 4 are well-executed, as is Writing 1 and in some cases also Writing 2.

#### Areas for development

The other three Listening parts often reflect a significantly weaker performance than that achieved in Part 1 when candidates have to rely solely on the oral input without visual support. With Listening 4, the instruction of answering within the word limit is often ignored. In Writing 1, candidates are often unaware that the last two headings on the form expect the candidate to elaborate and write full sentences. In Writing 2, marks are often lost by candidates correcting more than one item in a line. In Writing 3 and 4, attention is not always given to all the content points which should be covered.

#### Recommendations

Candidates still need more practice in examination techniques, in reading the rubric carefully, following instructions and timing themselves to make full use of the time available. Then they also need to practise the specific tasks themselves. In Listening Part 4, candidates must realise that they must answer in 1-3 words only. They should always pre-read the headings to be aware

of what they are listening out for. There are clues in the texts which highlight the answers. For Reading Part 1, candidates should be introduced to the conventions of different layouts such as addresses. For Writing Part 1, candidates need to practise extending their answers for the final two headings. They should be encouraged to use the available dictionaries if there is a word on the form they do not understand. Candidates should practise the Writing 2 task carefully, correcting only one mistake in each line and realising they cannot rewrite the sentence or make additional changes. For Writing 3 and 4, more practice is needed in the use of simple connectors to avoid writing only short, single-clause sentences.

### **Tips**

- Practise the written conventions related to prices and measurements such as £, m, kg and where they go (before or after the number).
- Practise using a dictionary speedily and efficiently.
- Practise answering listening and reading questions within 3 words.
- Bring in signs and short notices with mistakes in them for students to spot the mistake, to proof-read and correct. There are lots of fun 'spot the mistake' items on the internet.

### **Additional comments**

There is encouraging improvement generally at the Access level but candidates can still do better with closer attention to detail. Marks are thrown away unnecessarily by not adhering to the instructions. Candidates need to be aware of the importance of clarity so that the marker is not in any doubt as to what is intended ie if the candidate circles an answer, it must be clear and if any changes are made, any crossing out should also be clear. Markers want to award as many marks as they can and hate having to mark down if an answer is unclear or if, for example, a cross is put in a box on the form instead of a tick. These are small points which all add up and the problems can be easily avoided to the benefit of the candidate.