

ISINCOKO

Although some candidates did very well and demonstrated good language skills and a solid vocabulary, it was quite disturbing to note that a significant number of candidates had very poor language skills (Grade 8 level and lower), as well as a below average vocabulary.

Some observations that teachers need to be aware of:

- Many candidates simply copied out the questions in Section A and wrote these down as their essays.
- Others used large amounts of English and Afrikaans in their answers (Teachers must not allow this in their classes and in their own exams.)
- Many candidates did not use any verb link. (This basic skill should be mastered by Grade 12 as it is the cornerstone of speaking and writing.)
- Candidates must indicate the number of words used – and be honest about this as words are counted by markers.
- Candidates must not write a dialogue (incoko) when it should be an essay (isincoko).
- Paragraphing is also important as it is taken into account when awarding a mark for structure. (Teachers must spend time with candidates going through the marking grid, explaining that they will be assessed on planning, structure, language, content and editing.)
- All planning should be clearly labelled, as should the final copy. There should be no confusion.
- The question number must be clearly indicated for each response.
- Teachers are encouraged to actively build the vocabulary of their candidates by giving regular vocabulary tests. A lack of vocabulary was particularly evident this year.
- Many candidates do not possess the grammar skills required to put across thoughts in a coherent manner. (Teachers need to give careful attention to the teaching of grammar over the years so that, by the time pupils reach Grade 12, they are will be able to cope with the exam.)
- Most importantly, candidates need to read questions very carefully before starting to plan and write. Many candidates wrote off the topic because of this. It was noted that some of the questions contained some difficult language which might have contributed to this. Teachers can help candidates to analyse questions by teaching them to underline key words in questions.

IMIHLATHANA EMIDE

Some schools prepared their candidates very well for this question. The letters were better than the reports. Teachers should go through examples of each type of written piece so that candidates know what is expected of them.

Candidates must not “Xhosify” their street address. It is acceptable for a street address to be in English or Afrikaans.

IMIHLATHANA EMIFUTSHANE

Candidates definitely preferred the shorter pieces and some actually started with these questions and did their essays last. Once again, it is important that questions are read carefully so that candidates don't write off topic. Candidates should be encouraged to be creative when producing things like advertisements, posters and invitations. These also need to be covered in class so that candidates know what information must be included. (Please consult the SAG document in this regard.)