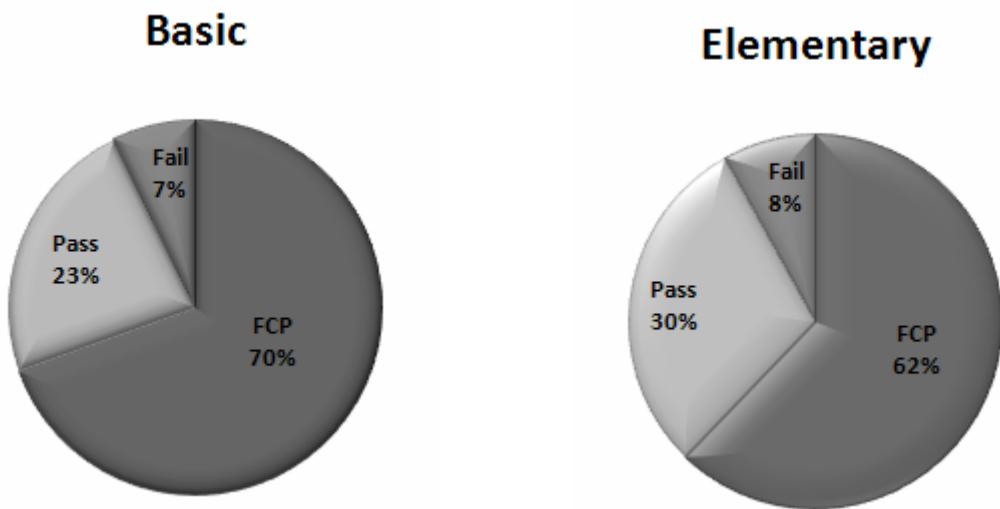


8962 English for Speakers of Other Languages – Young

General Observations

These examinations have been specifically designed for learners aged 8 to 13 and use child-friendly topics such as parties, pen-pals and pets. As such, they are therefore an ideal starting point for young learners beginning to learn English. The majority of candidates at both levels perform very well and are able to demonstrate their ability in English.

This year the vast majority of candidates appear to have been entered for the correct levels and overall performance has been highly creditable, showing a marked improvement in the number of First Class Passes at Basic level and a slight improvement at Elementary level since last year.



Areas of good performance

Generally the Listening Parts 1, 2, 3 and 4 (Section A) and Reading Parts 1 and 2 were answered very well by most candidates.

Areas for development

The English Usage section generally reflected good marks but there is scope for improvement. It is important to follow the instructions and marks are often lost because the same word is used more than once.

At the Elementary level, performance could be improved in the Reading and Writing section. Many candidates failed to address all the points in the prompt. Candidates should remember that this part tests both reading and writing, and should therefore read the prompt very carefully, perhaps underlining each point to which they need to respond, before starting to write. When they finish writing, they then need to check that they have covered all the areas required.

Some candidates do not write enough for the Writing section. It is important to follow the instructions given and produce the number of sentences (Basic level) or words (Elementary level) that are requested.

Handwriting is not always as clear as it might be. Candidates need to remember that examiners can only award high marks if they can read what a candidate has written. Care should also be taken to check grammar and spelling and make any corrections that are needed clearly.

Recommendations

Candidates should allow time to check their answers in the English Usage section very carefully to ensure that they have entered the correct word and that the sentences make sense and are grammatically correct. They are advised to read through the whole passage again before going on to the next section. Putting a line through each word as they use it should avoid the temptation to use the same word twice.

Time keeping appears to be a problem for many candidates, who should be aware that they do need to complete the whole paper. Practising whole papers before the exam, within a set time, should help them to prepare for the examinations. They do need to allow time to check all their work thoroughly too and need to remember that they should make any changes that are required clearly.

Tips

- Read all the instructions for each part very carefully before starting to write.
- Check that you have followed all the instructions before moving on to the next part.
- Make sure that you can write quickly but also legibly.
- Remember to check grammar and spelling as you work through the paper.
- If you need to change anything, make sure that you clearly cross out what you do not want to be marked and that your amendment is legible.
- Keep an eye on the time and make sure you finish the whole paper.
- Look at the Young ESOL Qualification Handbook and sample papers on the City & Guilds website.

Additional comments

Before entering candidates for the examinations, tutors should always set a mock examination using a sample paper and keeping to the time limit to ensure that their candidates can cope adequately.