

ISIZULU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0531/01
Reading and Writing

Key messages

Candidates performed better compared to previous years.

It should be noted that, due to an issue with question 20, which has since been amended on the published version of the question paper, all candidates were awarded an extra mark for this question to ensure that none were disadvantaged.

General comments

Fewer candidates had difficulty completing the whole paper compared to previous years. Some candidates could improve by having ample practice completing the exam in the two hours. For example, some candidates skipped Umsebenzi 6 so that they could fit in Umsebenzi 7 in the time allowed. It is recommended that candidates do as many past papers as possible to familiarise themselves with the time available to complete the exam.

The general handwriting of candidates has improved, but candidates should still be reminded that handwriting needs to be legible so that they can be awarded the maximum number of marks possible.

Candidates should also be reminded that the level of language being tested in this exam is IGCSE isiZulu as a second language. It is essential that candidates are prepared to understand instructions and the general content of the paper at this level so that they can access it. Translating first into English to be able to answer the questions is to be avoided and may be why some are not able to finish the paper.

Candidates should also check the number of marks available for each question to ensure they write enough to obtain the maximum marks. They should also avoid ticking more than one box in multiple-choice questions. If more than one box is ticked, no mark can be awarded.

In Umsebenzi 4, candidates should avoid copying chunks of text from Umsebenzi 3. Umsebenzi 3 is to be used to inform the summary in Umsebenzi 4. Candidates should take care not to write the same things more than once. Make sure that the question is read carefully and that irrelevant information is avoided.

Although many candidates are well prepared to write a letter, there are some who are not. Teachers should ensure that candidates know how to set out and write both informal and formal letters to allow them to access the maximum number of marks available. There were some very good letters, but there were also a few candidates who did not understand or follow closely enough the instructions in Umsebenzi 5 and 7.

Comments on specific questions

Umsebenzi 1:

1. A fair few candidates had difficulty with this question.
2. Very good
3. Many candidates wrote specific places and not 'anywhere/the whole world'.
4. Very good
5. Good
6. Some candidates had difficulty with this question.
7. Generally good. Some still added email addresses etc. If the question requires a telephone number, this cannot be awarded the mark.

Umsebenzi 2:

- 8a. Very good
- b. Good
- c. Candidates should read what is required carefully. By only answering one part of the question, in this case supplying the name of the sister, and nothing else, was not enough to give them the mark.
- d. Very good
- e. Good
- f. There are still candidates who are ticking both boxes. No mark can be given if both boxes are ticked.
- g. Candidates should always check how many marks are available for each question to answer it fully enough to get all the available marks.

Umsebenzi 3:

- 9. Generally good, but candidates should be careful not to repeat the same information by phrasing it differently. If the answer is repeated, it cannot gain an extra mark.
- 10. Candidates should take care to write enough to get the full number of marks.
- 11. Generally good.

Umsebenzi 4:

Many candidates are starting to use their own words, which is what this question is all about and this is very positive.

As this is a summary writing exercise, candidates are advised to ensure they read the question carefully so as to avoid including unnecessary information. Candidates should only write a maximum of 80 words. Likewise, candidates should avoid repeating the same information twice.

Candidates could improve further still by taking care to use correct spelling.

Umsebenzi 5 and 7:

The ability of candidates to write both an informal, friendly letter and a formal letter, or, in this case, speech has improved compared to previous years. Unfortunately, for Umsebenzi 5, there were still some candidates who needed to read the instructions more carefully and ensure they were writing a letter as opposed to a standard paragraph of information. Despite including all the relevant information, the exercise asks for a letter and this is important.

Candidates could improve by being more specific and succinct for different points they make rather than writing too much on one specific part or including irrelevant information.

Candidates should avoid using English.

Some candidates used good idiomatic expressions in Umsebenzi 5 and this increased their marks.

Again, some candidates are advised to improve their spelling. This will also enable candidates to get more marks.

Umsebenzi 6:

Candidates generally did well in this exercise. Some candidates could do well to do lots of practice with past papers in the two-hour time limit to ensure they can finish the whole paper in time and not skip Umsebenzi 6.

- 14. Good
- 15. Very good
- 16. Good
- 17. Some candidates had difficulty with this question.
- 18. Good
- 19. Some candidates had difficulty with this question.
- 20. Good
- 21. Some candidates had difficulty with this question.
- 22. Good

ISIZULU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0531/02
Listening

Key messages

Candidates performed better when compared to previous years. Candidates are encouraged to listen carefully to the recording and make sure they read the questions correctly.

General comments

There are still candidates who tick two boxes in exercise 1 and 2. Candidates are not awarded marks where it is not clear which ticked box is to be considered. Some candidates would change their mind and try to erase one of the ticks, but they would not do this well and it would still appear as if two boxes had been ticked. Candidates should be encouraged not to rush into ticking a box especially if they are not yet sure.

There were fewer isiNdebele interferences this year. The use of isiNdebele 'le' instead of isiZulu 'ne' to express 'and' is still prevalent. Spelling errors remain a concern and this results in candidates losing marks in exercises 3 and 4.

Candidates must be able to identify which answers need to be written out in full sentences. There are instances where a one-word answer will not suffice as it does not give a complete answer and mastery is not evident. Also, the prefix or pronouns must match those in the question. For example, if a question asks '*bangaki abantu esithombeni?*' the response must commence with the same prefix as follows: '*bathathu abantu esithombeni*'. Giving just a stem ('*thathu*') is not acceptable in isiZulu.

The number of candidates who left questions unanswered dropped significantly compared to previous years.

Comments on specific questions

Exercise 1

A good number of candidates were able to answer most questions correctly. Some candidates ticked two boxes. In other cases, it was evident that candidates had tried to change the answer but did not properly erase the answer they no longer wished to give. There were a very small number of candidates that did not answer some questions in this exercise.

- 1 Generally well answered.
- 2 Answered correctly by around half the candidates.
- 3 Well answered by the majority of the candidates.
- 4 Answered correctly by around half the candidates.
- 5 Only a few candidates scored well on this question.
- 6 Answered correctly by around half the candidates.

Exercise 2

No candidates managed to answer this exercise completely correctly, with many candidates making at least two mistakes. This exercise still proves to be a challenge for candidates. They could improve by listening more carefully and looking out for distractors in the multiple-choice questions.

- 7 About half the candidates were able to answer correctly. The common incorrect answer was 'C'.
- 8 A number of candidates struggled to pick the correct answer. The common incorrect answer was 'A'.

- 9 The majority gave the correct answer here.
10 About half the candidates were able to answer correctly.
11 The majority gave the correct answer here.

Exercise 3

The biggest difficulty for candidates in this exercise seemed to be spelling. However, the vast majority of candidates responded to all the questions, which is an improvement on previous years.

- 12 (i) Many candidates were not able to give a complete answer or else had some difficulty phrasing the answer correctly. Candidates left out an important word 'ovelele' and this was required for the answer to be correct.
(ii) The vast majority of candidates answered this correctly. To improve even further, candidates could have written a full sentence here.
(iii) The majority answered correctly. Candidates should be careful when paraphrasing or giving a synonym that meaning is not lost. Some candidates used words like 'oqotho' or 'othembekile', and these changed the meaning and so could not be accepted as a correct answer.
(iv) About half the candidates were able to answer correctly. A number of candidates lost a mark here by simply writing 'umama' and leaving out 'nezihlobo'. Again, candidates need to get into the habit of writing out a complete answer. The prompt is clear that the answer cannot be one word. The word 'Ababntu' in this question is in the plural form which indicates that the response should mention more than one person.
(v) Some candidates only wrote one answer here for (v) and (vi) instead of two. Others combined the answer into one.
(vi) As above.
(vii) Most were able to give an answer here.
(viii) A large number of candidates seemed to have some difficulty phrasing the answer correctly.

Exercise 4

Candidates generally performed better in this exercise compared to previous years. Only a small number of candidates did not respond to some of the questions in this exercise, which is a great improvement. Candidates should answer questions in full sentences in this exercise. They also need to make sure that the important components of the response are mentioned.

- 13 This was generally well answered by most candidates. Common mistakes were 'uhlale ematasa' and 'umama wakhe wathola umsebenzi eGoli'. To improve, candidates need to listen more carefully.
14 A little more than half the candidates were able to give the correct answer.
15 Some candidates had difficulty phrasing their answer in such a way as to make sense.
16 This was generally well answered.
17 About a third of candidates got this right. The answer most candidates gave here was incomplete and not specific enough. Candidates should remember that in this exercise they need to write a bit more and make sure that their responses answer the question in full. Simply responding by saying 'ngosuku lwesine' is not enough. A context needs to be given: 'ngosuku lwesine eqale ukuba yisibukeli sezinhlelo zwakwa-One Studios.'
18 About half the candidates were able to score two marks here. The others generally scored one mark.
19 A good number of candidates got all answers correct for this question and a fair number got two right.
20 About half the candidates got this right. The challenge here was the ability to phrase the response correctly.