

ISIZULU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0531/01
Reading and Writing

Key messages

The first two reading exercises were generally well answered. There are several candidates that omitted certain questions in this paper, especially **Umsebenzi 6** and the last writing piece to a certain degree. Also, the use of isiNdebele vocabulary is quite prevalent. This should be discouraged as much as possible.

Most candidates performed well overall. However, only a few of them scored above 60 out of 70 marks.

General comments

Quite a large number of weaker candidates did not write a response to most questions in the paper. Many candidates scored highly for **Umsebenzi 1** and **2**. There were several candidates that did not respond to **Umsebenzi 6** or **7**, perhaps running out of time. It is important that candidates practise past papers and learn to pace themselves.

The use of isiNdebele words was quite common. This should be avoided, for example:

- The phrase *inganathwa* was quite common. It is *phuza* in isiZulu.
- The use of the isiNdebele *l* instead of isiZulu *n* was quite common.
- The word *imuli* (wife) is *inkosikazi* in isiZulu.

For **Umsebenzi 4, 5** and **7**, it would be good practice for candidates to indicate the number of words they have written (word count). While this is not compulsory, it is helpful to examiners.

Comments on specific questions

Umsebenzi 1

Question 1

This question was well answered by the vast majority of candidates.

Question 2

This question was well answered with the candidates who scored the mark giving a complete answer: *ezikoleni zasemadolobheni*. Candidates should be encouraged to check their work and ensure they have written an answer that is complete enough to make sense with the question.

Question 3

This question was well answered with several candidates scoring the full two marks.

Question 4

This question proved a challenge for a number of candidates. Often, candidates wrote *amapulazi ethu akhethwa ngokucophelela futhi ahlolisisiwe*, which suggested that they struggled to understand the question. To assist candidates with question comprehension, they could underline key words in the question. They should also be exposed to lots of past papers to give them the opportunity to practise understanding a wide variety of question types.

Question 5

This question was well answered, although many candidates wrote 'one to two weeks'. The question was asking for the maximum time that can be spent at Zula Nathi and the correct answer was therefore two weeks. Nevertheless, candidates who wrote 'one to two weeks' were given the benefit of the doubt and awarded the mark.

Question 6

This question was well answered. There were a few candidates who wrote *igumbi* (incorrect spelling for *ikhumbi* = a taxi). While candidates are not penalised if incorrect spelling can still be understood and indicates the correct answer, if the word means something completely different in isiZulu and therefore does not make sense, they unfortunately cannot score the mark.

Question 7

Several candidates invalidated their answer by giving both the telephone number and the website address. The correct answer was the telephone. Candidates should take time to read the section of the passage where the answer can be found carefully to avoid this happening.

Umsebenzi 2

Question 8i

This question was well answered, although several candidates gave the year of birth instead of the age. These candidates were awarded anyway the mark due to the phrasing used in the form.

Question 8ii

This question was well answered with only a few candidates writing *isigubhu* or both *isiginci* and *isigubhu*. The candidates who were awarded a mark were those who gave *isiginci* as the answer.

Question 8iii

This question was generally well answered with only a few candidates not responding or writing an incorrect response.

Question 8iv

Generally speaking, this question was answered well, although some candidates provided an incomplete response. Candidates should read through their answers carefully to ensure they have included everything they need to fully answer the question.

Question 8v

This question was well answered by many of the candidates.

Question 8vi

This question was well answered with the majority of candidates getting the mark.

Question 8vii

This question was well answered.

Question 8viii

Unfortunately, for this question, it was not enough to simply write *inyama*. Candidates needed to indicate that they do not eat meat or that they are vegetarians. There were some spelling issues such as *akahle inyama/inyama cha*. However, these were accepted as the candidates' intended meaning could still be understood.

Question 8ix

Most candidates got this answer correct, although some circled the correct option instead of underlining as per the instructions. Candidates were not penalised for doing this, but it is something to bear in mind and perhaps indicates a general lack of care when reading finer details in the question paper. Candidates should take care to home in on key words such as this.

Umsebenzi 3

Candidates answered this exercise with variable success.

Question 9

This question was generally well answered.

Question 10

This question was well answered with a decent number of candidates earning the full marks.

Question 11

Candidates struggled much more with this question. Several candidates seemed to confuse this question with the previous one. Other candidates invalidated their response or wrote incomplete answers. Again, candidates should be encouraged to underline key words in the question and should practise lots of past papers when preparing for this exam in order to be exposed to a wide variety of question types and vocabulary.

Umsebenzi 4

Candidates answered this question with variable success. Candidates who scored higher marks understood what the task required. A greater number of candidates could learn to do this by underlining key words in the question and doing lots of practice summarising texts before the exam. Teachers can help candidates by teaching them summary writing skills and showing them how to pick out the main messages from the text and how to paraphrase. Candidates should also be aware that even though this task is marked for language and not content, the content still needs to be relevant to the task. If it is wholly irrelevant to the task, candidates cannot score well. On average candidates achieved 3 out of 5 marks for this task.

Umsebenzi 5

A good proportion of candidates understood the task and produced responses with effective content. However, some candidates did not mention the African country that they visited. There were several candidates who mentioned that they saw a lot of things in the capital city but did not proceed to give detail to their response. Also, quite a few candidates did not seem to know what the words *emaphandleni* and *isiqiwi* meant. As a result, most of them wrote about visiting *isiqiwi* but did not give much detail to show understanding of the word. Candidates should be encouraged to continue key points in their writing by adding in descriptions or more detail. In this way, the response is more complete and communication is more effective. A few candidates only managed to score 7 for language in this exercise as it lacked ease of style and accuracy. Some candidates wrote very little, and this affected their outcome as the responses lacked detail even though the content was relevant. Extensive writing and past paper practice where candidates are encouraged to provide detail is key to success in this exercise.

Umsebenzi 6

There were several questions that candidates failed to respond to in this exercise. Perhaps candidates ran out of time to give due attention to this exercise and instead worried about completing the writing exercises. Unfortunately, candidates can lose quite a few marks if they rush this section, which may end up negating marks they get in the writing exercises. Again, candidates should do lots of timed practice with past papers to become accustomed to the length of time needed to complete each task in the exam paper and to pace themselves accordingly.

Question 14

The majority of candidates managed to gain this mark.

Question 15

Many candidates lifted the whole section of the text where the answer to this question could be found rather than really homing in on the answer and attempting to explain it in their own words. Candidates should be discouraged from lifting whole chunks from the text as their answer can include irrelevant information that does not always grammatically fit with the question, and this can invalidate their answer. Candidates should do extensive practice of paraphrasing in isiZulu to avoid this.

Question 16

Again, a lot of candidates simply lifted their answer from the text, which led to the same issues as above.

Question 17

The majority of candidates gained this mark.

Question 18

The vast majority answered this question well.

Question 19

Many candidates were able to correctly answer this question, although some struggled. Underlining key words in the question may help candidates with this.

Question 20

Many candidates struggled to answer this question. Again, underlining key words in the question may help or else candidates need to pace themselves better throughout the exam to give them enough time to tackle questions in this exercise.

Question 21

Unfortunately, most candidates simply stated how long the author ran for. This was not a complete answer as candidates needed to point out that this was difficult for him to make sense with the question. Candidates should take care to read back through their answer to ensure it really is answering the question.

Question 22

This question seemed to be difficult for most candidates. Candidates did not seem to fully comprehend this question judging by the responses they were giving.

Question 23

Many candidates performed well on this question, although quite a few gave an incomplete response because they simply lifted a section of the text. Again, candidates should check their work carefully alongside the question to ensure they are answering it in a way that makes sense and includes all the required information.

Umsebenzi 7

Many candidates produced impressive responses to this exercise with highly effective content. The length also met the set criteria in many cases. Candidates also understood the provided points in the task and were able to use most of them in developing their ideas well.

Unfortunately, there were a few 'no responses' for this exercise, which could have been due to candidates running out of time. Once again, practice of time management with past papers is key to being able to perform well in this writing exercise and the paper as a whole.

ISIZULU AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0531/02
Listening

Key messages

Most candidates answered this paper well and the results were pleasing. Candidates are encouraged to do lots of practical listening activities to prepare adequately for the exam.

General comments

In general, most candidates' responses indicated good preparation as well as positive development in understanding isiZulu. Candidates are encouraged to listen carefully and make sure that their responses are accurate and make sense with the question that is asked. There were instances where there was some interference from other languages. For instance, candidates used the English word 'platform' for *kumapulathifomu* and often *amamark* was written instead of *amamaki*. **Questions 13, 18 and 19** proved to be a challenge for some candidates. Candidates should practise listening for detail as it was evident that some simply gave general answers and unfortunately no mark could be awarded. Candidates should pay attention to how many marks each question is worth as this is an indication of how many pieces of information they are expected to give to score all the marks available to them. There were fewer questions with no responses or two boxes ticked on multiple choice questions than in previous years. Candidates should be aware that they cannot get a mark if they tick more than one box on these questions, even if one of the ticks is for the correct answer, as it is impossible to tell which answer the candidate intended to give. Candidates are encouraged to read the questions first to give themselves enough time to answer the questions precisely. Underlining key words in the question can also help candidates focus on exactly what the question is asking.

Comments on specific questions

Umsebenzi 1

Most candidates did not appear to have difficulties with this exercise. There were a few mistakes, and instances of ticking two boxes or no response at all, but the majority of candidates answered this exercise well.

Question 1

Well answered by the majority of candidates.

Question 2

About half of the candidates answered this question correctly.

Question 3

Generally well answered.

Question 4

Most candidates answered this question well.

Question 5

Generally well answered.

Question 6

Well answered by most of the candidates.

Umsebenzi 2

This exercise was well answered. Most candidates were able to pick out distractors in the multiple-choice questions and identify them as distractors rather than the correct answer. Some candidates were able to score full marks for this exercise.

Question 7

Most candidates were able to answer the question correctly.

Question 8

Well answered by most candidates.

Question 9

Well answered by most candidates

Question 10

Almost all candidates answered this question correctly.

Question 11

Some candidates ticked C instead of A.

Umsebenzi 3

Most candidates attempted this exercise positively and answered questions with some understanding.

Question 12

- (i) The majority of candidates answered this question well as it only required a one-word answer – *notshani*.
- (ii) This question proved more challenging. Some candidates understood the recording and what was being asked but struggled with writing the correct phrase *izinyoka ezifile*, which is in the plural form. They simply wrote one-word answers such as *izinyoka* or *inyoka*.
- (iii) This question was well answered by the majority of candidates. Only a one-word answer was needed.
- (iv) Candidates could choose from more than one possible answer to this question. *Ihlathi elihle*, *elinempilo kakhulu* and *ngolunempilo enhle* were among the possible answers.
- (v) Most candidates answered this question correctly.
- (vi) Candidates understood this question well and it was answered correctly by most of the candidates.
- (vii) Candidates understood the question and responded well, but the spelling of the word *amamaki* was a challenge. Some candidates wrote this word as *amamark*.
- (viii) Most of the candidates responded well to this question.

Umsebenzi 4

This exercise was challenging for some candidates. Responses required candidates to give enough information to achieve the full mark allocation. On the whole, candidates' answers were satisfactory, but stronger candidates were able to fully understand the question and therefore responded well in their answers. Underlining key words in the question can help candidates to really focus on what is being asked of them. Candidates should also do extensive past paper practice to be exposed more often to a different range of question types.

Question 13

Some candidates found this question tricky and could not clearly state why it was easy for Nomandla to find a place to play for money for the first time in the streets. Some incorrect answers were:

- ***uthathe isiginci sakho ucule*** i.e. take your guitar and sing instead of you could play anywhere you want because no laws were in place
- ***kufanele ubenomthetho*** i.e. you must have laws instead of ***yayingekho imithetho*** – there were no laws

While candidates are not penalised for incorrect spelling and grammar in this exam and will still get the mark if what they intended to say is clear and is the correct answer in terms of content, errors which impede meaning or mean something completely different cannot be awarded the mark.

Question 14

A number of candidates only gave part of the answer and scored 1 mark instead of 2. Candidates needed to give two points as indicated for this question to get both available marks.

Question 15

A significant number of candidates only gave part of the answer for this question. Furthermore, some of the answers were not complete. The common answer for the first part of the question was *indawo enhle* instead of *indawo yokukhosela kunoma yisiphi isimo sezulu*. Likewise, for the second part of the question, many candidates answered *kunabagibeli abaningi* instead of *kunabagibeli abaningi abacebile/abanemali*.

Question 16

This question was well answered by many candidates.

Question 17

Candidates answered the first part of this question well but had difficulty mentioning why Dingani got chased away. A common answer was *waxoshwa ngoba edlala umculo* instead of *waxoshwa ngoba edlala umculo ophakene/onesigqi esinamandla*.

Question 18

The majority of candidates did not manage to give the correct answer for this question. A few candidates simply gave an incomplete response, and they could not be awarded a mark for this as their answer did not mean anything on its own.

Question 19

Many candidates struggled with this question.