

GESE – Sample exam marks and rationales

Grade 1

Michail

Grade: A

Result: Distinction

Rationale

Michail's contributions are very effective, clearly comprehensible and obviously fulfil the task. There is excellent coverage of the communicative skills, language functions and the language items of Grade 1.

Michail responds promptly and correctly in almost every case and has no difficulty in identifying colours, parts of the body, clothes (apart from a shirt), classroom objects and a variety of common animals. He uses the present simple of the verb *to be* with a range of pronouns, demonstratives and determiners clearly, accurately and appropriately.

Victoria

Grade: C

Area for improvement: Communicative Skills

Result: Pass

Rationale

Victoria has a limited understanding of basic questions and instructions, and only partially fulfils the task. She is able to exchange greetings, introduce herself and say goodbye but confuses: '*How are you?*' with: '*How old are you?*' Also, despite being relatively successful when identifying colours and numbers, she is generally unable to name parts of the body, articles of clothing and classroom objects, except with considerable support from the examiner. Distinguishing imperatives such as: '*give me*', '*touch*' and '*point to*' also present difficulties for her as do simple adjectives ('*Is your hair long?*') and determiners (*my/your*).

As a result, Victoria is able to provide only isolated examples, often with considerable hesitancy, of the communicative skills and other language requirements of the grade.

Grade 2

Dhatri

Grade: A

Result: Distinction

Rationale

Dhatri's performance is relaxed and enthusiastic. She responds with ease to all the examiner's questions and demonstrates comprehensive coverage of the communicative skills, language functions, grammar and lexis of Grade 2.

Dhatri is able to talk about days and months, household objects, rooms in the home, family and friends, numbers up to 50, possessions and pets. She also demonstrates her ability to understand and use a wide range of the grammatical items for Grade 2 including present continuous questions and prepositions of place.

Although the examiner has to remind Dhatri to ask a question, her performance is still impressive. Her pronunciation and intonation are very clear and highly intelligible throughout.

Gennaro

Grade: C

Area for improvement: Communicative Skills

Result: Pass

Rationale

Gennaro is generally effective when giving memorised answers to questions about the rooms in his house, his pet and his best friend. Otherwise, however, his contributions are characterised by one-word, often indistinct responses, and protracted pauses as he searches to make sense of examiner prompts and to answer appropriately. He has a basic knowledge of lexis associated with numbers, prepositions of place and months of the year but these examples are isolated and rarely extended into short statements (eg Gennaro simply says '*under*' rather than '*under the table*').

Gennaro's understanding of simple questions (e.g. '*How are you?*' and '*How old are your sisters?*') is often challenged and this, combined with a generally inaccurate coverage of the grammatical requirements of the grade, means that his overall contributions only partially fulfil the task.

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Grade 3

Rosita

Grade: B

Result: Merit

Rationale

Rosita answers a range of questions, demonstrating good understanding of the examiner and the ability to use basic sentence patterns and phrases to convey limited information in simple, everyday situations. She also asks the examiner appropriate questions.

There are some occasional hesitations and minor errors, including omission of articles eg '*She's doctor*'. Rosita's street directions are not entirely clear or fluent, but most of the time, she demonstrates a good use of functional, grammatical and lexical items of Grade 3.

Rosita's English is always intelligible and she has clear pronunciation and intonation, throughout. Overall, this is a very good Merit performance.

Andrea

Grade: C

Area for improvement: Grammar

Result: Pass

Rationale

Andrea's contributions are moderately effective and only partially fulfil the task. He requires considerable support from the examiner to understand questions that are typically asked at Grade 3 (eg '*When's your birthday?*', '*What's he doing?*'). Also, his responses mostly comprise one word and are marked by hesitancy. There is little or no expansion.

There is limited coverage of the communicative skills of the grade and he has a narrow lexical range in respect of jobs, weather, hobbies etc. Examples of the present continuous as well as prepositions of movement, time and place occur as only isolated examples. Occasionally inaccurate pronunciation (eg '*third*' and '*pilot*') is also in evidence and careful listening is required. Despite this, there is a genuine exchange of basic information between candidate and examiner.