# Graded Examinations in Spoken English

## Performance descriptors

These performance descriptors are to be used for the assessment of all phases of the Graded Examinations in Spoken English and at all stages, with the exception of the Listening task phase at Advanced stage.

While, of necessity, the descriptors have to be generic in nature, it is important that examiners use them with reference to the requirements of the particular phase and take into account the grade at which the candidate is being assessed.

| Band | Task fulfilment |
|------|-----------------|
| A | The candidate's contributions are very effective, clearly comprehensible, highly appropriate and obviously fulfil the task. There is comprehensive coverage of the communicative skills, functions and language items of the grade. These items are used with consistency and with a high level of accuracy and appropriacy. Any inaccuracies which occur rarely impede the overall communication of meaning. The interaction proceeds smoothly, with the candidate contributing promptly and fluently. |
| B | The candidate's contributions are generally effective, comprehensible, appropriate and adequately fulfil the task. There is good coverage of the communicative skills, functions and language items of the grade. There is evidence of a good level of accuracy and appropriacy in the use of the language items although this may not be maintained throughout the phase. Inaccuracies do occur and at times they may affect the communication of meaning. The interaction generally progresses well but the flow may be affected by some hesitancy. |
| C | The candidate's contributions are moderately effective, comprehensible and appropriate and partially fulfil the task. There is coverage of the communicative skills, functions and language items of the grade although this may be characterised by the provision of only isolated samples. There is some control over the accuracy and appropriacy of the use of the language items of the grade. Inaccuracies can affect the communication of meaning and require remedial action. The flow of the interaction may be halted by hesitancy, requests for repetition or pauses while searching for language. The candidate may need some support. |
| D | The candidate's contributions are very limited, lack comprehensibility and appropriacy and, although there is some attempt at the task, this is not fulfilled even with support. There is very little evidence of coverage of the communicative skills, functions and language items of the grade. Inaccuracies and inappropriacies are highly evident and cause communication breakdown. Lack of understanding and severe hesitation impede communication and prevent the interaction from proceeding as required. |

# Graded Examinations in Spoken English

## Performance descriptors for Listening task at Advanced stage

These performance descriptors are to be used for the assessment of all phases of the Graded Examinations in Spoken English and at all stages, with the exception of the Listening task phase at Advanced stage.

While, of necessity, the descriptors have to be generic in nature, it is important that examiners use them with reference to the requirements of the particular phase and take into account the grade at which the candidate is being assessed.

**A** – All three responses match very closely the answers and conclusions provided and are delivered promptly, confidently and concisely.

**B** – All three responses approximate to the meaning of the answers and conclusions provided but may be delivered hesitantly and lack the appropriate focus.

**C** – Two of the responses match very closely or approximate to the meaning of the answers and conclusions provided.

**D** – One or none of the responses approximate to the answers and conclusions provided

## Fail look-up tables

**Initial stage**

D

**Elementary stage**

DD    Any 'NTP' grades result in a fail

**Intermediate stage**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ADD | ADN | |
| BDD | BDN | Only 'NTP' grades in these combinations result in a fail |
| CDD | CDN | |
| DDD | DDN | |

**Advanced stage**

AADDD    Any 'NTP' grades result in a fail

ABDDD

ACDDD

ADDDD

BBDDD

BCDDD

BDDDD

CCDDD

CDDDD

DDDDD