

13 October 2009

A2009/034
1 of 4 pages

**TO: Principals
 Principal's Nominees
 All Languages teachers**

Instructions in 2009 Languages Examination Booklets

Minor changes have been made to the instructions in all languages booklets.

The Listening standards

In order to align with the changed format of questions in the Listening standards and to help candidates as they answer questions, the following changes have been made:

- Questions that relate to a single Listening passage are either on a single page or a double-page spread. Candidates will not have to turn the page in the middle of a question.
- References to 'Sections' remain in the listening transcript to divide passages into manageable sized sections, and will be read out by the teacher.
- To support candidates as they work through questions, the transcript will indicate where each question in the Listening passage starts.

Teachers should also note that:

- Glossed vocabulary will be read with each section where it is relevant as well as at the start of the first and final readings.
- Pause lengths may vary depending on times the examiner has deemed appropriate to the complexity of the passage and/or requirements of the question.
- All instructions will be printed in the 'Instructions for Supervisors' booklet and read to candidates as usual.

For example, a Listening passage about a new puppy has two questions that relate to it, and has been divided into four sections, the first two of which relate to Question One, and the second two to Question Two. Candidates will hear the instructions italicised below:

PASSAGE ONE: The new puppy.

Listen to a passage about the new puppy that Jacques has been given

You will hear the passage FOUR times:

- *The first time, you will hear it as a whole.*
- *The second and third times you will hear it in sections, with a pause after each.*
- *The fourth time you will hear the passage again as a whole.*

Question One and Question Two are based on this passage

Answer them in English, on pages 2 and 3

Get ready to listen

First reading

Glossed vocabulary is given

The passage is read as a whole

Second and third readings: in sections with 30 second pauses

QUESTION ONE

Section One

Section one is read

Section One again

Section one is read

Section Two

Section two is read

Section Two again

Section two is read

QUESTION TWO

Section three

Section three is read

Section three again

Section three is read

Section four

Section four is read

Section four again

Section four is read

Final reading

Glossed vocabulary is given

The passage is read as a whole

You now have one minute to check your answers.

This is the end of Passage One. You now have one minute to read Question Three.

The judgement for each question is holistic. Candidates who write a correct response in a 'wrong' place will not be penalised. For example, if the answer to Question One (a) was written in the space for (b), it will be recognised and rewarded.

The Reading standards

In four standards the written text has been provided in a separate resource booklet as requested by the examiner. Candidates will be able to take the resource booklet with them as they leave the exam. These standards are:

French 90561

Samoan 90122

Samoan 90422

Samoan 90585

The Writing standards

The section 'You will be rewarded for' that has appeared in the general instructions above the tasks has been removed to align with other subjects.

The last bullet point in each task that stated 'any other information or ideas relevant to this task' has been removed. This is to help candidates focus on the task as outlined, and not drift into material that is not relevant and cannot contribute to the award of a grade.

The advice 'the **quality** of your writing is more important than the **quantity**' remains, as this is the definitive characteristic of higher quality responses. Candidates are strongly encouraged to use the planning page to draft responses that:

- enable the use of language up to and including the relevant curriculum level
- include only material that is relevant to the task.

Suggested numbers of words/characters are provided as a guide and are sufficient to allow all achievement grades. A carefully planned and well written response that has fewer words/characters than suggested could gain Excellence, whereas a response much longer than suggested could be inadequate for Achievement.

Changes specific to Japanese Level 3 only

The length of time candidates are advised to spend answering the questions in the Japanese Level 3 exam booklets has been changed to:

90570: Listening - 70 minutes (was 60 minutes)

90573: Reading - 55 minutes (unchanged)

90574: Writing - 55 minutes (was 60 minutes)

These changes will be taken into account when booklets are being marked.

In the Reading texts, some words in kanji have furigana added.

Enquiries

Please refer any enquiries relating to this circular to:

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