

CCEA EXEMPLIFYING EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE

A2 1 (AI211)

Irish: Speaking

Assessment Unit A2 1 Speaking

Please read this in conjunction with the relevant sound file on the GCE Irish microsite, under the Support Materials (A21) tab.

1. Discussion Title: Yu Ming is Ainm Dom and Lipservice

Examiner's Comments

Overall:

This candidate is able to explain why she chose these particular films in a natural way. The candidate analyses the motivation of the director in making the film Yu Ming is Ainm Dom. Although it is clear that whole sentences have been committed to memory for the purposes of the examination – “ní fheiceann Yu Ming rud ar bith a bhréagnódh a thuigbheáil gurb í an Ghaeilge gnáth-theanga labhartha na tíre seo” – this merely reflects thorough preparation and not mechanical rote learning. At every stage it is manifest that the candidate understands precisely what she is saying and, as a result, has ownership of the language used. More complex vocabulary such as comhbhá is used naturally and appropriately. Mispronunciations – “abairte becoming abairt?” – are corrected by the candidate herself in an unflustered and matter-of-fact way.

Examiners do not pounce on such errors and will usually be impressed by a speaker who notices and makes the effort to iron out blips, as one naturally would in English. The comfortable use of the passive voice lends a more polished feel to the discussion. She clearly has a very good understanding of the chosen theme and responds readily and fluently. In terms of language, there are very few grammatical errors, even where more complex language is used. Pronunciation is very good.

The candidate has plenty to say for herself and the general conversation does not need to be dragged from her. The same thorough preparation is evident in this stage of the

examination as was present in the discussion. The Irish used displays sophistication and regular practice of the language. The conversation follows familiar paths, general enquiries into the experiences and lifestyle of the candidate. Certain areas afford the examiner and candidate an opportunity to delve slightly deeper into conversation away from general enquiries, for example the speaker's proficiency at gymnastics. Pronunciation and intonation are very good. There are some errors in more complex structures, "sílim go bhfuil an áit galánta é, tá súil agam go bhfuil mé ábalta rachaidh ar aghaidh le Gaeilge," but such occurrences are comparatively infrequent. There is substantial evidence on the part of the candidate to argue points of view, to develop ideas and deal with complex issues.