



6 August 2014

The Editor
Forum Page
The Straits Times

Dear Editor

SCHOOLS CLEAR ON REVISED FORMAT FOR O-LEVEL ORAL EXAM

1. We refer to Mr S Ganesamoorthy's letter, "How should speeches in O-Level oral exam be delivered?", published on 28 July 2014.
2. In response to Mr S Ganesamoorthy's comment that marks be accorded for the "finer points of gesticulation, body language, stage presence or decorum", we would like to clarify that the Reading Aloud component assesses candidates' ability to read a short text with good pronunciation and articulation, and appropriate fluency and rhythm, bearing in mind purpose, audience and context. The assessment criteria for this component do not include gesticulation, body language, stage presence or decorum. What is important is how the short text is read out meaningfully according to the given context and purpose.
3. We would like to assure Mr S Ganesamoorthy that all secondary schools were briefed in 2012 on the revised format and the assessment tasks in the O-Level English Language syllabus, which includes the Oral Communication paper. Schools have been provided with specific assessment guidelines to prepare their students for the revised oral examination. Hence, schools are clear about the assessment criteria of the Reading Aloud component.
4. Please publish the above reply in full.

Thank you.

Tan Lay Choo
Chief Executive
Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board

