

8679 AS Level Afrikaans: List of Frequently Asked Questions

Are there any changes to the syllabus?

No.

What resources are available to support this syllabus?

The following resources are available from CIE Publications:

- Student Guide to Cambridge AS/A level Languages other than English (aimed at students and teachers, this gives a general overview of the syllabus, explains what examiners are looking for and guides students on how to approach the examination).
- Past Papers (from the November 2001 examination onwards).

Is AS level Afrikaans available in the June session?

No. AS level Afrikaans is available in the November session only. There is no A level Afrikaans.

Are students allowed to take dictionaries into the examination room?

No. Dictionaries are not permitted.

When will I receive the materials for the AS level Speaking test?

No question paper is required. The materials for the conduct and assessment of the Speaking test are to be found in the syllabus booklet for the appropriate year. Centres must provide their own cassette on which to record the sample of candidates for moderation. CIE will provide Centres with the MS1 computer-printed mark sheet(s) in October for the November session and marks can then be transferred from the working mark sheet(s).

What is the period for conducting the Speaking tests?

The Speaking test period is as follows:

November session: 15 October-15 November.

For AS level Speaking tests, what is the deadline for submitting cassettes, working mark sheets and MS1 mark sheets to CIE for moderation?

Mark sheets and cassettes for moderation for the AS level Speaking tests must arrive at CIE no later than:

22 November for the November session.

Once your Centre has completed its tests, you should despatch mark sheets and cassettes for moderation as soon as possible. Please don't wait until the end of the examination period before sending us these items.

Must I be accredited by CIE before conducting and assessing the AS level Languages other than English Speaking test?

Accreditation from CIE is not required in order to conduct the AS level Languages other than English Speaking test.

Who marks the Speaking tests?

It is the responsibility of the person conducting the Speaking tests to mark them. The tests should be marked as they are being conducted. Examiners should mark the 'live' candidate and not a recording.

How should I go about choosing someone to conduct and assess the Speaking tests at my centre?

Ideally, a teacher at the school should conduct and assess the Speaking tests. Where this is not possible and it is necessary to look for someone outside the school, you should look for someone who is fluent in the language, preferably with teaching experience and with experience of conducting other oral examinations. It is important that the person appointed takes the time to familiarise him/herself with the requirements of the examination before conducting and assessing any 'live' Speaking tests. The examination syllabus contains all the information the examiner will need and should be sent to him/her to read before the day of the examination. If it is not possible to send the syllabus to the examiner beforehand, then, on the day of the examination, you should arrange for him/her to arrive at the Centre 1-2 hours before conducting and assessing the first Speaking test, in order that s/he can read through the instructions contained in the syllabus.

What happens to my (Centre's) Speaking marks when they arrive at CIE?

When your recorded sample, working mark sheet(s) and moderator copy of the MS1 mark sheet(s) arrive at CIE, they are forwarded to one of our Moderators. The Moderator listens to your sample and looks at the marks that you have awarded to ensure that they are in line with the international standard. If your marks are in line, then they will not be changed. If they are not, then an adjustment will be made to bring them into line, eg the marks will be raised if you have marked your candidates severely, or lowered if you have been too generous. A report on your conduct and assessment of the Speaking tests will be sent to your Centre with the results.