



General Certificate of Education

English Language 6706 *Specification B*

ENB4 Investigating Language

Report on the Examination *2007 examination - January series*

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Although the January entry is much smaller than June's, it obviously suits some centres – both small and large – and by far the majority use their experience to guide candidates well and get the assessment right.

Good practice

As usual there was a demonstration of the importance of the following:

- good administration in centres
- evidence of conscientious internal moderation
- well-focused investigations
- well-presented folders.

Factors which helped candidates succeed were:

- regular consultation with teacher supervisors
- centres teaching a good understanding of key concepts which were then used confidently and appropriately
- centres teaching appropriate linguistic terminology
- centres supporting candidates who had open-minded expectations going into their exploration of their data
- relevant frameworks being used.

Investigations work best:

- when frameworks are applied rigorously
- when the data is explored systematically
- when data is quantified in tables or lists
- when findings are discussed in subsequent analysis.

Examples of interesting areas this time – and across the whole range:

- MSN and texting influenced by gender
- media interviews
- English as a second language
- language change in children's TV programmes
- remakes of films eg 'Alfie' 1965 cf 2004
- the dynamics of power in 'Frasier'
- gender differences in gaming forums
- talking about dreams – using Labov's narrative structure
- film speeches eg Cher in 'Clueless'.

Causes for concern

There can be many reasons why centres have their marks adjusted and/or why investigations are less than successful.

Tasks

Task setting is crucial. The best:

- identify a specific focus
- remain open-minded about outcomes
- use linguistic terminology
- use theorists relevantly.

Data

Good data that the candidate has some ownership over often marks out the successful investigation:

- readily available data from the internet does not easily bestow ownership
- speeches work better when heard and transcribed
- selection of data is a crucial element of the investigation
- comparisons should make sense and not be forced.

Structure

The single largest factor which limits success is:

- the essay approach.

Finally, as ever centres are encouraged:

- to use their coursework adviser throughout the preparation of the investigation
- to consult recent standardising material which is not only designed to set standards but also to give good ideas regarding data and successful investigation structure
- to seek to attend one of the standardising meetings around the country in autumn
- to help moderators by presenting unannotated investigations in well-secured and easy-to-handle formats and not heavily annotated copies in a single plastic sleeve or bulky folder.

Mark Ranges and Award of Grades

Grade boundaries and cumulative percentage grades are available on the [Results statistics](#) page of the AQA Website.