Stage 2 Background Speakers

Assessment Type 3: Examination

Oral Examination

The examination begins with the student indicating to the examiner(s) the topic of the in-depth study for discussion. The student is expected to explore the topic and related prescribed theme or contemporary issue with the examiner(s) and refer to the texts studied. The student may also refer to personal experiences related to the topic of the in-depth study.

The following questions are suggested as useful starting points in preparation for the Oral Examination. The questions are neither prescriptive nor exhaustive.

Sample Discussion Questions

* What is the subject (topic) for your in-depth study? / Which topic did you choose for your in-depth study?
* Why are you interested in this subject? / Why did you choose this topic?
* Tell me about your in-depth study.
* Could you talk about the way in which you researched information about your topic?
* Which type of texts did you use in your research about your topic?
* What criteria did you use to select your sources?
* How effective were your research processes?
* How difficult was it to find adequate resources for your in-depth study? Why?
* Did you conduct interviews? Whom did you interview? If not, do you think this could have been useful?
* What new information/perspective did this interview provide?
* Provide an example of something of interest you learnt from a specific source
* Was it difficult to find information for your in-depth study? If you did have any difficulties how did you resolve the problems?
* Can you speak about any personal experiences related to the topic of your in-depth study?
* What, in your opinion, is the most interesting important/aspect of this topic?
* What did you know about this topic before you studied it?
* Has learning about this topic changed your perspective on the issue or the way you think?
* Did you learn anything unexpected?
* What did you learn from your in-depth study?
* What knowledge have you gained through this in-depth study?
* Could you talk about any objects brought in to support the discussion?
* Did you uncover different perspectives or viewpoints on the topic you researched? What were these different perspectives or viewpoints?
* Was there anything unexpected you found out as a result of completing the in-depth study?
* Is there any aspect of this topic that you would like to know more about?
* Explain why you think this topic (or some aspects of the topic) may be of interest to another student.
* Can you describe what, for you, was the highlight of your in-depth study?
* How has your in-depth study helped you understand the culture of [Language]-speaking communities better?
* What are the main findings from your investigation? What is it about these findings that makes you classify them as the most important findings?
* If you had the opportunity to continue to research more information on your topic, which aspects of it would you choose and why?
* If you were talking to your friends about this topic, what would you tell them and why?