

Example 5: cell phones and pagers

Oral activity

Advanced level

MYP year: 5

Criterion	A	B	C	D	E
Level achieved	7	8	–	–	–

Background

The teacher randomly distributed index cards containing a debate topic (there was a possibility of 18 different topics in total). An indication, either “for” or “against”, appeared on each card. The cards would lead to a debate between peers, which was assessed in class, in front of the class and the teacher. The students did not know their opponent in advance.

The time allocated to complete each debate was five minutes during a 75-minute class period. The students had 15 minutes to prepare individually. While preparing for their debate, they could use dictionaries and personal notes taken from previous classes. A bell was rung to inform the students that they had one minute remaining, and as a signal to present concluding statements.

The student being assessed here is the boy, presenting the case “against”, that cell phones/pagers should not be used in school.

Assessment

Criterion A: oral communication—message and interaction

Maximum 8

Achievement level	Descriptor
7–8	<p>The student communicates basic and complex information with ease; ideas and opinions are relevant, focused and supported by examples and illustrations.</p> <p>The student shows a complete and sophisticated understanding of the topic through their responses and reactions.</p> <p>The student is actively engaged and contributes much to the conversation.</p> <p>The student’s coherent structuring of ideas enables the flow of the message and interaction.</p>

This work achieved level 7 because the student:

- communicates basic and most complex information with ease
- communicates ideas and opinions that are relevant and supported by examples and illustrations, although not completely focused at times
- shows a complete and sophisticated understanding of the topic through his responses and reactions
- is completely engaged and contributes much to the conversation
- demonstrates a coherent structuring of ideas that enables the flow of the message and the interaction. Even though there are some lapses, these are natural to normal conversation.

The student would have achieved a higher level if he had managed to completely focus all of his arguments and respond to all of his opponent’s arguments.

Criterion B: oral communication—style and language use

Maximum 8

Achievement level	Descriptor
7–8	The student’s intonation and fluency contribute effectively to communication. The student’s vocabulary is varied, appropriate and idiomatic . The student uses basic and complex grammar with a good degree of accuracy . Register and style are effective and appropriate to the task.

This work achieved level 8 because the student:

- uses an intonation and demonstrates a fluency that contribute effectively to communication; there are one or two minor errors but these do not undermine the level
- employs a vocabulary that is varied, idiomatic and appropriate; any errors are very minor in the context
- uses both basic and complex grammar with a very good degree of accuracy
- uses a register and a style that are effective and appropriate to the task.