

FIRST LANGUAGE THAI

Paper 0518/02
Reading and Directed Writing

Key messages:

- The best responses were well organised. They used paragraphs, an appropriate register and tone and blended the requirements for information and opinion.
- Candidates need to read the question properly to ensure that they don't misunderstand what is required of them.
- Handwriting needs to be legible.

General comments

The general standard this year was good, with performance in some Centres being particularly high. There was evidence of good preparation and confidence, along with an awareness of appropriate register, organisation, grammar and vocabulary. For a few candidates, timing was an issue. As last year, some did not read the question properly, which caused them to lose marks unnecessarily.

It is worth repeating that candidates should take care with their handwriting; if it is not legible enough to be read by the Examiner, then marks cannot be awarded. The expectation is that candidates entering for this examination can read and write Thai properly. Candidates should try to answer questions in their own words as far as possible, rather than copying directly from the text to answer the question.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1 - Question 1

Most candidates knew which register and lexis to use and how to summarise the two given texts according to the questions asked. This task requires candidates to be able to select relevant information and summarise it in their own words as far as possible. In order to do well, they should avoid copying directly from the text or adding descriptive detail instead. Some candidates misunderstood the task and summarised each text separately instead of summarising both texts together, or summarised only one or two parts instead of three parts.

Part 1 - Question 2

Performance was best in this question. Better candidates effectively used emotive and factual language, which appealed to the reader. There needs to be a balance of information from the texts, opinion and emotive language which can persuade the reader. Reading the question carefully and structuring answers well is of course important.

Part 2 - Question 1

This part was generally better answered than **Part 1**. The best candidates understood the task, chose appropriate language and tone and gave the reader a real sense of the interview. Some weaker candidates may have misunderstood the requirements of the task, omitting the important information or not using their own words. Good scripts had an introduction and a conclusion (e.g. the main purpose of the National Book Fair, or the importance of the interviewee). These good scripts also clearly showed that this was an interview script rather than a list of questions and answers or an essay. It was appropriate to use Thai polite particle endings here.

Conclusion:

There were some impressive candidates who really understood the tasks and produced high quality writing. Weaker candidates need more practice in how to summarise effectively, as well as being reminded to read the question carefully to make sure that they do not misconstrue the task.

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Paper 0518/03
Continuous Writing

Key messages:

- Candidates should take care to choose a question that engages them.
- Spending a short time planning their answer would be beneficial.

General comment

Most candidates seem to have prepared well this session. Better candidates had a good grasp of Thai handwriting, language, grammar and how to structure their writing in coherent paragraphs.

Candidates should make sure that they choose a question that interests them, and provides them with the best opportunity to demonstrate their own opinions and/or experience. Successful answers manage to hold the interest of the reader; this is easier to achieve if the candidate has chosen a question which engages them personally.

In terms of assessment objectives AO7-AO10, candidates need to pay attention to the language and structures they choose. Slang is not necessarily appropriate in tasks of this type, nor is English transliteration. The best answers include vocabulary which is wide enough to convey shades of meaning. The overall standard of some answers was negatively affected by the use of English sentence patterns and some candidates used the passive voice, which should be avoided in Thai. Punctuation is also important: there should be a space between the end of one sentence and the start of another, and of course full stops should not be used at the end of sentences.

Comments on specific questions

The questions were varied and offered candidates a good choice.

The most popular questions were **Questions 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8**.

In general, responses to **Question 2** A visit to a seaside town, **Question 4** Youth and **Question 8** Travel in Thailand were answered well. Candidates answered the questions with enthusiasm, probably because they felt that these topics gave them the chance to express their own personal experiences, opinions and explanations.

Questions 3 and 7 were also popular. These proved to be a little more challenging for some candidates, who found it hard to structure their response without using the sort of language and paragraphing structure one might expect to see on Internet blogs etc. Some otherwise promising responses lacked a conclusion, which was a shame. If candidates choose their question carefully and spend a short time planning their response, they will find that they do not run out of things to say at the end.

The questions which proved to be less popular were **Questions 1, 5, 6 and 9**. These questions were not more difficult, but candidates must have felt that their own ideas and experiences better fitted the other questions.