

FIRST LANGUAGE THAI

Paper 0518/02
Reading and Directed Writing

Key messages

- The best candidates understood how to use appropriate register, organisation, grammar and vocabulary.
- Candidates should take time to read all questions carefully to ensure they do not miss marks by omitting part of the task.

General comments

This year's candidates, in general, performed very well. Many responses were interesting to read.

As usual, candidates are reminded to take care with their handwriting, to ensure that it is legible. Examiners try hard to understand all that is written, but marks cannot be awarded if communication is not successfully achieved because of illegible handwriting.

In order to do well, candidates need to answer the questions using their own words, rather than lifting large sections from the original reading text.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

The best candidates well understood the task of how to summarise the two texts according to the questions asked. They were able to use appropriate register and lexis; however, a small number of candidates did not have the skills to select appropriate information, instead adding descriptive details. Such extra information is not required, and cannot receive marks. For this task, candidates need to be precise and give information while comes only from the two texts. This needs to be written as continuous prose, not a list of points or bullet points. They do not need to offer comments or opinions of their own. This year there were some candidates who wrote very short responses: in order to do well, candidates need to ensure they include as much relevant information from the texts as they can.

Question 2

Stronger candidates used appropriate language wisely, engaging the reader's interest and making their script more effective and convincing. In the very best responses, the reader was able to get a real sense of the atmosphere of the interview. In this task, candidates did need to use their own words; it was not enough just to copy all the information from the texts.

Strong responses included mention of the purpose of the School Book Fair and why they chose Mr Jadet Kamjorndeth for an interview. They introduced Mr Jadet Kamjorndeth to their school friends at the beginning of the scripts, to add context for the audience. There were a few candidates who misread the instructions and wrote an article instead of an interview script; candidates are reminded that they must carefully read the question and instructions before beginning to write their response. The better responses included a variety of question forms and polite particle endings such as 'ka' and 'krap' in their script of the interview.

Part 2

Question 3

Nearly all candidates found this question to be accessible. The best responses were written in both emotive and factual language, showing an awareness of how to grab the reader's attention. These responses were very convincing and persuasive. Weaker responses tended to contain too much simple factual information.

The best responses were well-organised in coherent paragraphs, including a blend of information from the text and the candidate's own related opinions. They were able to convince the reader to support a tradition and always remembered to mention Miss Anyamanee Seubsang as a good model for promoting Thai traditional Shadow Puppets.

FIRST LANGUAGE THAI

Paper 0518/03
Continuous Writing

Key messages

- Candidates need to read their chosen question properly to make sure that they understand what is needed.
- The best responses were those in which the ideas flowed logically through the essay.
- Handwriting needs to be clear so that Examiners can read what the candidate has written.

General comments

The most popular question this year was **Question 8**, and the least popular question was **Question 5**.

The best responses were well constructed with effective sequencing and paragraphing. The content was interesting, and candidates seemed to have read widely in preparation for the examination. They used language which was clear and appropriate to the topic.

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

Language

- use appropriate language for a written task. This should be formal language; not slang, informal spoken language or abbreviations.
- use a wide range of vocabulary, to avoid repetition.
- take care over spelling, vowels and punctuation: candidates should allow time at the end of the exam to go back and check their work and make corrections.

Structure

- prepare for the examination by reading widely from a variety of sources, and looking at the way the articles/stories/texts have been structured.
- make sure that their responses have an introduction, main body and conclusion. Within the main body, ideas should be split into discrete paragraphs. The concept or issue raised in the introduction should be developed in the main body of the essay, and then referred to in the conclusion.
- re-read the question frequently to make sure that their response stays relevant to the task. Some candidates this year misunderstood **Question 1** and translated the poem, which was not what the question asked them to do.
- at the end, re-read their essay to check that it is coherent and clear for the reader to follow.