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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

CHINESE LANGUAGE

GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

Paper 8681/01

Speaking

General comments

The overall standard was very high: all candidates were able to speak fluently and confidently.

Presentations were clear and logical and in the Conversation sections candidates were actively engaged in the discussion and able to ask questions as well as respond to their Examiners.

Candidates should be reminded, however, that the syllabus requires that the topic of their Presentation should be closely connected to an aspect of life in a Chinese speaking country/region or Chinese cultural heritage. Where this requirement is not met, marks for Content in the Presentation will be halved by the Moderator.

Paper 8681/02

Reading and Writing

General comments

As last year, the standard of work produced by candidates in this examination was very pleasing. They had understood the texts and made a good attempt at answering the questions using their own words. Occasionally, candidates answered questions according to their own opinion rather than using the information provided: such answers will not score.

The quality of language was generally good.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

Only (e) posed any particular problems for candidates.

Question 2

In (c) candidates often used *bei* incorrectly.

Question 3

Again, no question caused any particular problems though sometimes candidates missed out on a mark because they did not provide quite enough information in their answer.

Section B

Question 4

Candidates should be reminded that the mark allocation printed next to each question is a good indication of how many items of information an answer should contain. Candidates clearly had no problem understanding either the passage or the questions, but sometimes did not gain all the marks as they provided only a partial answer.

Question 5

The summary part of the question was tackled less successfully than the personal response, which produced some excellent and very interesting work. Ten marks are available for the summary, one mark for each item of relevant information gathered from the two texts, and candidates should bear this in mind when they check through their work.

<p>Paper 8681/03 Essay</p>
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General comments

The overall performance of candidates on this paper was well above average. The vast majority of the candidates were able to express themselves in a logical and convincing fashion. Even the weakest ones were able to write clearly and fluently.

A possible area for improvement in the future would be transitions between paragraphs, which could occasionally be rather abrupt.