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FIRST LANGUAGE DUTCH

Paper 0503/02

Reading and Directed Writing

General comments

In the first part of this Paper, candidates are required to compare two texts written in a different style. Information from both texts should be used for the remaining two questions in order to finish a story and write a letter. In general, candidates responded well to all three questions.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

For a comprehensive description of the differences and similarities between Texts 1 and 2, 12 marks were awarded. The remaining 8 marks were available for linguistic skill, i.e. structure (paragraphing, cohesion), style (vocabulary, sentence structure) and linguistic accuracy (spelling, punctuation, grammar). The main similarities between the two texts were:

- Both texts deal with the importance of television in many people's lives
- Both texts deal with live television
- In both texts, the viewers are interested in the lives of strangers
- Both texts deal with issues of privacy.

The main differences are:

- Text 1 is about a carefully orchestrated show, whereas Text 2 deals with real-life (spontaneous) situations
- In Text 1, people volunteer to be on television, whereas in Text 2, people may be seeking attention for their cause, but have never been asked to be on television
- In Text 1, reality TV is a new development in post-communist Russia and comes as a shock to the older generations, whereas in Text 2, the American viewers appear to be very familiar with the phenomenon
- Text 1 is a newspaper report, whereas Text 2 is a piece of prose fiction.

The best candidates discussed the issue of (the lack of) privacy. They would mention, for instance, that the cleaning lady in the hotel avoids getting involved in personal matters of the hotel guests, while, at the same time, she is addicted to television which reveals very personal dramas. Some of the best candidates were able to emphasise the irony of this situation.

Question 2

Candidates were asked to finish the story started in Text 2. For that, they had to be aware of the fact that the story was written in the past tense. Many candidates succeeded in adapting to the style and tone of the story. For continuity and for the selection of material 8 marks were available; the other 12 marks were available for narrative and linguistic skills.

Part 2**Question 3**

Many candidates wrote interesting and convincing letters about reality TV, expressing their views in a mature style. A few candidates showed they had misunderstood the question by addressing their questions to a newspaper and asking questions such as “are there any laws or regulations for these types of programmes?”

Paper 0503/03
Continuous Writing

General comments

Most candidates clearly show a good command of Dutch, but a significant minority has difficulty with complex structures (e.g. constructions with the word *er*) and native idiom and expressions. Only a few candidates combine all the qualities looked for: an awareness of detail, a mature and appropriate style, a sense of audience, clear structuring, accurate spelling and punctuation and, last but not least, a good level of interest for the reader.

Comments on specific questions**Question 1**

De mens behandelt de natuur als zijn eigendom. Is dat terecht?

Several candidates made a good attempt to tackle this issue. They expressed their concern about the environment and the way people treat their planet.

Question 2

Geef een beschrijving van het mooiste stuk natuur dat je in jouw omgeving kent.

This essay title called for a detailed description and this was very well understood by most candidates. The best essays also informed the reader about the impact a landscape had on the author's state of mind.

Question 3

Schrijf een kort verhaal met als titel: Een dagje naar zee.

A popular title. The best essays went beyond a summary of events.

Question 4

Je werkt om te leven, maar je leeft niet om te werken. Schrijf hierover een betoog.

Many candidates did well by arguing convincingly that work is only a part of life and that we should not forget to enjoy life itself.

Question 5

Schrijf een brief aan de gemeente waarin je woont en geef aan hoe volgens jou de kwaliteit van het leven voor jongeren in de gemeente verbeterd zou kunnen en moeten worden.

Many of the letters were very convincing, starting with a description of the present situation. In almost every letter, suggestions were given on how to improve the quality of life for young people.

Question 6

Alles ging mis die dag, totdat ...

Many stories were written in the first person and had a happy ending.

Question 7

Je hebt niets met sport. Na lang aandringen van een vriend heb je voor het eerst in je leven besloten mee te gaan naar een wedstrijd in een bomvol stadion. Beschrijf je ervaringen.

Many candidates described the atmosphere in the stadium in good detail. Good essays mentioned the author's feelings and impressions.

Question 8

Stel je voor dat ieder mens op zijn achttiende verjaardag het recht krijgt één kloon van zichzelf te hebben. Beschrijf de eerste ontmoeting met je kloon.

Most candidates addressed in a humorous way: "What is one supposed to do with this identical twin? Take it with you to school? Can it read your mind?"

Question 9

No candidates opted for this topic.