

FIRST LANGUAGE KOREAN

Paper 0521/01
Reading

Key Messages

- The answers for **Question 1** should contain clear, precise and well-constructed sentences.
- Candidates should pay attention to the marks available to be sure whether answers required are simple ones or complex/detailed ones with multiple points to cover.
- **Question 2** answers require comparison and contrast between Text 1 and Text 2. Candidates should summarise, paraphrase and re-express the ideas in the texts rather than copying large chunks of the extracts into their answers.

General comments

Overall, candidates performed well on this paper and most were able to demonstrate their comprehension of the texts and tasks. Many candidates showed their ability to scan, analyse and evaluate relevant information from the text for each question with a clear and an appropriate style of language for their answers.

However, some candidates did not fully address the questions and answered only partially. Candidates should pay attention to the marks available for each question in order to know how much information is required to answer fully. Some questions required a simple answer, indicated by 1 mark available, but some required more complex answers with more than one points to be made.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Many candidates understood the questions well and answered each question accurately. Questions requiring simple and straightforward answers, such as **(e)**, **(f)** and **(g)** posed no problems for the majority of the candidates. Many candidates also answered **(b)** well, writing the correct sentences which mean 'come empty handed and go empty handed', and also **(j)**, identifying the two expressions which show 'a paradox of non-possession'. A number of candidates had problems with question **(a)**: this question asked to find phrases which mean 'belongs to the world', which is '세상의 적'.

Some candidates were not able to score full marks on more challenging questions, such as **(d)** and **(i)**. Question **(d)** asked candidates to write what 'those children (그 애들)' in the text referred to, and find two phrases which use a similar method/technique. The method the author used in '그 애들' is personification. Two phrases which use this method are '목청을 돋구었다' and '겨우 고개를 들었다'. Many candidates identified the method but could not identify other phrases which used personification. Some candidates only wrote the phrases that include 'those children (그 애들)' rather than finding other phrases containing personification.

A number of Candidates did not provide enough explanation or discussion for question **(k)**. The negative aspect of 'possession (소유)' which the author learnt from his experience could include the following: 'By having an orchid, he is obsessed by it and this obsession is causing pain'; 'Possession becomes a restraint/yoke.' or 'No matter how much you possess, you die empty handed and it is of no use.'

Question 2

The majority of candidates successfully identified, linked and explored the common themes of the two texts and answered the question effectively. Most candidates answered the question adequately, with good use of their own words and complex syntax. However, a few candidates did not use a good linkage and orderly grouping of ideas. and/or didn't address the sub-questions fully.

Most candidates answered questions **2(a)** and **2(b)** well, exploring what was common and what was different in the subject of the two texts, and how the forms/styles of the two texts differ and how the authors tell stories in different ways.

Question 2(c) asked candidates to write how 'negativity of possession' or 'positivity of non-possession' are expressed. Some candidates only wrote what aspects were positive and what were negative in each text without linking the two texts and did not explore the two texts in a comparing and contrasting fashion. Many points can be discussed when answering **2(c)**. For example: possession does not have a limit or break; people are not satisfied with possessing things and go further to possess people; when things do not go as they want, they are willing to instigate tragedy. Adada in Text 2 feels uncomfortable with the fact that they have money, as she thinks money is the root of unhappiness. Adada's former husband and parents-in-law kicked her out because of money. Adada's present husband Soorong marries Adada, despite the fact that she is mute and he is not completely happy with her, since he can save money. Adada ends up being killed by Soorong, because she throws away money, which was Soorong's savings for buying land. Adada gets her happiness and freedom by giving up her possessions.

Candidates should organise such thoughts and ideas in a comparative, contrasting and cohesive fashion using relevant connectives.

FIRST LANGUAGE KOREAN

Paper 0521/02

Writing

Key Messages

In order to perform well on this paper, candidates need to select a title with which they feel comfortable and write a response that is clearly relevant, well-illustrated and coherently structured. The use of Korean should be generally accurate and of a suitably advanced nature as well as showing a good use of idiom and appropriate vocabulary. Sentence patterns should show some evidence of complexity and the style should be easy to follow.

Section 1 Discussion and Argument

General Comments

Overall candidates did well on this component and many good quality essays were produced. Top candidates wrote essays with a good structure, which were cohesive and had detailed arguments.

Generally in this section candidates were able to make a series of relevant, logical and straightforward points in their essays and but in some cases more complex arguments were needed.

Comments on specific questions

- (a) ‘부모님이나 친척 어른들이 18세 미만 아이들을 대신해서 중요한 결정을 내려야 한다.’ 는 주장에 동의합니까? 반대합니까? 논의하십시오. ‘The parents or relatives can/should make decisions for youngsters under 18. What do you think about this?’

Candidates who chose this topic wrote fair essays with clear and straightforward arguments.

- (b) ‘아이들은 가능하면 어렸을 때부터 외국어를 배우기 시작해야 한다.’ 라는 주장에 동의합니까? 아합니까? 이유를 들어 논하십시오. Children should start learning foreign languages as early as possible. Do you agree?’

This was the most popular topic and the majority of the candidates chose it. Candidates seemed to find it easy to develop their ideas on this topic and put them in a well-organised essay form.

- (c) ‘요즘 K-pop은 깊이가 없고 그래서 수명이 짧다.’ 이 말에 대해 어떻게 생각하는지 논하십시오. ‘K-pop music is shallow and has a short life.’ What do you think about this idea?’

This was the least popular topic but candidates who chose to write about it produced some well argued essays.

- (d) ‘사람들은 자기가 가진 것에 만족하지 못 하고 항상 다른 것을 원한다.’ 이 말에 대해 어떻게 생각하는지 논하십시오. ‘People in general are not satisfied with what they have and want something more or different. What do you think about this?’

Many candidates agreed with the statement in the question and had produced lucid and well structured essays, illustrating their points with relevant examples.

Section 2. Description and Narration

General Comments

For Description and Narration, the answers were chosen more or less evenly – about half of the candidates chose description and the other half narration.

Description was satisfactory in general – there was a selection of effective ideas and images that were relevant to the topic but some essays lacked devices such as creation of atmosphere or the building of tension, etc.

Narration was often little more than a series of events or straightforward story with occasional identification of character and setting. There was still room for improvement as far as plot development and story structure goes. A more sophisticated story-line with devices such as subtexts, flashbacks and time lapses would be more effective.

- (a) 100년 후 우리 동네의 모습을 상상해 묘사해 보십시오. Describe your town in 100 years' time (use your imagination).

Many who chose this topic gave vivid, futuristic description of their home town in 100 years and produced good quality essays.

- (b) 소중한 물건을 잃어버렸을 때의 상황과 심정을 묘사해 보십시오. Describe how you'd feel when you have lost something very precious.

The ensuing essays offered good description of feelings but some of them were quite unstructured – more like a flow-of-consciousness.

- (c) '최악의 방학'이라는 주제로 이야기를 만들어 보십시오. Write a story about 'the worst School holiday'.

This proved to be least popular topic and only a few candidates chose it. It produced generally satisfactory stories but they often lacked build-up of character and climax.

- (d) 소설을 쓰려고 합니다. '나는 동료들과 점심을 먹으러 나가려던 참이었다. 그 때 누군가 나한테 택배가 왔다고 상자를 하나 건네주었다. 발신인의 이름과 주소를 살펴보았지만 내 이름과 주소만 적혀 있을 뿐이었다.' 를 시작으로 소설을 쓰십시오. Write a story that starts with 'When I was about to go out for lunch there was a delivery for me. It was a box without the sender's name or address. There was only my name and address was written on it.'

This was the most popular topic in the section. Candidates usually wrote straightforward stories with appropriate development of ideas, satisfactory identification of characters and setting but the ending was often not satisfactorily managed and lacked climax.