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FOREIGN LANGUAGE MALAY

Paper 0546/02

Reading and Directed Writing

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Exercise 1 Questions 1 - 5

Candidates found this exercise very accessible and most were able to score full marks. The only question to cause any problems was **Question 5**, where a handful of candidates were unfamiliar with the vocabulary for 'dessert' and 'appetiser'.

Exercise 2 Questions 6 - 9

Most candidates scored full marks on this exercise.

Exercise 3 Questions 10 - 15

A good performance by most candidates. Where they had problems, it was mostly with **Questions 10** and **15**.

Exercise 4 Question 16

On the whole, candidates coped very well with this exercise. Most postcards were to the point and conveyed the information required by the rubric. However, some wrote at great length, straying from the rubric, and as a result missed out some of required items, e.g. date of arrival.

Section 2

Exercise 1 Questions 17 - 25

Candidates found the passage straightforward and most did not experience any difficulty answering the questions.

Exercise 2 Question 26

Candidates were required to write a letter to a friend about their school. As usual, while a few followed the instructions closely and were able to score highly for communication, many took a more rambling approach and in doing so, forgot to include the required points. It is best to take a systematic approach with this type of question to ensure that tasks are not missed. A handful of candidates understood changes in their school, '*Apa yang anda ingin ditukar...*', to mean they were changing school. Many answers were very interesting to read and provided a real insight into school life.

Section 3

Exercise 1 Questions 27 - 32

This exercise proved very accessible to candidates and there were many high scores.

Exercise 2 Questions 33 - 40

Questions 33, 34, 35, 37 and **40** were well answered by the majority of candidates. In **Question 36**, many candidates thought that the brother left because he had found a new friend. In **Questions 38** and **39**, many candidates lifted large chunks from the text, hoping, mistakenly, that the Examiner would select the correct items and award the mark; other candidates produced answers that came from their own imagination rather than from the text.

Paper 0546/03**Speaking****General comments**

This Paper was common to all candidates who had followed both a Core Curriculum and an Extended Curriculum course. The full range of marks was available to all candidates and, as last year, there was a wide range of performance from candidates.

As last year, the ability to communicate displayed by candidates was impressive. Centres generally conducted the examination very professionally, and it was only in a few Centres that Examiners were not well prepared for the Role play situations and/or did not always ask appropriate questions in the Topic and/or General Conversation sections.

Recording was usually well done in Centres, but a few tapes were difficult to hear – it is vital to check equipment prior to use.

Generally, marking in Centres was close to the agreed standard and in the majority of cases no adjustments, or only slight adjustments, to marks were required. Some Centres had larger adjustments made, usually due to one of the following:

- Poor timing – some Centres did not spend 5 minutes on the Topic/Discussion *and* 5 minutes on the General Conversation
- Failure to complete all the tasks in the Role play section – Centres must ensure that the Examiner prepares his/her role thoroughly.

Centres are reminded that if they have large numbers of candidates and wish to use more than one Examiner, they should first contact the IGCSE Foreign Languages Product Manager to obtain permission and discuss the establishment of internal moderation procedures within their Centre. Where more than one Examiner is used, it is vital that all Examiners interpret the assessment criteria in the same way to ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged.

Paper 0546/04**Continuous Writing****Comments on specific questions****Question 1**

Most candidates chose option **(a)** and wrote a letter to a friend giving advice on exam preparation. In general, they followed the rubric carefully, covering all the required elements, but a few omitted the last task, dealing with plans for after the examination.

There were very few answers to option **(b)** '*Negara Saya, adatnya dan tradisinya*'. Of these, only a handful were able to successfully describe the culture and traditions of their country.

Question 2

Examiners were impressed by the quality of the work produced by candidates in answer to this question. The vast majority wrote extremely entertaining stories, showing great imagination.

Examiners were pleased to see that this year there were far fewer examples of candidates confusing the use of *kami* and *kita*. However, there is still work to be done on prefixes and suffixes. It is important to get these right as the use of the wrong prefix/suffix will completely change the meaning of a word.