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FIRST LANGUAGE PORTUGUESE

<p>Paper 0504/02</p> <p>Reading and Directed Writing</p>
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General comments

Most candidates coped well with all questions and there were many well written and interesting answers.

As in previous years, many candidates showed a defective knowledge of grammar and spelling, including of words they borrowed from the texts.

Many candidates did not ensure their handwriting was immediately clear and legible. Candidates are expected to make an effort to write legibly. Sometimes candidates did not cross out material which was not to be assessed. Many candidates wrote in excess of the required 250 words per question.

Many candidates did not mark initial drafts of their work as rough work and the general presentation of their work was poor.

Many candidates wrote on loose sheets of paper but they did not ensure their work was securely fastened together. This is one of the instructions given on page 1 of the question paper. Centres forwarded scripts without ensuring scripts were in order.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

Most candidates answered this question well. Sometimes candidates were repetitive and/or included irrelevant material and they did not succeed in including all the relevant points in their answers.

Very often, there were long and irrelevant introductions, as in: *Neste mundo hoje em dia acontecem muitas coisas inesperadas. Podemos citar varios fatos que acontecem pelo mundo afora. Comentarei em dois casos trágicos que aconteceram com o João e com a Georgette.*

Question 2

Although many candidates chose to write about João, most opted to write about Georgette.

Many candidates adhered to the rubric, but many did not write about the person's successes *nos anos seguintes* and simply wrote summaries of the appropriate text.

Part 2

Question 3

Most candidates were able to cope with this question and again, there were many interesting and well written answers.

However, the general impression was that not all candidates read the question carefully and such candidates failed to write a speech and wrote an article. Many candidates did not address younger pupils. Some candidates did not write about the importance of education, but described how pupils should study. Some candidates wrote about the importance of the school they attend.

Common opinions expressed were: *Tudo se resume a isto: ter uma riqueza farta para satisfazerem-se e serem felizes; É o dinheiro que movimenta milhares de pessoas todos os dias e é este o motivo por qual todos os alunos deveriam levar a vida escolar e os estudos mais a sério; Com uma empresa poderosa, podemos trabalhar de um modo produtivo e gerador de fortunas intermináveis e muita felicidade; a única coisa que nos separa dos macacos são os estudos; Negar a educação é negar a liberdade. Quem não sabe não vê, logo não usufrui. No futuro para que servirá a liberdade se dentro de nós próprios vivêmos na escuridão?*

<p>Paper 0504/03 Continuous Writing</p>

General comments

Most candidates used a wide vocabulary and complex sentence patterns. It was good to see that nearly all of the questions from the question paper had been tackled. Many of the answers were coherent, well illustrated, and clearly structured. Several revealed a good ability to communicate and to develop arguments, although some candidates failed to draw a conclusion.

Generally there was a sound grasp of grammar in spite of a few lapses, especially in the position of the object pronoun. There were repeated mistakes in the use of *a*, *à* and *há*. There were several examples of popular abbreviations and slang, which are inappropriate in this kind of written material – ‘*tas* (for *estás*), ‘*tava* (for *estava*), and ‘*tavam* (for *estavam*).

Vocabulary was wide and precise. However, there were many spelling mistakes such as *cítio*, *escasses*, *insino*, *cido*, *decem*. One of the most common errors was in the misuse of *ç*. For example, *víçio*, *conheçer*, *apareçer*, *começei*, and *doçe*.

Candidates showed uncertainty in the endings of verbs, such as *deveriao* (for *deveriam*), *causão*, (for *causam*), *passão*, (for *passam*).

Punctuation and accents were omitted on many occasions. Remarkably some papers failed to include any accents at all.

Unfortunately some candidates attempted to use some Portuguese words but wrote them with an English spelling – *polluição*, *accidentes*, *excellente*, *efficientes*, and *official*.

Most candidates had been well prepared by the Centres and kept within the word limit for this paper. But some candidates wrote very long papers, which were not well structured and were presented in an untidy manner.