

FIRST LANGUAGE THAI

Paper 0518/02
Reading and Directed Writing

Key messages

- Candidates should read the questions with care, to identify:
 - details of the task
 - the appropriate register for the answer.
- If handwriting is illegible, examiners may be unable to award marks.
- Candidates need to manage their time to ensure that they can complete all questions on the paper.
- In a test of the use of Thai language, answers in other languages cannot be rewarded.
- Good answers achieve effectiveness by:
 - text organisation
 - an appropriate combination of language, selected facts from the stimuli and personal opinions in relation to the question asked.

General comments

This year, candidates in general performed well. Some Centres achieved a high performance across the whole paper. Strong candidates were clearly well prepared and answered the questions confidently. They clearly understood how to respond to each task in terms of using the appropriate register, organisation, grammar and vocabulary. Candidates are reminded to pay attention to timing in terms of allowing themselves time to complete all questions on the paper. In addition, candidates always need to ensure that they read the instructions carefully. Some candidates appeared to misread the instructions and so lost marks unnecessarily.

Furthermore, candidates are reminded to take care with their handwriting, to ensure that it is legible. Centres should also check that any extra pages used by candidates are carefully attached. A minority of Centres entered candidates whose level of reading or writing Thai language was inadequate to the tasks, and some candidates answered questions in a mixture of Thai and English language, which could not be rewarded and caused them to lose marks.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1 - Question 1

In general, candidates well understood the task of how to summarise the two given texts according to the questions asked, and they were able to use appropriate register and lexis. However, a small number of candidates did not have the skills to select appropriate information and therefore included only descriptive details in their answer. In addition, some candidates were not confident in summarising and just copied information from both texts, rather than using their own words and structuring their answer appropriately. Furthermore, some candidates did not read the question with sufficient care.

Part 1 - Question 2

This part, generally, was satisfactory. Strong candidates showed that they knew how to write using emotive and factual language, which appealed to the reader. In addition, some strong candidates' writing was very

convincing and enjoyable. Weaker candidates tended to produce material that was either too baldly factual, or used a choice of emotive language that did not manage to persuade the reader. Care needs to be taken with text organisation when writing: in addition, some weaker candidates tended to write using mostly their own opinion and emotive language and hardly added anything factual from the text. A number of candidates used mostly information from Text 1 to answer the question. Some candidates did not read the question and instruction properly and that made them use wrong information in their answer. As a result, they did not give enough detail to allow the reader to judge how interesting the article was.

Part 2 Question 1

In this part, the majority of candidates did better than in Part 1. In general, they wrote with a real sense of understanding of the tone and the task specified. The stronger candidates made use of appropriate language which appealed to the reader and that rendered their writing more effective and convincing, making the reader see the importance of promoting the art of 'Khon'. However, weak candidates did not read the question and rubric properly, and as a consequence they did not include sufficient important and relevant information in their answer. Another source of difficulty was that some candidates used only their own opinions and personal knowledge to answer this question. Lastly, some candidates did not achieve as well as they might have done because, rather than using their own words in their answers, they copied excessively from the source text.

Conclusion

It is very pleasurable to see candidates' achievement with high performance in the quality of writing this year. Some Centres achieved a very high performance. However, for weak candidates, attention needs to be given to the acquisition of the basics of summarising: careful reading, selection of information, adaptation to each new task, and the production of new texts with clear and precise information in the right register; plus, of course, reading the question properly in the first place.

FIRST LANGUAGE THAI

Paper 0518/03
Continuous Writing

Key Messages

- Candidates should take the time to assess the choice of topics available, and choose with care.
- It is important that candidates should select a topic which appeals to them, but also one about which they will be able to maintain their response in an appropriate style of writing.
- Time spent before writing on producing a plan – however rough - will never be wasted.

General Comments

Candidates' use of language to communicate meaning more clearly was noticeably better than last year. However, although use of paragraphs was more common, those produced often lacked unity. The standard of hand-writing was also noticeably better than that of last year, which made the task of the Examiners correspondingly easier.

There are 9 questions offered for candidates and all were selected. This year, it was encouraging to see that many candidates were well-prepared for the task in terms of technique, and produced a planning draft in mind-mapping form before writing their final version.

Comments on Specific Questions

Question 1, which concerned the King of Thailand, may well have seemed difficult at first sight for candidates to handle. However, those who chose it seemed to have made a good selection, and almost all produced impressive answers.

The four questions which proved most popular were: 5, 6, 8 and 9.

Question 9 was the most popular choice, presumably because it involved concerns directly and closely related to the routine of a teenager's daily activity: communicating through Facebook. Various lines of argument were followed in answering the question, and all were interesting.

Question 6 was also popular and many candidates demonstrated considerable skill in plotting the short story.

The third most popular was **Question 5**, chosen mainly by male candidates. Some excellent answers were produced, with candidates showing an impressive level of imagination.

Question 8 was the next most popular: the task of producing a speech to persuade friends to spend time for body exercise attracted a limited group, but those candidates who attempted it generally produced a good piece of work.

The questions which fewer candidates selected were 1, 2, 3, 4, and 7. However, these questions do not seem to have been too difficult for those candidates who selected them, and there was no obvious "problem" question. In general, most candidates seem to have made good choices – although there were still some who clearly ran out of ideas, and possibly of time, and who might have benefited from making a better initial choice.