FIRST LANGUAGE TURKISH

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Paper 0513/01

Reading

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General comments

Question 1

The candidates did especially well on this question where they had to answer 8 reading comprehension questions. All the candidates tackled all the questions. The quite high average confirms that most candidates managed to show that they understood the straightforward facts about astrology and contradicting approaches to it of the authors of Texts A and B. Better candidates reflected comprehension at a deeper level, understanding the hints, more subtle messages answering **Questions d** where they had to explain how a hand dealt in a card game compared to one's horoscope, and **Question e** where they had to draw the answer interpreting an example to explain the function of astrology in improving relationships and in **Question h** where they had to select the statements which demonstrated best that the author of text A really believed in astrology.

This type of comprehension questions are assessing quite effectively candidates' ability to understand explicit and implicit meanings and select what is relevant, without putting too much demand on their writing skills which is tested extensively in paper 2.

Question 2

This question required candidates to compare the two texts/the opposing approaches of the two authors in a summary. They were also allowed to take side or to stay neutral. Most candidates included enough points and relevant examples to reflect their comprehension of opposing approaches, facts and feelings. Unfortunately some candidates, forgetting that they were supposed to comparie opposite approaches of the two authors, ignored some important information in one or the other of the texts because they preferred to write more about what **they** think about the subject. For some candidates this is possibly because of unfamiliarity with the format of the exam; that **Question 2** requires candidates to write a summary based on texts A and B. For a few others though, it is just a classical example of candidate forgetting what the question is demanding once he/she starts writing and getting carried away with own thoughts and opinion. Best candidates reflected their own views in the choice of words when they were summarizing. For example; "The author of text A **claims that** ….. **whereas** we **know** that planets are **too** far away to have any magnetic influence on us." or "The author of text A **knows** that many firms employ people according to their Zodiac sign." Some candidates took a neutral approach but still effectively summarised the main points reflecting opposing views.

Another mistake which is mostly seen among candidates who have had no formal training in Turkish Language, is writing their summary addressing a reader who, they assume, has read the two texts already. Candidates need to be reminded that a summary is a shortened version of the original. The main purpose is to highlight the major points from the original texts, helping the audience get the gist in a much shorter text.

The summary question is the one which reflects most the presence or lack of Turkish Language as a subject in the school program and familiarity with the IGCSE exam format and comprehension of the assessment objectives for the reading paper.

FIRST LANGUAGE TURKISH

> **Paper 0513/02**
>
> **Continuous Writing**

Section 1

Almost a quarter of candidates chose topic **a**: *We must now leave nationalistic feelings and national borders aside and accept that we need to share our country with people who immigrate from other places for economical or other reasons. Discuss this view.*

Over 30% of the candidates chose topic **b**: *In what ways might children today be lonelier than they were in the past?* This was the most popular topic in this section probably because candidates found it easier to relate to this topic than to the others.

Almost 20% of the candidates chose topic **c**: *As far as our language and culture are concerned there is nothing wrong with using foreign words for new concepts instead of creating new words in Turkish. On the contrary it makes it easier for us to join the globalizing world. Do you agree or disagree? Explain your view giving reasons why.*

A quarter of the candidates chose topic **d**: *Food sources are not enough to feed the ever growing world population. Therefore genetic engineering is the only way out to prevent serious food shortages and famine. Discuss to what extent you agree or disagree with this view.*

The average mark for this section was slightly less than for ***Section 2.***

Section 2

The first two topics, which required the candidates to describe a special day (first day at school) or a very routine day (Sundays at home), and the last two topics, which required candidates to narrate a chain of events, proved to be equally popular with the candidates.

26% of the candidates chose topic **a**: *The first day I started this school ....*

Just over 20% of the candidates chose topic **b**: *Describe a typical Sunday at home.*

Candidates who chose these two topics were generally very good at setting the scene, and reflecting their feelings.

The largest proportion of candidates chose topic **c**: *I had been waiting for more than an hour in the café and my boy/girlfriend had not turned up. What a disappointment! I stood up and prepared to leave. Right at that moment ... Write a story, starting with these words and narrating the events that followed.*
This question type has always been very popular with the candidates.

17% of the candidates chose topic **d**: *An unforgettable day/night. Write a story about the events that made a day, night or another time period unforgettable enough to deserve this title.*

Although the stories that candidates wrote for these two topics were not always very sophisticated, most of the candidates demonstrated the skill of developing a story, creating an atmosphere and engaging the reader.

Better candidates presented a variety of complex sentences, reflected a good sense of audience, used a wide range of vocabulary effectively and used paragraphs in texts which had a clear beginning, a development and an end.

Some of the common language mistakes repeated year after year are illustrated below.

- Using *fazla* instead of *çok* e.g. *olumlu sonuçları da fazladır*.

- *ki* as a suffix.

- *ki* as a conjunction/*bağlaç*: Apart from a few cases like *Mademki*, *ki* is written as a seperate word when it is used as a conjunction (*ki bağlacı, kalıplaştığı birkaç sözcük dışında – Mademki istiyorsun, git. - ayrı yazılır*).

- Subject/verb agreement.

- Confusing *önce* with *öncelikle*.

- Confusing *kulak asmak* with *kulak vermek*.

- Using very informal/spoken language forms like *o şekil kaldım* instead of *o şekilde kaldım*, *Beş dakika falan* instead of *beş dakika kadar*.