

ARABIC

Paper 3180/01
Composition

General comments

The overall performance and standard of the candidates was good. The standard was similar to last year's paper.

Recommendations

- 1) Candidates should keep to the recommended length of writing.
- 2) Quotations should be accurate and relevant to what is being discussed.
- 3) Candidates must pay particular attention to handwriting, grammatical structures, spelling and punctuation.
- 4) Candidates should be given ample practice in reading and writing skills to raise their standard.

Comments on specific questions

Section A: Letter, Report, Dialogue or Speech

Candidates were asked to write a composition of approximately 120 words from a choice of three topics:

- (a) **Imagine that your name is Khalid/Zainab and your address is Royal Street, Port-Louis. Write a letter to your friend informing him/her that you intend to do some social work during your summer holiday.**

Nearly two thirds of the total candidates attempted this question and generally the performance was of a good standard. Some candidates excelled in their work.

- (b) **Write a report on a road accident you have witnessed.**

Few candidates answered this question. Candidates should have further practice in report writing rather than using other forms.

- (c) **You have been given a detention class at school. Compose a dialogue between yourself and your father who is inquiring about the matter.**

Many candidates were attracted to this question. A large number of them answered it well, although some did not adhere to writing in a dialogue form.

Section B: Essay

Candidates were asked to write a composition of approximately 200 words from a choice of four topics:

- (a) **Write a story about a young person whose friends were a bad influence on him/her.**

This was attempted by many, if not most candidates. The majority of candidates referred to smoking, alcoholism and drug taking as sources of 'evil' among friends.

(b) Write about your first trip to a foreign country.

A very popular topic to write about and most candidates did well in conveying their own personal experiences vis-à-vis travelling.

(c) One day you visited the hospital. Describe your visit and the hospital.

Few candidates answered this question describing their feelings when they frequented hospitals to visit relatives and friends. Some candidates needed certain medical vocabulary to help them with their answers.

(d) Would you prefer to live in a town or a village? Give your reasons.

Many candidates were attracted to this topic which required them to compare urban with rural life. Most of them did well.

ARABIC

Paper 3180/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

General comments

The overall performance of candidates was good.

Recommendations

- 1) Candidates should be encouraged to develop the special skills needed to translate from Arabic into English and vice versa. This can be done by using different texts from various books, magazines, newspapers and past examination papers to widen their vocabulary.
- 2) Candidates should pay attention to the use of tenses, punctuation and handwriting.

Comments on specific questions

Section A - Translation

Question 1 Translation into English

The majority of candidates demonstrated a good knowledge of vocabulary, grammatical structures and spelling. However some candidates didn't translate some of the diseases correctly, for example: cancer, headache, and stress, were replaced with Parkinson's disease, migraine, stroke and other diseases not mentioned in the text. Candidates should also be aware of the use of uncountable nouns in English i.e. atmosphere, environment, pollution, information, etc., which have no plural form and cannot be used with numerical values.

Question 2 Translation into Arabic

On the whole this passage was translated very well. However a large number of candidates translated 'pupils' as 'people', 'elegant' as 'handsome' and 'tall teacher' as 'high teacher'. There was another common error in the use of pronouns and in the precise translation of 'recreation'.

Section B - Reading Comprehension

Questions 3–10

Most candidates coped with these questions very well which reflected their ability to comprehend the meaning of the questions and then find the appropriate answers from the text.

Again, as recommended in the previous years, candidates should be urged not to lift phrases or whole sentences from the texts of the examination paper and use them as answers.