

FIRST LANGUAGE CZECH

Paper 0514/02

Reading/Directed Writing

General comments

Candidates attempted all the questions and made every effort to express their opinions and thoughts to the best of their ability. Problems arose when the candidates failed to read the task properly. It is recommended that candidates plan all answers very carefully before writing them and read all the answers through at the end.

In a few pieces of work, English influenced the Czech in a negative way. Candidates should be encouraged to avoid foreign expressions when there are good Czech equivalents.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

In this question there were four tasks. In tasks **(a)** and **(b)** candidates were asked to work with two texts and analyse them. They mostly analysed the second text very well, but they had more problems with the first text – maybe because it was an artistic text written 20 years ago.

Candidates had no problems with tasks **(c)** and **(d)**, but they spent too much time on these questions. They should keep their answers brief, clear and concise.

Question 2

In this question the candidates were asked to write a speech which could be read at a demonstration. Many candidates wrote very good texts. Some, however, lacked a good argument and any sound ideas. To be convincing, the speech needed a good logical structure and well-considered ideas. A convincing speech is not just a tangle of exclamations!

Many candidates had a good understanding of speeches, making an impact with short sentences and addressing their listeners effectively.

Question 3

In part **(a)** the candidates were asked to write a commentary on several graphs. The candidates did not have any difficulty in choosing important data from these graphs, but the problem for many of them was to write a short, brief, factual newspaper article using the data.

In part **(b)** the candidates were asked to write instructions which could be hung out on a notice board. The priority of this task was to write clear, comprehensible instructions. Not all candidates fulfilled this requirement.

General comments

For this paper candidates were required to choose one of the topics and to write between 350 and 500 words. The candidates only wrote on three of the topics: the most popular was **Topic 7** - *Náš rodinný mazel*, followed by **Topic 9** – *Nemáme je rádi! Ale proč?* and **Topic 1** – *Čtu, maluju, zpívám, protože...*

Most answers were very interesting, and candidates tried to express their opinions, experiences and feelings. Especially in **Topic 1** the depth of analysis was impressive. Improvements could be achieved if the candidates paid more attention to detail, structured their answers better and used a greater variety of language.

Comments on specific questions

Topic 7

Candidates often oversimplified by telling stories about animals. They often used the spoken form of the language and made mistakes. For example: *pravidla pro psaní přímé řeči, citlivá volba výrazů, přechod mezi psaným vyprávěním a přímou řečí co se týče volby lexika a stylistického zpracování.*

Topic 9

Candidates tended to ask questions and not follow up by answering them with any deep thought. For example: *Kdo jsou to menšiny? Kde se vzal rasismus? Jaké je řešení? Atd.* The candidates should also pay attention not to use *klishe*. They should not be afraid to express their own opinions.

Topic 1

Many candidates tried to solve the question of art/Art? What is it? This difficult subject created problems for some candidates. The answers were more successful if the candidates talked about their personal relationship to some sort of art.

Candidates should read their answers through several times to eliminate things that do not make sense and to improve the language and grammar. Frequent mistakes included: *nejasně formulace myšlenek, dlouhá souvětí, ve kterých se ztrácí smysl výpovědi, špatně volené pády – obzvláště u přídavných jmen v postavení za podstatnými jmény, používání nevhodných cizích slov, ačkoliv existují české ekvivalenty. Mnohdy docházelo k posunutí významu.*

Conclusion

Candidates are advised not to write overlong answers. The answers must not exceed 500 words. They should use their time to read over their essays and correct them.

Generally speaking, candidates were well prepared and produced quality answers, but they should work on how they use language and how they express ideas and experiences.