

BENGALI

Paper 3204/01

Composition

General comments

Most candidates performed well this session. Even the weakest candidates attempted to address their topic of choice whilst the more able ones took the opportunity to show their command of the language. However, a small number of candidates lost out on marks due to irrelevance or poor presentation. Lack of punctuation caused some confusion and ambiguity. Some candidates' answer sheets were found scattered within the pack, as these had not been attached properly.

Most candidates wrote skilful and thoughtful essays. However, a handful number of candidates could not maintain consistency of quality or did not show a sufficient command of the language. Some candidates wrote essays that were too long, ignoring the word limit, whilst others wrote introductions that were too long and then suddenly remembered the word limit. This often resulted in essays that ended too drastically without a proper conclusion. Candidates should be made aware that their work is assessed on presentation, accuracy of spelling and sentence structure, cohesion, consistency and the ability to arouse and sustain interest in the reader.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

Most candidates chose this question and scored highly. Candidates who responded to the task according to the bullet points in a logical and concise way gained comparatively higher marks, whilst others scored lower marks as they appeared not to have understood the requirements or to have read them carefully. Quite a few candidates did not use the address given in the question paper. A small minority of candidates wrote a dialogue, while some gave unnecessary descriptions of irrelevant matters that almost inevitably increased the number of words beyond the word limit. A very small number of candidates unnecessarily translated the address in English on a drawn envelope.

Question 2

A few candidates either ignored or struggled with the second and third bullet points in this task; even some of the more able candidates lost out on marks for ignoring the requirements of second bullet point, while a very small number referred partially to, or even overlooked the third bullet point. Centres should advise future candidates to refer to all parts of the question and read the tasks more carefully.

Question 3

Most candidates performed very well. It was quite encouraging to see almost all candidates establish their own arguments successfully. Some candidates used their knowledge of endangered wildlife in the wider world to good effect, whilst a few candidates wrote essays that were too general and did not refer directly to the topic of discussion.

Question 4

Almost all candidates successfully established their arguments and used information from a variety of countries across the globe with specific reference to the developing countries. Those who had written an outline in advance generally scored higher marks.

Question 5

This interesting topic inspired most of those who attempted it to use their imagination and rhetorical skills to good effect, resulting in high scores. A handful of candidates, however, failed to present their work logically with valid points and didn't manage to maintain consistency across the essay. Centres should bring this matter to the attention of future candidates in order to enhance performance.

BENGALI

Paper 3204/02

Language Usage and Comprehension

General comments

In general, most candidates performed well. It was good to see that all candidates attempted every question, regardless of their ability level.

Quite a few candidates presented their work impressively in terms of quality and neat handwriting, whilst others frequently crossed out their answers and rewrote them or used correction fluid.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

A1

Most candidates attempted to answer this exercise and scored reasonably highly, although a significant number of candidates had some difficulties with **Questions 2 and 5**.

A2

A vast majority of the candidates coped well with this exercise which demanded a good level of idiomatic knowledge.

A3

Regardless of ability, almost all candidates did very well in this exercise. Despite being given a clear instruction to write the full sentence, some candidates only wrote the missing part missing in their answer booklet.

A4

Only a few able candidates did very well, while the majority of candidates found it rather hard to cope with this exercise. It was evident that some candidates had not read the passage through first and, hence, failed to make the right choice for each gap. As a consequence, many candidates lost out on marks.

Section B

B5

This exercise enabled some candidates to score highly, although some less able candidates appeared to be confused, perhaps not having read the text thoroughly. Candidates are strongly advised to check the validity of their answer against the text prior to writing it down.

Section C

C6

A sizeable minority of candidates showed their command of the language in this exercise, whilst a large number of candidates simply lifted sentences from the text. It appears that some candidates did not understand the text very well, perhaps due to lack of careful reading. Candidates should be reminded to read the whole text and full set of questions prior to answering. This will help avoid overlap in answers.

C7

Performance varied widely. Some did very well, while others struggled with **Questions 39** and **42**. Some candidates gave English translations of the words. Candidates need to be reminded that they must always use Bengali in open-ended questions such as these.