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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

CHINESE

GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level and GCE Advanced Level

Paper 9715/02
Reading and Writing

General comments

Candidates demonstrated reasonable to excellent understanding of the arguments, ideas and information in the two texts. While there were many examples of full answers to questions, expressed in clear language, there were also occasions when candidates produced answers that did not match the question asked. Candidates should be reminded of the importance of reading questions carefully.

In most cases, candidates were able to organise information well and made a good effort at using their own words. The quality of language was generally good, though there was some inappropriate use of expressions and grammatical structures.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

Candidates coped very well with this question, often scoring full marks.

Question 2

Answers to **(a)** were often awkward as candidates did not drop the word 'which'; **(b)** caused no problems; but answers to **(c)** often contained grammatical errors.

Question 3

On the whole, candidates coped very well with this question. Where candidates had problems, it was usually with **(b)** and **(c)**.

Section 2

Question 4

Candidates did not cope as well with this question as they did with **Question 3**. Answers were often incomplete and could not, therefore, score full marks.

Question 5

There were some excellent answers to this question, that succeeded in integrating material from both texts, included candidates' own ideas and were written in good Chinese. Where marks were lost it was because candidates did not respond fully to the question, e.g. candidates simply wrote a few sentences on the status of women before and during the Tang dynasty. Quality of language was generally good.

Paper 9715/03**Essay****General comments**

The performance of the candidates was generally very good. They all had a level of Chinese which enabled them to express their ideas clearly in the target language. However, use of a more varied vocabulary would have resulted in higher marks for language and made essays more interesting to read.

The content of the essays was generally satisfactory although there was a tendency for candidates to only consider one side of the argument. Candidates should be encouraged to examine questions from different points of view in order to bring greater depth to their argument.

Paper 9715/04**Texts****General comments**

Candidates had to answer 3 questions. Most candidates answered questions on 'Zhufu', 'Leiyu', 'Lin Jia Puzi' and 'Xiao Erhei Jiehun'. Short answers and essays were largely well-planned with the information asked for in the question provided in a carefully thought out and systematic fashion.

Candidates should remember that it will always be very apparent to the Examiner if they have not read, or have little knowledge of a text. Where a candidate has no real knowledge of a text, this will have a significant impact on the marks s/he can gain, even if s/he writes in fluent Chinese.

Comments on specific questions***Section 1*****Question 1**

- (a) Candidates answered this question well. Candidates would benefit from reading each sub-question very carefully to make sure they have thoroughly considered what is required before starting to answer. Candidates should realise that for some sub-questions there is no one right answer. Candidates should give their view and then make their case for it.
- (b) Candidates did not choose this question.

Question 2

- (a) This question was well answered. There were some particularly thoughtful comments on the stage directions.
- (b) This question gave candidates the opportunity to make a case and provide arguments to back it up. It was well done.

Question 3

- (a) To answer this question effectively, it was insufficient to be able to read and comment on the printed extract. Candidates needed to be conversant with the poem as a whole.
- (b) Candidates did not choose this question.

Question 4

Candidates did not choose this question.

Section 2

Question 5

- (a) There were some good convincing answers about the heroine of this story with each of the points in the question addressed and illustrated.
- (b) Candidates did not choose this question.

Question 6

Candidates did not choose this question.

Question 7

- (a) On the whole, candidates answered this question well. It was evident that some candidates would have benefited from a little more background knowledge about China at the time the story was written. The best answers came from candidates who dealt with the issues of the anti-Japanese war, government corruption and bankruptcy in the countryside separately, rather than muddling them together.
- (b) Candidates did not choose this question.

Question 8

Candidates did not choose this question.

Paper 9715/05

Prose

General comments

Candidates taking this Prose Paper did extremely well. They provided accurate translations of the English in well-written Chinese. Mistakes that were made were either careless slips or uncertainty over words describing feelings, as in 'loneliness' and 'downcast'. Candidates should always check their work and polish the translation to improve it.