

FIRST LANGUAGE THAI

Paper 0518/02
Reading and Directed Writing

Key messages

- The best responses were well organised with paragraphs and an appropriate register and tone.
- Candidates need to read the question properly to ensure that they don't misunderstand what is required of them.
- Handwriting needs to be legible.

Overall impression

This year's candidates, in general, performed very well. Some Centres achieved high performances across the board. Strong candidates were well prepared and answered the questions confidently. Also, they clearly understood how to respond to each task in terms of using the appropriate register, organisation, grammar and vocabulary. Candidates are reminded to pay attention to timing in order to allow themselves time to complete all questions on the paper. In addition, candidates need to ensure that they read the instructions carefully. Some candidates appeared to misread the instructions and so lost marks unnecessarily.

Candidates are reminded to take care with their handwriting, to ensure that it is legible. Centres should make sure that candidates can read and write Thai properly. Some candidates did not appear to be First Language candidates, and they struggled with the demands of the examination.

In order to do well, candidates need to answer questions using their own words, instead of copying large parts of the text indiscriminately to answer the question.

Centre staff are reminded please to check that any extra pages used by candidates are securely attached.

Part 1

Question 1

In this task, candidates need to remember to be precise and to give information only from the two texts, without offering comments or opinions of their own. In general, candidates coped well with this task. Candidates well understood how to summarise the two given texts according to the questions asked. They were able to use appropriate register and lexis; however, a small number of candidates did not have the skills to select appropriate information and therefore added descriptive details in their answer. In addition, some candidates did not know how to summarise and just copied information from both texts without using their own words. Candidates must remember to read the question/instruction properly, and to summarise both texts together instead of dealing with each text separately. Candidates are expected to write in continuous prose, not bullet points. Formal language is appropriate for this task.

Question 2

In this part, the majority of candidates did well. In general, they wrote with a real sense of understanding of the tone and the task given. The stronger candidates used appropriate language wisely which appealed to the reader and that made their writing more effective and convincing. It made the reader get a real sense of the importance of Forest and Wildlife Conservation. However, weak candidates did not read the question and instruction properly. Therefore, they did not include important and relevant information in their answer. As in the previous question, candidates need to try to use their own words instead of lifting chunks of text from the original passage. Those candidates who did well remembered to mention the purpose of the school event about nature conservation. It was important to mention who Mr Seub Nakasathien was to their school

friends in their writing. There were a few candidates who introduced Mr Seub Nakasathien as being alive and coming to the school, in spite of the fact that he is dead. Rarely, candidates wrote in the wrong genre; writing a letter instead of a leaflet.

Part 2

Question 3

This part seemed to be the easiest task for most of the candidates. Strong candidates showed that they knew how to write using emotive and factual language, which appealed to the reader. In addition, some strong candidates' writing was very convincing and persuasive. Weaker candidates tended to produce material that was either too factual, or full of opinion which was not based on the given text. In this task candidates need to add their own relevant opinion and emotive language. Of course, good responses were structured in paragraphs. Candidates needed to mention Mr Yuthana Boonprakong as a good model for promoting Thai dolls. Finally, they should strive to use interesting and accurate lexis and structure.

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Paper 0518/03
Continuous Writing

Key messages

- Candidates should take care to present their work legibly
- Candidates should choose a question which interests them and about which they have enough to say.

General comment

Candidates did well this session. They usually thought out their responses in a plan, and this helped them to structure their writing.

The best responses were lively and engaging, with candidates showing their ideas well. The candidates were obviously interested in the topic of the question, and this interest came through in their writing. In order to succeed, some candidates needed to take greater care over their handwriting though, as it was not always correctly formed.

In terms of language and accuracy, some candidates were unfortunately, as in previous years, affected by English sentence patterns. This led to Thai sentences that did not sound authentic or correct. Some used the passive voice which should be avoided in Thai. There was also a good number of incorrect verbs, transliteration, wrong spelling of both simple and complicated words, incorrect punctuation and placing tone marks in the wrong position.

In order to do really well in this component, candidates need to spend time beforehand making sure that they practice continuous writing tasks and take on board any feedback from their teachers about punctuation, spelling, sentence patterns and avoiding the influence of English. They should also allow time during the examination for re-reading and correcting any errors they may have made.

Some candidates' responses would have benefitted from candidates having a better geographical knowledge of Thailand.

Comments on specific questions

The questions were varied and offered candidates a good choice.

The most popular questions were **Questions 4, 7, 3, 9 and 2**, in that order. Over 25% of candidates chose **Question 4** and approximately 20% chose **Question 7**. Both of these questions were concerned with teenagers: their activities, their friends and their lifestyles. Naturally, candidates had a lot of experience of this topic and most were able to provide a free-flowing response, full of well-explained ideas. Furthermore, candidates also showed a good use of imagination, their own experiences and their modern way of thinking in responses to **Questions 3, 9 and 2**.

Although **Question 8** was chosen by only a relatively small number of candidates, those who did answer this question were successful for the most part because the topic is one close to their hearts: Mother.

Questions 1, 5, 6 were by far the least popular.