

FIRST LANGUAGE THAI

Paper 0518/01
Reading and Directed Writing

Key messages

- Candidates should take time to read all questions carefully to ensure they do not miss marks by omitting part of the task.
- In **Question 1(i)** Candidates should remember that **(i, ii)** requires a reason on the writer's use of language in the whole phrase – simply giving the definition is insufficient as an answer.
- Candidates should take note of the number of marks available for each question – if there are 2 marks then they should try to find 2 discrete points for their answers.
- For **Question 2**, Candidates should ensure they refer to all 3 bullet points, and attempt to develop, evaluate, or analyse the facts, ideas, and opinions from both passages.

General comments

This year's candidates, in general, performed well. Many responses were insightful and interesting to read.

In order to do well, candidates need to answer the questions using their own words, rather than lifting large sections from the original reading text.

Responses to the sub-questions in **Question 1** revealed that the main points in the passage 1 had been clearly understood and many candidates responded well to the more straightforward questions.

Whilst most candidates answered **Question 2** adequately, many appeared to summarise or lift information from both texts without development, analysis, or evaluate the facts, ideas, and opinions.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Strong candidates with good reading skills have clearly identified and were able to interpret explicit and implicit information, including the writer's attitudes. They could demonstrate strong understanding of how the writer used language to convey emotion and influence readers. The stronger responses had identified keywords in the text and utilise it as part as their answers.

Candidates would benefit from reading various styles of writing, such as figurative language (idioms, metaphors, similes, quotes, proverbs, and sayings) in order to identify and interpret explicit and implicit information from the context. They are reminded not to write an answer covering all possibilities to a question asking for one or two items.

Question 2

In terms of the best responses, there was evidence of a wide range of appropriate vocabulary used. This allowed for the expression of deeper and more nuanced meanings. Spelling, punctuation and grammar were almost always accurate, with few omissions. The use of tone, style and register were wholly appropriate regarding audience and context. The content appropriately linked the topic, which reflected good forethought and planning by the candidates. More capable candidates were able to engage the reader and persuaded them to pay attention to krathong floating without negative impacts on the environment as indicated in the question. In this task, candidates were required need to use their own words – it was insufficient to copy all large chunks of text from the article without development, evaluation nor analysis.

Stronger responses were able to develop, evaluate and synthesise all elements of the task, which were; the purpose of the Loy Krathong tradition, negative impact of krathong floating, and ways of honouring the tradition without harming the environment. These answers included a wide range of facts, ideas and opinions from both passages.

Some candidates wrote about the 'Loy Krathong for Environmental Conservation' without further analysis, evaluation nor development of the facts, ideas and opinions from the passages, thus only partially satisfying elements of the task. Also, some candidates did not persuade their fellow candidates to pay attention to negative impacts of the tradition. Candidates are reminded that they must carefully read the question and instructions before writing and must include all elements required in the task.

FIRST LANGUAGE THAI

Paper 0518/02
Composition

Key messages

- Candidates should read all the questions before selecting which to answer.
- Candidates should keep in mind to write between 350 – 450 words. Over-long responses beyond 450 words risk not demonstrating mastery of content and structure.
- Candidates should be aware of the target audiences of each writing and to ensure the use of appropriate register and tone throughout.
- Candidates should ensure that their writing is legible and easy to read.
- Candidate should avoid unnecessarily complicated sentence structures, e.g. passive voice, unnecessary nominalisation (การที่, ความที่), unnecessary perfect tense (ได้มีการ).

General comments

Section 1

Question 1(d), an article in an online blog indicating whether ‘Traveling inbound is better than traveling abroad’ (การไปเที่ยวภายในประเทศดีกว่าการไปเที่ยวต่างประเทศ), was the most popular while **Question 1(c)**, an article in a school website indicating whether ‘Reading can change your life’ (การอ่านทำให้ชีวิตคุณเปลี่ยนได้), was the least popular. The candidate with highest score took the **Questions 1(b)**, an article in an online magazine website for teenagers on the topic ‘Teenagers and Money Saving’ (วัยรุ่นกับการออมเงิน), and **1(c)** while the candidates with the lowest score have chosen **1(c)** and **1(d)**.

Strong candidates showed that they understood the questions well. The ideas are relevant, well-analysed, well-thought through, persuasive and developed with supporting illustration and solid evidence. The contents are well-organised and clearly presented in a logical order which makes it easy to read and understand. Candidates used appropriate styles of writing as indicated by the questions as well as appropriate and consistent register and tone throughout their piece of writing. They were secure in their use of language including correct sentence structures and grammar, precise and varied vocabulary as well as correct spelling and punctuation.

Weaker responses tended to write in a more descriptive form without using persuasive techniques or employing strong facts and examples to support their ideas.

Candidates should pay greater attention to the use of appropriate style of writing and the appropriate, consistent and thorough use of registers that indicate a clear understanding of the target audiences. The candidates should also pay more attention to sentence structures and avoid unnecessary passive voice, nominalisation, and perfect tense. It is necessary to plan and organise the ideas and present them in a logical manner using effective spacing and paragraph breaks. The candidates choosing **Question 1(c)** and **1(d)** in particular, should state clearly whether they agree or disagree with the given statements. While a counter-balanced argument is possible, the audiences need to be informed of a well-defined idea, clear direction and intent.

Section 2

Question 2(d), a story of ‘A boy and the three cats’ (เรื่องแต่ง เด็กชายกับลูกแมวสามตัว) was the most popular while **Question 2(b)**, a descriptive writing about ‘An urban fruit and vegetables market’ (เขียนบรรยายสิ่งที่เห็นและได้ยืมที่ตลาดขายผักและผลไม้ในเมือง) was the least popular. The candidate with highest score took the **Questions 2(c)**, a story with the phrase ‘(s)he was so excited that I...’ (เรื่องแต่งที่มีข้อความ

‘เขาคินเดินมาก จนทำให้ฉัน...’) while the candidates with the lowest score have chosen either **2(a)**, a descriptive writing about ‘A school’s sports day’ (เขียนบรรยายบรรยากาศกีฬาภายในโรงเรียน) or **2(d)**.

Successful candidates were able to demonstrate their understanding of the expectation of questions and directly respond to the questions with effective use of narrative devices and descriptive techniques (e.g., character, setting, build-up conflicts and climax in a narrative writing or five senses, zoom in, zoom out in a descriptive writing). The descriptive or narrative writing provides relevant, interesting and complex ideas to the topics with the use of effectively appropriate register and tone. The story is well-structured, developed with greater details within word limits and engages audiences throughout. The use of language reflects fluency and sophistication by the use of accurate spellings and punctuation, correct and complex sentence structures, precise and varied vocabulary.

Successful answers submitted well-defined profound ideas e.g. ‘Friendship’, ‘Perseverance’, or ‘Generosity’ that underlines and sets clear mood, tone and atmosphere of the school’s sports day or the fruit and vegetable market. Successful narrative writing must reflect the nature of a story with the effective use of narrative devices including characters, setting, and well-managed climax. The narrative that is successful must consistently engage the audiences throughout.

Weaker descriptive responses demonstrated an awareness of expected mood, tone and atmosphere but were limited due to the lack of language proficiency. For narrative writing, weaker candidates tended to demonstrate a simple series of events with very little use of narrative devices or an extensively long story with no climax to engage the audiences.

In order to make improvements, it is crucial the candidate understands the different purposes between descriptive and narrative writing. Candidate should be encouraged to use descriptive and narrative techniques including the ones mentioned above. Candidates should pay more attention to the accurate use of language e.g., spelling, grammar, sentence structures and effective planning or plotting of the story.

Comment on Style and Accuracy

Although with accuracy, many of the candidates use basic or repetitive vocabulary to communicate general meaning. It is recommended for the candidates to use more varieties of word choices and appropriately sophisticated sentence structures to gain particular effects on audiences. Most spelling mistakes are resulted from the use of wrong tonal marks which results in misconception of the text. e.g. ‘กั๊นหายใจ’ was wrongly spelt with ‘กั้นหายใจ’ or ‘ของหวาน’ was misspelt with ‘ของหวาน’. A lot of English sentence structures e.g. passive voice or unnecessary nominalisation are still seen in most writings. For example, this sample sentence ‘การเที่ยวต่างประเทศก็ถือว่าเป็นอะไรที่ดี’ could have been better phrased as ‘การเที่ยวต่างประเทศถือเป็นกิจกรรมที่ดี’.

Moreover, many candidates tend to write very extensively without appropriate spacing or paragraph breaks. This could result in the quality of good perception of the audiences. It is also well noted that appropriate writing style and register reflects the candidates’ mastery of the language. Although some of the writings are targeted for teenagers, it is still published to wider groups of audiences who could be sensitive to the limited level of politeness and formality of the language.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

- (a) Strong candidates created a well-structured letter in the correct format, with realistic and creative suggestions about how the school could improve the multipurpose building. Formal register and persuasive tone were maintained throughout. Successful responses were precise and straightforward while also showing humility and politeness as the letter is meant to be sent to the school’s director. Candidates should consider how to appropriately give comments on their negative experiences they have had with constructive suggestions for improvements. The suggestions for the renovations or improvements should be creatively as well as realistically thought through.
- (b) Successful candidates made a range of interesting points to convince their peers to see the importance of money saving for teenagers persuasively with their personal experiences, and also give creative and realistic suggestions on how to promote money saving among teenagers. They used appropriate register and tone and presented their ideas in the format of an article, not a list of points, bullet points or numbers. Successful language could employ some necessary informal but

polite usage to attract the audiences. However, it should be kept in mind that an online article is accessible to various different audiences and language formality and politeness should be considered.

- (c) The best candidates indicated clearly whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement. Some also demonstrated their critical thinking skills by explaining their own interpretation of the word 'Reading' and 'Life changing'. They provided convincing explanations and evidence to support their opinions. The arguments were well developed and linked in a logical way. Candidates should keep in mind that argumentative/discursive writing that solely or mostly tells personal experience without giving concrete rationales using relevant opinion, facts and ideas would limit the chance to score well.
- (d) Successful candidates stated clearly whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement 'Inbound traveling is better than traveling abroad'. Sufficient and convincing rationale and examples were given to justify their ideas. Specific examples of the benefits of either inbound or outbound traveling were given with relevant details to convince audiences. Candidates should be aware that giving solely the pros and cons of traveling in no relation to the topic could reflect the lack of planning and logical sequencing of their writing. While a counter-balanced argument is acceptable, it is necessary to ensure that the audiences are well informed of a well-defined idea, clear direction and intent

Question 2

- (a) and (b) Strong candidates were able to give well-developed and well-sequenced descriptions including a variety of interesting details and images. The audiences could enter into the atmosphere because of the use of appropriate and well-chosen vocabulary. The structure of the response was clear and consistent. Candidates should keep in mind that connecting the concrete images or atmosphere with well developed abstract ideas could lead to more successful descriptive writing for example describing the competitions in school's sports day as a tool to enhance 'Friendship', promote 'Unity' and 'Harmony' among candidates in school. Appropriate use of literary devices such as imagery, simile, onomatopoeia, metaphor, or Thai idioms or sayings helped to create a clear image and maintain the audiences' attention. While the descriptive techniques e.g. five senses are encouraged, the descriptive writing should not heavily focus solely on this technique while the main idea is scattered. It is reminded that the most important element in descriptive writing is the overall picture of the atmosphere, mood or tone.
- (c) and (d) Successful candidates created an interesting plot and maintained the audiences' engagement with the build-up of tension of the story and a well-managed climax. Some stories made effective use of a twist ending. Character development was reasonable and believable. Candidates should pay a greater attention to giving realistic details of characters, incidents in the story and sensible conflicts and climax to ensure thorough understanding of the audiences. Candidates should keep in mind not to write an essay, describe an event, or tell a personal experience without an awareness of how to maintain the audiences' interest. Candidates should ensure that they are familiar with the mark scheme prior to the examination, to help them to understand the requirements.