

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Papers 8660/01 and 8660/02

Papers 1 and 2

General comments

There were some interesting projects submitted this session across a range of subjects including English Literature, Spanish Literature, Classical Studies, History and Business Studies.

The presentation of the projects was generally very good, and it was clear that a great deal of work and effort had been put into them. The examiners were pleased with the range of different subjects covered and enjoyed reading the projects.

Unfortunately, a number of candidates submitted projects for which they had not first sent proposals. In most of these cases, CIE would have been able to advise the candidates on changes that could have been made to the proposals, possibly enabling them to achieve higher grades. In most cases, however, the candidates and teachers had obviously read the *Guide to Research Projects* booklet and followed the advice given. In a few cases requests for approval were received very late and it was obvious that the candidates had little time to work on their research projects. Careful time planning by Centres is necessary if the candidates are to achieve well on their projects. Centres should also make candidates aware of the assessment criteria so that their Research Projects can reflect how marks are awarded.

Centres wishing to submit Research Projects are directed to the *Guide to Research Projects* booklet and the advice contained in it. The Research Projects are best when the focus is narrow and there is a clearly stated aim or question to be answered. Centres are also requested to follow the administrative procedures detailed in the booklet, as this makes life easier for both CIE and the Centres, allows problems to be corrected at an early stage, and avoids candidates submitting work that does not meet the criteria. It is particularly important that Centres note the following which is taken from the Introduction in the *Guide to Research Projects* booklet.

*Research Projects are provided by CIE at AS level and are primarily intended to replace coursework where that option is not available but candidates may wish to pursue personal investigations. Where Centres and candidates wish to make proposals concerning Research Project topics in such subjects, they should complete the attached pro-forma. If candidates wish to submit a Research Project in a subject which has previously not had a coursework option, or in a subject for which the candidate is not entered, then the Centre should contact CIE before starting teaching, with a detailed outline proposal to discuss the feasibility and practical details. Research Projects will **not** be allowed in any subject where there is a coursework option available.*