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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.

GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

Paper 8690/02

Reading and Writing

General comments

This is the second examination based on the new syllabus. This paper was set at the same level of difficulty as that of the paper set last year. Advanced Subsidiary candidates' performance on this paper was poor, whereas Advanced Level candidates performed reasonably well.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Vocabulary recognition

Question 1

Five multiple choice questions are set - one mark for each correct response. Advanced Subsidiary candidates' performance on this question was very poor. Advanced Level candidates did quite well in this question.

Question 2

Five questions involving manipulation of language are set. Advanced Subsidiary candidates' performance was poor. Advanced Level candidates performance was satisfactory.

Question 3

Five reading comprehension questions are set. Content marks are awarded for each question and a language mark is awarded globally.

In this question Advanced Subsidiary candidates performed better than Advanced Level candidates. One Advanced Level candidate responded in their own language whereas another downloaded the passage, preventing them scoring any marks for this question.

Part 2

Question 4

Comprehension question on the second passage.

The responses of Advanced Subsidiary candidates suffer from insufficiency and lack of linguistic competence. The responses of Advanced Level candidates were very good.

Question 5

Comprehension question on both passages.

Advanced Subsidiary candidates could not answer the question correctly and one did not attempt it. Advanced Level candidates' responses were good. One candidate answered in their own language therefore failing to score any marks.

Paper 8690/03 Essay

General comments

This is the second examination based on the new syllabus. This paper was set at the same level of difficulty as that of the paper set last year.

Overall candidates' performance at Advanced Subsidiary Level was rather poor. At Advanced Level, candidates' performance was of a higher standard, with a number of candidates achieving top grades.

Comments on specific questions

Advanced Subsidiary candidates preferred choice was **Question 4**. Answers were very poor in content, with little topic knowledge resulting in short essays with lots of repetition.

For Advanced Level candidates, **Question 5** was the most popular. One candidate wrote two essays instead of one. Candidates need to be reminded that no advantage is to be gained by doing this. Language content and expression were in general of good standard, but with errors in morphology and syntax.

It is not possible to draw general conclusions for the other questions as too few candidates attempted them.