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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

Papers 8674/04 Texts

General comments

The majority of candidates tackled this Paper well and showed that they understood the main ideas from the texts. Only a very few candidates showed evidence that they had not finished the Paper in the time allocated.

All the questions were answered by some candidates, the most popular choices were *Tobah Tek Singh*, *Shatranj kay Khilari* and *Umraao Jan Ada*.

There were some candidates who produced excellent scripts, showing detailed knowledge of the texts, and a thorough understanding of how the author conveys the message of the work. They were able to select and manipulate the material of the texts and express their ideas well in Urdu. There were many candidates however, whose knowledge of the recommended texts was superficial. In order to gain good marks it is essential that candidates have a thorough and detailed knowledge of the texts.

Most scripts were well presented but some were difficult to read because of poor presentation. This was not only a question of poor handwriting but also of general layout. Some crammed their answers into the smallest space possible, then proceeded to cross out and make scribbled corrections, making it very difficult to get a clear picture of their answer. Also, far too many candidates did not adhere to the word limit for each task and gave too long answers, most of which tended to deteriorate in terms of quality of content, structure of their argument and language.