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FOREIGN LANGUAGE DUTCH

Paper 0515/01

Listening

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates was good. None of the questions proved to be impossible to answer.

Comments on specific questions

Deel 1

Eerste oefening

Questions 1 and **2** were easy starter questions. The first hurdle was **Question 3**, where a number of candidates had difficulty with the word *hoekhuis*.

Question 4, which required knowledge of numbers, went very well. Some candidates chose alternative **D** for **Question 5** (rain). **Questions 6, 7** and **8** did not cause significant problems.

Tweede oefening

No obvious problems occurred here. Some of the weaker candidates found *een wandeling door de stad maken* difficult. They interpreted *stad maken* to mean something along the lines of 'stock market' or 'market'. In **Question 14**, a few candidates answered both *zwembad* and *dierentuin*, or just *zwembad*, which were, in fact, the suggestions made by Pieter. However, the answer to this question needed to come from Yvonne's reply: *dierentuin*.

Deel 2

Eerste oefening

No significant problems occurred with this exercise.

Tweede oefening

The exam started to become a little harder at this point. Most candidates went through **Questions 17, 18** and **19** without any problems, although many did not seem to know the word *via*. A few more candidates struggled with the question why Annabel liked her work (**Question 20**). **Question 21** (*vrachtwagenrijbewijs*) was answered relatively well, although the word was not spelt correctly in most cases (which was tolerated). Many candidates struggled with the question about the disadvantages of Annabel's occupation, in particular the part that Annabel had to carry heavy shopping for the customers. *Zo'n dag* was confused by some candidates with *zondag*, which meant that they thought Annabel did not like working on Sundays.

Deel 3

Eerste oefening

Not surprisingly, weaker candidates started to have problems in this section. A good number of candidates managed to answer **Questions 23, 24, 25** and **28** correctly. The difference between answer **C** and **D** in **Question 26** was only spotted by the best candidates. Most candidates attempted this exercise, since it was a multiple choice exercise.

Tweede oefening

The last exercise of the test was mostly done by candidates who expected to score at least a few marks. The easier questions here were **Questions 31** and **32**. Towards the end of the test, it becomes even more important to listen very carefully. The answer *sokken* to **Question 35**, for instance, did not score any marks, as it was important to be a little more specific (e.g. *wandelsokken*, *ondersokken* etc.).

<p>Paper 0515/02</p>

<p>Reading and Directed Writing</p>
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General comments

In general, candidates did well, especially in **Sections 1** and **2** of the examination. The multiple choice and matching exercises in **Section 1** caused few problems. The writing exercise in this section was equally well done.

The reading exercise in **Section 2** is designed to test general understanding and candidates should identify the main points in short answers. Some candidates copied rather too much from the text, not making it clear whether they had understood the text or not.

The writing exercise in this **Section 2** emphasises communication and candidates are rewarded more for their skill in transmitting the message than for their accuracy. However, material which is irrelevant to the set tasks does not score marks, so it is important for candidates to read the tasks carefully, which most candidates did.

In **Section 3**, the reading texts are always longer and therefore demand close reading. The multiple choice questions were largely answered correctly, but the open-ended questions caused more problems. Again, short answers were required, but in this section a fairly large number of candidates resorted to lifting complete sentences from the texts, rather than manipulating the language in order to give a clear answer which shows the text and question were understood.

It was good to see that a majority of the candidates attempted **Section 3**. Most gained a few marks in both of its exercises.

Comments on specific questions**Deel 1***Eerste oefening***Question 1**

Correct answer: **B**. A few candidates have problems with the Dutch way of expressing the half hour, but generally this question was answered correctly.

Question 2

Correct answer **C**. There were very few wrong answers to this question.

Question 3

Correct answer: **A**. This question appeared to be the hardest in this exercise. Some candidates thought the greengrocer's shop was temporarily out of order, rather than the petrol pump.

Question 4

Correct answer: **A**. Most answers were correct, but a few opted for **B**.

Question 5

Correct answer: **D**. Candidates occasionally chose alternatives **B** or **C**.

Tweede oefening

Candidates were asked to match events held on the Queen's birthday with the times these events started. Most candidates answered all five questions correctly.

Question 6

Correct answer: 10.00.

Question 7

Correct answer: 15.00.

Question 8

Correct answer: 21.00. A small number of candidates thought the fireworks started at 14.00 hrs.

Question 9

Correct answer: 11.00.

Question 10

Correct answer: 12.00.

Derde oefening

The candidates were asked to match opinions with statements by writing the correct letter in the box. Not everyone received full marks.

Question 11

Correct answer: **A**. This question was usually answered correctly.

Question 12

Correct answer: **B**. Some candidates thought that **D** was the correct answer.

Question 13

Correct answer: **F**. The majority of candidates had no problem with this question.

Question 14

Correct answer: **C**. Quite a few candidates had trouble answering this question correctly.

Question 15

Correct answer: **E**. Most answers to this question were correct.

Vierde oefening

Question 16

Most candidates gave the correct date for their birthday party and many also provided a time for when the party would start. Quite a few candidates did not write *mei* correctly, even though it was spelt correctly in the icon. The majority of candidates invited their friends to their own home. Some, however, chose to invite them to a disco, which then made it hard for them to ask their friends to bring music or CDs, preventing them from gaining full marks for communication. Most candidates received 4 or 5 marks for this exercise.

Deel 2

Eerste oefening

Questions 19, 22 and 26 appeared to be the most difficult questions.

Question 17

The correct answer was simply *Zuid-Holland*, while answers like *in het zuiden van Holland* were incorrect. *De streek tussen Leiden en Haarlem* was also accepted, but just *Leiden en Haarlem* did not score.

Question 18

In het voorjaar was the simple answer. The English 'spring' was not allowed, but *april en mei* was accepted as a correct alternative.

Question 19

Aalsmeer was the correct answer, but many candidates chose *Oegstgeest* or *Rijnsburg*.

Question 20

Candidates had to specify that either families or those who were looking for *rust en ruimte* would like *Katwijk*. Merely stating the words *familiebadplaats* or *familiepensioens* was incorrect.

Question 21

The only possible answer was *Noordwijk*, although quite a few candidates then mentioned the excellent restaurants and cafés, which was superfluous.

Question 22

A number of candidates read *waar* for *wanneer* and again answered *Noordwijk*. Answers along the lines of *(gedurende) het hele jaar* or *elke dag* were correct.

Question 23

Although *lentetuin van Europa* was the obvious answer, quite a number of candidates quoted *het kloppend hart van de bollenstreek* which was an acceptable answer. Answers such as *bollenstreek* or *Lisse* were incorrect.

Question 24

april was the correct answer, although many included reference to the third Saturday of that month, which, again, was not necessary.

Question 25

Again, only one word (*kasteel*) was needed, but a lot of candidates added the rest of the sentence that went with the word.

Question 26

This was the hardest question in this exercise. *Watersport* or any Dutch equivalent connected with water sports was acceptable, i.e. sailing, boating, fishing, but not *jachten* (*sic*) or *jagen*. Lifting the sentence about *Warmond* did not produce a correct answer.

Tweede oefening

Question 27

Many candidates scored the maximum 10 marks for Communication, but other candidates frequently left out at least one of the tasks. These candidates would, for example, ask how their friend was doing, but forget to mention how they themselves were getting on. Father's new job was not always explained (candidates tended to repeat the fact that father had got a new job in a different town without giving details). A few candidates misread tasks **(c)** and/or **(d)**; instead of asking for information, candidates wrote about life in the new town and how much they liked their new school. On the whole, though, candidates managed to express themselves very well, and most received 4 or 5 marks for accuracy.

Deel 3

This section tests candidates who are aiming to get grades higher than C.

Eerste oefening

Not many candidates scored the full 8 marks, but the ones who kept their answers to **Questions 34** and **35** short and to the point did best.

Question 28

Correct answer: **B**. Most candidates chose the correct answer, but some chose **A** or **C**.

Question 29

Correct answer: **C**. This was usually answered correctly, but **A** and **D** were popular alternatives.

Question 30

C is the correct answer, but many candidates went for **B**.

Question 31

D (strawberry picking) was correct, but other options were occasionally ticked.

Question 32

Correct answer: **A**. The majority got this right.

Question 33

Correct answer: **B**. This is where some candidates may have relied on their own opinion by choosing **A** (the fact that holiday work is badly paid, which was not mentioned in the text).

Question 34

Not everyone realised that working on a *terras* implied working as a waiter, which left some guessing at gardening work.

Question 35

Again, quite a number of candidates appeared to express their own opinion and decided that money was the key factor.

Tweede oefening

Question 36

Correct answer: *Hij liet niets aan het toeval over.* Quite a number of candidates lifted the sentence *Het organiseren ... vertrokken.* This was incorrect.

Question 37

Correct answer: *neurotisch.* Some candidates had already lifted the sentence in which this word occurred in answer to **Question 36**, preventing them from finding the correct answer.

Question 38

Correct answer: *Hij was bang om zijn vlucht te missen.* Candidates who lifted the sentence '*Maar dan ... wilde zijn*' failed to show they had understood the question and/or the text.

Question 39

Correct answer: *Hij nam zonnebrandcreme mee.* This question caused very few problems.

Question 40

Correct answer: *Hij kent er de weg/hij is er bekend.* The complete, lifted sentence (*Je kent de weg ... zo laat als je wilt*) did not score.

Question 41

Correct answer: *Omdat hij bij vrienden en familie logeert.* Some candidates did not really answer why the writer did not have to eat breakfast before 10.00 and said that he was allowed to eat any time he wanted, which was incorrect as such an answer was part of the question.

Question 42

Correct answer: *Het was een vakantie zonder ergernis/Hij kende Nederland al* or an equivalent answer was correct, but the fact that his family was waiting for him was not.

Question 43

Correct answer: *studeren op buskaartjes.* No more words were needed so that lifting the sentence that contained these words did not represent a clear enough answer.

Question 44

Correct answer: *zuur en bits/onvriendelijk* or words along those lines. Most candidates quoted the correct words and often a little bit more, but the answers were mostly clear.

Question 45

Correct answer: *niet de moeite waard/niets aan/slecht.* The negative was often left out of the answer or the whole sentence *Dat je ... de moeite waard* was copied, both of which were wrong.

Question 46

Correct answer: *Het is er erg druk/de bevolking lijkt op een drukke massa bijtjes/iedereen moet hard werken om de vakantie te betalen.* Many candidates did well on this question.

Question 47

Correct answer: *Hij wil niet voor 10 uur ontbijten.* The whole last sentence of the text was often lifted, which was insufficient.

<p>Paper 0515/03</p>

<p>Speaking</p>

General comments

As always, the ability to communicate by the candidates was impressive. Even the weaker candidates managed to convey some meaning in most cases.

Generally, the quality of the recordings was good, although, increasingly, Centres appear to put less effort into maintaining sound quality. In some cases, it was very hard to make out what the candidates or Teachers said. Centres are reminded to avoid turning over the tape halfway through an exam.

One the whole, marking was close to the required standards, although some Centres were rather severe in their assessment. As a result, the marks of such Centres required upward scaling. Centres are reminded that candidates do not have to be of native-speaker standard in order to gain high or even full marks.

A small number of Centres did not carry out the duty of marking their candidates. A very few Centres submitted samples which were either too small, or samples that did not comply with the regulations set out in the syllabus and the Teacher's Notes. In the latter case, the samples often did not represent the full mark range achieved by the candidates.

Comments on Role plays

The Role plays test knowledge of Dutch as used in day-to-day situations. Most candidates coped well. However, a few Examiners did not keep to the script set out in the Role plays leaving candidates rather puzzled as they could not find any similarity between the Role play they had prepared and one the Examiners had improvised. Other Examiners were not well prepared for the Role play situations and did not ask the appropriate questions.

The only word quite a few candidates did have problems with was *afdeling*. Many Examiners were able to re-phrase the question without giving away the answer to the candidates, but the word remained an obstacle for a few.

Topic (prepared) conversation

As was the case last year, there was a pleasingly wide range of topics. Most candidates had prepared their material very well. However, spending too much time on looking at photographs and other brought-in material does not allow the candidates a lot of time to show their linguistic skills. In addition, candidates should not be allowed to talk without interruption for more than a minute before being asked questions. At the other extreme, some Examiners commenced with questioning from the outset, which did not allow candidates the time to expand on their subject. There were, however, some excellent examples of examining techniques, which encouraged candidates to use their linguistic skills to the full.

General (unprepared) conversation

The best performances were those where Examiners encouraged candidates to use a variety of tenses, vocabulary and syntactic structures. In most cases, this part of the exam was well done. There were, however, some Teachers who appeared to expect too much from their candidates, by asking questions which were too complex. These Examiners need to be reminded to tailor questions to the quality of their candidature and to bear in mind that this is a foreign language test.

<p>Paper 0515/04 Continuous Writing</p>

General comments

Overall, candidates found this Paper to be quite straightforward and were able to answer the questions as instructed.

Candidates were asked to answer either **Question 1 (a)** or **1 (b)**, and **Question 2**.

25 marks were awarded for each question, with a maximum of 50 marks for the Paper.

For each question, 5 marks were awarded for communication, 15 marks for language, and 5 marks for general impression.

The mark for general impression was based on the candidate's use of idiom, vocabulary, structures and appropriate tenses.

Most candidates wrote the required amount of words for both essays. Only a few candidates wrote fewer words than asked for or failed to answer a question.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Most candidates chose option **(a)**.

- (a)** Candidates were asked to write a letter to a friend about their first holiday abroad. Most candidates wrote about the 5 points they were asked to mention and thereby achieved full marks for communication.

Candidates were given no credit for lifting information stated in the question, as they can only be awarded marks for information conveyed in their own words.

The verb *ontmoeten* was frequently spelled and conjugated incorrectly (e.g. *ontgemoet*, *geontmoet*, *geontmoeten*). It is advisable that candidates understand which verbs are separable and which are inseparable to enable them to conjugate verbs correctly in the present and past tenses.

Some candidates did not understand the verb *logeren* and therefore failed to write about one of the 5 points.

Quite a few candidates did not know the definite article belonging to the noun *hoogtepunt*, while some thought it meant the highest point of a mountain rather than the highlight (of the holiday).

Overall, candidates showed good understanding of Dutch by using different tenses and a varied vocabulary.

- (b)** Candidates were asked to write a letter to a newspaper in order to enter for a photography competition.

The word *representatief* was sometimes used incorrectly as a verb rather than an adverb or adjective.

Overall, the candidates performed well on this part, showing their understanding of Dutch, and describing their local environment and their photograph in the present as well as in the past tense.

Question 2

Candidates were given brief details of an event they had to imagine happened to them last year and were asked to describe what happened next.

The majority of candidates articulated their ideas well and some demonstrated an excellent use of vocabulary, syntax and style.

A small number of candidates copied information from the question as part of their answer, for which no marks could be given. Another small number wrote their story entirely in the present tense and could, therefore, not be awarded any marks for communication. As is the case every year, the way the question is phrased implies that answers are to be written in the past tense. Indeed, one of the main aims of this exercise is to test the ability of the best candidates to produce past tense forms. It is, therefore, advisable that the past tense is practised thoroughly by those candidates who enter for this Paper.