

# CONTENTS

---

<b>BURMESE</b> .....	<b>2</b>
Paper 3249/01 Paper 1 .....	2

# BURMESE

---

Paper 3249/01

Paper 1

## General comments

Candidates performed very well this year.

Candidates should be reminded to read *all* the instructions on the exam paper. Candidates should also be reminded that it makes sense to divide their time in a way which reflects the number of marks available for each question.

As last year, this year's candidates generally had very clear handwriting.

## Comments on specific questions

### Question 1

#### *Composition*

- (a) Advantages and disadvantages of the Internet. The candidates who answered this question did so ably. Some of the issues raised included ease of communication, flow of information (advantages) and obsessive computer gaming and pornography (disadvantages).
- (b) Letter. Candidates who scored highly on this question judged the tone of this formal letter correctly, identifying themselves and giving the information required by the question. A couple of candidates wrote the body of a letter without an appropriate beginning and end – and lost out on marks as a result.
- (c) Favourite film. This elicited some heartfelt descriptions of the characters in Burmese films, with U Kyaw Hein, Dwe and Htet Htet Moe U proving to be enduringly popular stars! Candidates all managed to give good reasons why they had chosen the films they chose.
- (d) Favourite festival. A popular question, with the brashness of Thingyan and the spectacles of Thadingyut being the firm favourites. Candidates articulated their fond memories of honouring their teachers and seniors with a 'gadaw' at Thadingyut very impressively.
- (e) One candidate picked this and wrote a very convincing dialogue which was exactly what the question was looking for.

### Question 2

#### *Translation into English*

This passage presented few problems for most candidates, besides minor points of grammar in English, and, for some, some testing items of vocabulary.

**Question 3**

*Translation into Burmese*

Most candidates handled the task very capably, paraphrasing the phrases they were not sure of to produce versions which were clear. Candidates should be reminded that a translation must be exactly that, and not a summary of the content of the passage in the target language.

**Questions 4 – 8**

*Comprehension*

Full marks were awarded to candidates who not only answered questions correctly, but also provided full evidence from the text to support or explain their answers to the questions. Few candidates lost many marks on this section.