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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.**

BURMESE

GCE Ordinary Level

<p>Paper 3249/01</p>

<p>Paper 1</p>

General comments

This was a strong group of candidates, and a somewhat larger group than last year. The great majority of candidates demonstrated mature and competent literacy in Burmese, with only a very few cases where writing fluent Burmese appeared difficult.

As last year, almost no candidates consistently followed the instructions before the reading passage in **Section C** telling them to write in colloquial Burmese. It is naturally expected that most of the examination candidates will feel more comfortable writing in formal, literary style Burmese, but in **Section C** they are asked to demonstrate that they know the difference between this style and the colloquial style (which is the style in which the **Section C** questions are set). Candidates must take care to read *all* the instructions on the exam paper. Candidates should be reminded that it makes sense to divide up their time in a way which reflects the number of marks available for each question.

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

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Composition

Question 1

- (a) Advantages and disadvantages of globalisation. Only two candidates answered this question, but they did so ably, and presented individual interpretations of what globalisation means.
- (b) A letter apologising for a misunderstanding. This question was very popular. Many candidates thought up imaginative, and frequently elaborate, scenarios to use as the content of their letters.
- (c) Favourite poem. Only two candidates chose this question, but were clearly inspired by the poetry they chose to write about.
- (d) The feeling of travelling in an aeroplane. This was also a popular choice, producing a number of vivid and evocative accounts of the thrills of air travel.
- (e) There were some extremely eloquent answers to this question – some very mature and well-imagined dialogues which gave a clear impression of the types of choices facing young people after school.

Section B

Translation

Question 2

Translation into English

This passage presented few problems for most candidates, besides minor points of grammar and spelling in English.

Question 3

Translation into Burmese

This translation was expertly tackled by the majority of candidates. The Examiner was particularly impressed by candidates' ability to render some long and complex sentences into Burmese with great skill and accuracy. 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.

Section C

Comprehension

Questions 4-8

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.