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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 the largest group for several years. 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, only one or two candidates consistently followed the instructions before the reading passage in **Section C** telling them to write in colloquial Burmese. It is naturally expected that for 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). It may be possible to make this instruction more prominent in future papers, but in the meantime candidates must be reminded to read *all* the instructions on the examination 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 candidates generally had very clear handwriting.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1: Composition

- (a) *Can war be justified?* Only three candidates answered this question.
- (b) *A letter to a family member about your life.* As every year, the letter question proved to be the most popular choice. The highest marks were awarded to candidates who addressed the topics required in the title, and who wrote a full letter which felt realistic to read.
- (c) *Typical day in childhood.* Another popular question – candidates enjoyed revisiting the world of their childhood and some touching details of past lives were described by the highest-scoring candidates.
- (d) *The most exciting moment of your life.* Many of these compositions were extremely interesting to read – from first romances to moments of pressure, fear, competition and other forms of excitement.
- (e) *Two students talking about their favourite teacher.* Not such a popular choice, but some of the dialogues composed were imaginative and vivid.

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. Particularly impressive was candidates' ability to render 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.

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, and this is evidence that the candidates were able to digest the passage and think their way into the situations it describes without difficulty.