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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.

THAI

GCE Ordinary Level

Paper 3260/01

Paper 1

General comments

Most candidates did well in writing a composition. They produced essays written in a good style. The most difficult parts of the examination for the candidates seem to be the translation both from English to Thai and vice versa. It could be said that candidates can improve their overall answers for every question by simply improving their spelling, especially on frequently used words which could make a lot of impact. Giving attention to details of the text in the questions and addressing them accordingly could also result in a more thorough answer, especially in translation and in the reading comprehension questions.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Composition

Many candidates came up with well-written, imaginative, grammatically correct and very good essays. For most, this section was where they gained most of their marks.

The main problem was spelling, with many candidates losing marks on this. In many cases, mistakes came from the misspelling of frequently used words. Sometimes it also seemed that mistakes could be corrected by simply double checking the writing before submitting the paper.

It would also be better to use the same style of writing throughout and to avoid using very informal vocabulary, which is not widely accepted. It is also very important to address the question or the topics selected. Unfortunately, some very good essays did not answer the question and hence lost a chance to gain more marks.

Most candidates kept their essays to a reasonable length. However, some wrote very long pieces. It could be the case that they spent most of the time allowed for the examination on this exercise and this might have affected their ability to answer other questions. On the other hand, there were those who wrote very short essays which, as a result, did not show off their ability to write, hence affecting the marks awarded.

Section B

Translation

This is the most difficult question for most candidates. The suggestion is that the candidates try to keep it simple and make sure that the translation is easy to understand. Word by word translation will not make sense or read well. Sometimes it helps to check the accuracy by merely doing back translation roughly which will also help the candidates to smooth out the language either in Thai or English. It will also help to pay attention to details. Many candidates left out some important details altogether.

Section C

Reading Comprehension

The purpose of this question is to allow the candidates to show their understanding of the text given as well as to demonstrate their ability in using the language. It is, therefore, strongly recommended that the candidates do not copy text for their answers, as sometimes happened, because doing so suggests they do not understand the text. It does not mean that the candidates have to add new information from what is already available in the given text but rather that they should phrase it differently in their own words. And again a good style of writing is very helpful.