

THAI

Paper 3260/01

Paper 1

General comments

Candidates performed reasonably to well overall with a particularly pleasing improvement in the level of achievement at the highest grades. Many candidates did well on the Composition section of the paper: a number demonstrated the ability to write in a well-chosen, appropriate style and to produce imaginative essays. Spelling was again a significant problem for a number of candidates: close checking of completed written work is crucial.

Translation was the most difficult section for most candidates. The biggest problem was to try to convey the message in a way that was understandable while preserving a good style and grammatical correctness.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Composition

The majority of candidates wrote good, well-structured compositions. Many could, however, improve their work considerably by double-checking their answers to remove spelling mistakes in commonly occurring words. Candidates should likewise check that their compositions are relevant to their chosen topics. With regard to style, candidates are advised to keep to one style throughout an answer and to use English-origin words sparingly and carefully. There will often be a Thai equivalent which is better in the context. In choosing structures to use candidates should apply Thai grammatical rules, on the limited use of the passive for example, as well as on commas and full stops.

Section B

Translation

This is the most difficult section for candidates, from English into Thai in particular, as well as from Thai into English. Candidates are advised to avoid both word-for-word translations and simply summarising. Word-for-word translations risk changing the meaning of the original text or making no sense at all. At the same time, candidates are not asked to summarise. What is required is a fluent and complete rendering of the original texts.

Section C

Reading Comprehension

The best answers were those that gave a full and complete response in the candidates' own words. Answers that are too short make it difficult to judge candidates' understanding – the main objective of the reading comprehension questions. Copying answers from the text word-for-word and including irrelevant passages does not help the examiner assess candidates' understanding either. Candidates are advised to avoid adding their own comments in their answers; this is not asked for in this section of the examination.