

THAI (SYLLABUS Y)

Paper 3260/01

Paper 1

General comments

It was encouraging to see that a number of students were able to obtain top marks on this paper. Those who scored the lowest marks were in a small minority, and on the whole the majority of the students obtained a good medium grade. Spelling mistakes were the most common problem encountered by candidates, as well as understanding the questions properly. This was evident more in the translation tasks, but on the whole reasonably good answers were offered.

Section A Composition

Most candidates performed well in **Section A**. They generated clear answers and wrote with commendable enthusiasm about the topics. However, there was a surprising number who did not read the questions properly and went far over the limit set in the rubric of about 150 words on each subject. It is recommended that candidates are trained to spend a sufficient amount of time reading the questions and, above all, planning their answers coherently before starting to write.

Section B Translation

This section was the one that candidates found most difficult, both translating Thai into English and English into Thai. There were weaknesses evident in some entries, both in terms of knowledge of Thai and of English. Here too, candidates will be rewarded by time spent reading the passages properly first before attempting to translate. However, on the whole, a number of reasonably good translations were produced.

Section C Reading Comprehension

Candidates were asked to answer four questions relating to the text. Those who know the Thai language did not find this question too difficult and could give good answers, showing their ability to rephrase and to communicate. Yet again, however, many did not spend the time necessary to read the questions properly, so their answers were sometimes not as complete as they should have been.