

PORTUGUESE

Paper 8672/04

Texts

General comments

The paper seemed to be within the range of candidates. Some candidates were able to look beyond the immediate material and show some understanding of the author's intentions, focusing on specific passages, demonstrating coherence, using a detailed approach and good illustrations. Others, however, had a tendency to narrate the story, overlooking the demands of the question.

For some candidates, there seemed to be an absence of planning - this was particularly apparent in **Question 1**. In the future candidates would be well advised to have an introductory paragraph outlining their approach to the question and communicating a clear understanding of its implications.

Unfortunately there were also candidates who appeared not to have understood the meaning of the book they had read, and produced very basic material.

This year all the questions were tackled with the most popular one being **Question 1**.

In general, candidates were able to write well. There was some evidence of influence of other languages and English, but it was easy to understand what was meant. Candidates should always make an effort to write legibly, and to make sure their handwriting is clear.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

In **Section 1** most candidates answered **Question 1a**. There was some difficulty in relating the answer to the question especially in **(ii)** where most candidates only mentioned the world of consumption and interest on money that the narrator saw on people's eyes after getting rich.

Question 2a and **2b** were also popular amongst candidates but some failed to explain the real meaning of the letters and why they were with Mariana in her apron, and the significance of this apron.

Question 3b was not totally explored by some candidates - there was much more to say about the title *Vidas Secas* than merely writing about the drought.

Section 2

In **Section 2** the majority of candidates answered **Questions 4** and **6**. The problem with **Question 4** (especially **4b**) was that it was clear that many candidates did not know the real story behind the characters and what they really represented which had an adverse effect on their answers. In **Question 4a** some candidates were unable to illustrate their answers with passages of the different short stories.

Question 6a was in general well answered and the village of *São Romão* was related to the political context of the time.