

# PORTUGUESE

Paper 8672/04

Texts

## General comments

Most candidates coped well with the questions and there were some very good answers. In some Centres, candidates were very well prepared and it was clear the books were well discussed and analysed in class.

Some candidates were able to look beyond the immediate material and show some understanding of the author's intentions, focusing on some passages, demonstrating coherence, choosing a detailed approach and using good illustrations.

However candidates should always be reminded to link the story of the book to the question. As in previous years, there were some candidates who narrated the story of the book and forgot to link it to the question.

Unfortunately, there was also a minority of candidates from a particular Centre who attempted to answer all the questions and a candidate who answered two questions from the same text.

Centres should remind candidates to ensure they read the instructions carefully to avoid these situations happening again. Candidates should also be reminded to re-read the answers when they've finished the exam, there are always things that can be corrected.

The most popular questions this year were **Question 2(b)**, **Question 3** and **Question 4** although **Question 6(a)** was also answered by a number of candidates.

Once again candidates did not have great difficulty with regard to vocabulary and grammar. There was perhaps some influence from another language, but it was generally possible to understand what was meant. Nevertheless, candidates should work on:

- Accents;
- Difference between the 3rd person plural in the Preterite (eles sofreram) and Future Simple (eles sofrerão);
- Imperfect Subjunctive;
- Prepositions
- Accuracy in gender and number in the same sentence;

Candidates should always make an effort to write legibly, and make sure their handwriting is clear, which is not always the case.

## Comments on specific questions

### Section 1

In **Question 1(a)** the problem that did not let Eurico sleep and the woman who broke his heart were identified by most of the candidates but whereas some repeated information here, when separating **Question 1(a) (i)** and **(ii)** others wrote about other things that were irrelevant or that were not even asked.

**Question 2(b)** was very popular amongst candidates but some only managed to explain the real connection between death and freedom in one paragraph, wasting time narrating the whole history without relating it to the question itself. It was interesting to see that some candidates used last year's questions to enrich the content of the answer, explaining the meaning of the letters in Mariana's apron.

In general **Question 3(a)** and **(b)** were very well answered. Candidates showed a good insight when discussing the characters, had a sound knowledge of the text and were able to illustrate and develop points.

## Section 2

In **section 2** the majority of candidates answered **Question 4** and **Question 6**. **Question 4** did not seem to pose significant challenges but the reason why some candidates did not get a higher mark here was because they failed to explain the passages they chose. Some candidates may be too anxious to show everything they have learnt and then they can not evaluate the material they have, relate it to the question or reach a clear conclusion of the author's intentions.

**Question 6** was once again answered by many but in a simple and superficial way. The knowledge of plot and characters was there and some candidates were able to see through the author's real meaning but the attempt to relate all the examples to the question did not always work and was not well explored, especially the identity myths, so well criticised by Cardoso Pires.