

# PORTUGUESE LITERATURE

Paper 8672/04

Texts

## General comments

Overall, this paper appears to have been well received by candidates. There were some excellent scripts and Centres should be congratulated on having prepared their candidates so well for this examination. Some candidates were able to look beyond the immediate material and show some understanding of the authors' intentions, demonstrating coherence, choosing a detailed approach and using good examples to illustrate their answers.

Candidates should be reminded that whenever they refer to textual material which is not provided in the question paper, then there is no need to refer to the page or line number of the text – the chapter number is sufficient.

If candidates choose to answer a passage-based question, then they must ensure that they make pertinent reference to the given passage when they compose their answers.

Candidates should always make sure that they are answering the precise question asked: Examiners are looking for evidence that candidates have understood the question asked and that they can focus their response accordingly.

In this paper, candidates were required to answer three questions, each on a different text. They were required to choose one question from **Section 1**, one from **Section 2** and one other. Unfortunately, a small number of candidates forgot that **Questions 1(a), 2(a) and 3(a)** were divided in two parts **(i)** and **(ii)**, and that they therefore had to answer both parts in order to have access to the total marks available for that question. Some candidates answered three questions from the same section, and a very small number of candidates answered all of the questions given in the question paper. It is worth reminding candidates that they should read carefully the instructions which are given in the question paper.

Candidates should also be reminded that it is advisable to re-read their answers when they have finished writing, in order to identify and correct any possible errors.

Examiners were looking for candidates' abilities to communicate effectively, and ignored any linguistic errors which did not impede communication. Nevertheless, some areas require further consolidation, as there were frequent errors in candidates' use of:

- accents;
- division of syllable and hyphen;
- prepositions;
- gender and number agreement in the same sentence.

Candidates are reminded of the importance of presenting their work clearly and legibly.

The most popular questions this year were **Question 1(a), Question 2(b), Question 5(a) and Question 6(a)**.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Section 1**

**Question 1:** *Eurico o Presbítero*, Alexandre Herculano

- (a) In this question most candidates were able to work with the passage given in order to answer the questions and to relate their answers to the novel as a whole by reference to other passages.
- (b) In general, this question was fairly well answered, but some candidates failed to develop their ideas fully and did not always provide supporting evidence for their comments.

**Question 2:** *A Queda dum Anjo*, Camilo Castelo Branco

- (a) This question was generally answered well. Candidates showed a good insight into the whole story and were able to distinguish the various character transformations that Calisto underwent over the course of the book. Answers were generally well-illustrated.
- (b) This question was generally answered well.

**Question 3:** *Dom Casmurro*, Machado de Assis

- (a) There was a mixed response to this question. Many candidates did not develop their answer fully.
- (b) Answers to this question tended to be simplistic and many candidates did not develop their ideas fully.

### **Section 2**

**Question 4:** *O Testamento do Sr. Napumoceno da Silva Araújo*, Germano Almeida

- (a) Whilst there were some good answers to this question, there were a number of disappointing attempts. Some candidates focused on telling the story rather than answering the question, which asked *Qual a importância das viagens na vida do Sr. Napumoceno? Dê exemplos e justifique.* Nevertheless, the majority of candidates did mention the trip to America which changed the way that Napumoceno saw his life and his business from then onwards.
- (b) Candidates generally did well in this question, with many comparing Carlos with Napumoceno and giving good examples of how Carlos changed in order to please his uncle, just so that he could obtain his share of his business.

**Question 5:** *Felizmente há Luar!*, Luís de Sttau Monteiro

- (a) This question was generally handled very well by candidates, most of whom successfully identified and justified the symbols specified in the question.
- (b) The candidates who chose this question tended to perform very well.

**Question 6:** *Aparição*, Vergílio Ferreira

- (a) This question was generally tackled well, although a small number of candidates failed to relate the impact that the death of Alberto Soares's father had on his life. In general, candidates mentioned many of the other deaths but the change that his father's death provoked in his way of facing life and death were generally not developed sufficiently.
- (b) The majority of candidates struggled to justify their response to this question.