

PORTUGUESE LITERATURE

Paper 8672/04

Texts

General Comments

Most candidates were well prepared for this year's paper. It seems that most Centres worked well with candidates not only by helping them understand the story between the lines but also the author's intentions.

Candidates should be reminded that it is important to specify which questions they are answering. Giving the title of the book is not sufficient and there is no need to copy the question. Candidates are advised to write the question number and then indicate whether they are attempting to answer **Question (a)** or **(b)**. If they choose to answer **Question (a)** they will need to answer both **Questions (i)** and **(ii)** and when doing so, it is not compulsory to separate the two. If **Question 1 (b)** is chosen candidates cannot answer **Question 1 (a)** anymore. This is explained in detail in the instructions on the front page. Teachers are advised to stress to candidates the importance of reading the whole paper carefully and following the instructions as well as to explain the different answering options prior to the examination.

Vocabulary was in general wide and precise. There were a lot of spelling mistakes, some interference from other languages (mainly English and Spanish) as well as grammar mistakes such as the wrong use of direct and indirect object pronouns, incorrect prepositions and subjunctives.

Once again, this year there was not a question that stood out; they were all fairly popular.

Comments on Specific Questions

Section 1

Question 1

The majority of candidates answered questions well, they knew the plot and the characters but many failed to develop **Question (a)** in depth. The information needed was sometimes summarised in one short paragraph.

Question 2

(a) Some candidates were not able to connect all the frustration, rage, jealousy and sense of revenge Álvaro had as the reason why he talked to mestre António. The symbols in **Question (b)** were well identified by nearly all candidates but some of the actual meaning of these were very briefly analysed.

Question 3

The majority of candidates who picked **Question 3** preferred **Question (b)** and were very well prepared, able to demonstrate a good understanding of the author's intentions and underlying themes.

Section 2

Many candidates could have done better in **Question 4** and **Question 5**. Weaker candidates made assertions but they were not able to illustrate or develop their points further. When answering specific questions, candidates should aim to demonstrate their knowledge of the novels and relate it to the questions in mind.

The majority of candidates answered **Question 6** well. Most candidates were able to show a perceptive use of illustrations and had a good insight when discussing Delfina's character.