

PORTUGUESE

Paper 8672/04
Texts

Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates are expected to answer **three questions, each on a different text**. One question from **Section 1**, one from **Section 2** and one other. Candidates are expected to use their own language, show their ability to organise material, demonstrate close attention to detail of passages, have a good insight when discussing characters and be sensitive to the language and to the author's intentions. Quality of Language is also important in order to achieve a high mark, therefore candidates should display a good command of the language by spelling words correctly, varying the way they start their sentences and show a good grasp of grammatical structures. Being able to show some literary techniques would also be a bonus.

General comments

Most candidates coped well with the questions but there was a small number of candidates who were not familiar with the structure of the paper and ended up answering **Questions (a) and (b)** from the same group. Candidates need to be aware that they have to read at least three of the six books recommended and each question answered needs to be about a different text. This is clearly stated in the instructions and the syllabus. The best candidates read the questions carefully and made a pre-plan of the answer to avoid repetition and/or answering something completely different from what was asked.

Candidates didn't have great difficulty with regard to vocabulary. There was perhaps some influence from another language, but it was easy to understand what was meant. Some areas that candidates found difficult included the use of direct and indirect object pronouns, and also the position of these in a sentence. There were also a lot of mistakes with the structure: "trabalha-se"; "trabalhasse". It might be worth challenging the candidates with extra/parallel work on the subjunctive when studying the texts in class. The misuse of the 3rd person plural (Present tense) and future tense was still very common in some answers. Candidates should always re-read their work to avoid mistakes with agreement of gender and number.

Candidates should also always make an effort to write legibly, and make sure their handwriting is clear.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

- a) In this question, few candidates understood D. Maria's role and therefore their answers were slightly limited, candidates tended to produce some basic and superficial answers.
- b) This question was very popular and most candidates were able to enumerate quite a few examples of how the church was criticised, some of them with a lot of detail.

Question 2

- a) Many candidates took this question as an opportunity to write everything they knew about this book rather than pinpoint the important passages in order to answer the question.

- (b) This question was generally very well answered by most candidates. Some were able to identify different types of revenge from different characters and most of these answers were well illustrated and organised.

Question 3

- a) In general candidates who answered this question focused their answer mainly on (i).
- b) This question was generally well answered by most Candidates who had a good knowledge of the book; there were a lot of illustrations and good insights when discussing António's role and the understanding of the author's intentions.

Section 2

Question 4

- a) This question was very popular. Although not everybody agreed with the quote, candidates were able to justify their views but some forgot to focus their answer on the important parts of the novel
- b) Some candidates who answered this question were not confident with the text and unfortunately provided some repetitive answers.

Question 5

- a) In general candidates were very confident with their answers for this question but the only thing that was lacking in a lot of these answers was the author's intentions with this character *O Delfim* and what he really represented.

Question 6

Candidates who answered this question were more familiar with **Question (a)** and were able to describe Delfina and Maria das Dores as well as write about what they represented for society.