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Paper 9690/02 Reading and Writing

General Comments

The syllabus and level of papers were the same as previous years. The mark scheme is designed to help and encourage even the weakest candidates in the language concerned.

Comments on individual questions

Part 1

Question 1

Vocabulary recognition.

Five bit questions are asked with one mark for each correct response.

Question 2

Testing grammar and syntax.

Five bit questions are asked with one mark for each correct response.

Question 3

Comprehension questions.

Five bit questions are asked on comprehension.

Marks are awarded for both the quality of language and the content expressed.

Question 4

There were some good responses but some candidates failed to give explanations and simply copied from the text.

Question 5

Comprehension questions on two passages.

Performance was somewhat varied, with a few candidates responding very well using information from both passages while others simply copied from the passages or based answers on only one passage.

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Paper 9690/03 Essay

General Comments

All questions in the paper are set as per the syllabus with a maximum of 40 marks (24 for language and 16 for content). The mark scheme is provided on page 14 of the syllabus.

Comments on individual questions

Seven candidates chose Question 2 on the topic Youth; six chose Sports (Question 5) and five chose the village/urban life topic (Question 3). Question 1 and 4 were also attempted. There was one excellent performance and some very good essays.

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Paper 9690/04 Texts

General Comments

The paper is marked out of 75 (3 x 25) and the mark scheme is provided on pages 15-16 of the syllabus.

Comments on Individual questions

Part 1

Question 1

The response to this question contained some basic material.

Question 2

There were some very good responses. Candidates must refrain from simply telling the story. They should not pre-learn set answers but rather be prepared to tailor their response to the precise question asked.

Question 3

This question was not selected.

Part 2

Question 4

- (a) (i) Short story. The answer seemed to be memorised rather than adapted to the question.
 - (ii) Attempted by one candidate.
- (A)(i) Attempted by the majority of candidates.
- (A)(ii) Attempted by the majority of candidates.

 Some good solid performances with relevant answers. One response was too dependent on the narrative and not fully developed. One candidate confused the characters.

Question 5

- (a) Novel the majority of candidates attempted this.
- (A) Novel the responses lacked relevance.

Question 6

- (a) Drama no-one chose this question.
- (A) Drama the candidate who chose this gave a fairly relevant response.

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General Comments

The paper is marked out of 40. The mark scheme is divided into forty units worth one mark each.

In general the comprehension of the passage was good, but there were weaknesses in vocabulary and grammar.

Examples of phrases which presented particular difficulties include unknown fear, pool, look after.