

SINHALA

Paper 3205/01
Composition

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- ensure that they answer one question from **Section A** and one question from **Section B**
- adhere to the word limits specified
- ensure that their work is legible, accurate and logically presented
- ensure that they present their responses in the form stipulated in the question (e.g. letter, dialogue, etc.)
- show an awareness of the conventions of paragraphing and sentence structure
- demonstrate adequate control of grammar, punctuation and spelling
- understand and be able to use a range of suitable vocabulary
- be able to order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- plan their use of time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work.

General comments

In general, candidates performed very well on this paper and most seemed to have been well prepared for the examination. Most candidates were able to present their compositions in the style required by the questions (e.g. letter, dialogue, etc.).

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue

Candidates were asked to write a response of approximately 120 words in Sinhala on one of the three given topics.

Question 1(a) asked candidates to write a letter to a local politician complaining about the litter problem in their neighbourhood. Candidates seemed sufficiently prepared for this letter-writing task.

Question 1(b) asked candidates to write a report for the school newspaper describing a visit to a heritage site that they liked. This was selected by a small number of candidates. Those who choose this question, generally wrote excellent responses.

Question 1(c) asked candidates to write a dialogue in which they and a friend discussed what they planned to do after their O Levels. This was the most popular choice in **Section A** and it seems that candidates had prepared for this well. There were many organised answers. However, use of inappropriate and colloquial language was seen.

Section B – Essay

Candidates were asked to write one essay of approximately 200 words in Sinhala from a choice of four topics.

Question 2(a) asked candidates to write an essay explaining the usefulness of the internet in school education, and was chosen by a considerable number of candidates. Some of them wrote satisfactorily while others were unable to differentiate internet with technology.

Question 2(b) asked candidates to describe the importance of conserving the wildlife in their country. The majority of those who selected this question wrote well. However some of the candidates were unable to write about wildlife and instead wrote about other things such as pollution.

Question 2(c) asked candidates to discuss the statement that “although science is necessary, all schoolchildren should study at least one arts subject”. Few candidates selected this essay but those who did, wrote well.

Question 2(d) asked candidates to write an essay on “My favourite national festival”. This was the most popular question in the second section of the paper. The essays were generally good and were up to the standard. However, some candidates were unable to identify what a national festival was. Some wrote about religious or other types of non-national festivals.

SINHALA

<p>Paper 3205/02 Translation and Reading Comprehension</p>

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to make sure that they express themselves in clear, correct and concise language.

In addition, candidates need to:

- ensure that they plan their time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work
- ensure that their work is legible and logically presented
- read the translation passages carefully before beginning to translate.

General comments

In general, candidates performed well on this paper and most seemed to have been well prepared for the examination.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Translation

Question 1: Translation into English

On the whole, the translation into English was done extremely well. Many candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the passage and provided accurate translations.

Question 2: Translation into Sinhala

Generally, candidates engaged with this translation well and most made a good attempt at it. Some candidates struggled to provide an appropriate Sinhala translation of some of the words, and in some cases candidates' poor grasp of grammar prevented the award of marks.

Section B – Reading Comprehension

In general candidates did well in these questions. Most of them made a good attempt at answering. There were issues with the vocabulary of candidates as correct words were not used in some instances. There were other instances where the candidates did not understand the question properly. Very few candidates gave the correct answer for **Question 6** and got full marks.