

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 employ a range of apt 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 fine on this paper. However, efforts should be made to enrich the vocabulary of the candidates. It was noted that some candidates have tried making up words to express their ideas when they were unsure of the proper vocabulary. There were a few instances where the candidates also used English words instead of Sinhala words in their writing. Use of colloquial words and phrases which are inappropriate for a language proficiency paper were also seen this year. This could be remedied by encouraging candidates to read wider variety of books, articles etc.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue

Question 1

Question 1(a), which asked candidates to write a letter to a charitable organisation offering to work as a volunteer was chosen by 25% of the candidates. There were some really good, well thought out and structured answers.

Question 1(b), which asked candidates to write a speech about a goal that you have achieved in life and the steps you took to achieve it was the least selected option by the candidates. Those who did choose it, wrote good responses.

Question 1(c), which asked candidates to write a dialogue between them and a family member discussing about the importance of being physically active for a healthy life was the choice of most of the candidates. Candidates were able to write about many content points which were factual and also express their ideas and opinions aptly.

Section B

Question 2

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 about the topic ‘A world without the Sun’. This was the second most answered essay. While many candidates answered well, some candidates performed averagely as they didn’t have enough factual information to support their answers.

Question 2(b) asked candidates to write an article about a book that they have read and their reasons for liking it. This was the least popular choice overall. However, candidates who selected this wrote good answers.

Question 2(c) asked candidates to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of home-based learning away from school. This was the most popular question. Majority of candidates wrote well-constructed essays. Some showed excellent writing skills.

Question 2(d), which asked candidates to discuss the statement ‘Unity is strength’ was also a popular question among the candidates. The essays were generally good and were up to the standard.

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

This year candidates have performed well with this paper. But few candidates have shown a difficulty in understanding the comprehension questions. Making candidates to practice more on comprehension seems important. Spending time reading the texts and ascertaining correct information need to be practised.

The teachers should also concentrate on expanding the vocabulary of the candidates. It is evident that the candidates have found difficult to express ideas due to their limited knowledge of the language.

Encouraging candidates to read more will help undoubtedly.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

Majority of the candidates have answered well for this question.

Those who have received less marks for this question have done so due to rushing without understanding the text properly.

Question 2

Compared to **Question 1**, this Question has been answered well.

Section B

Majority of the candidates have scored well for these questions as they have been good at finding answers from the text. It must have been easier for them to find answers as short answers were accepted for the questions without the need to construct full sentences.