

PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE

Paper 8684/01
Speaking

Key messages

To do well, candidates are expected to:

- prepare the whole topic of their presentation which must be about the culture of a Portuguese-speaking country in **Section 1**
- present their topic with facts, ideas as well as opinions in **Section 1**
- present their topic in **Section 1** in no longer than $3\frac{1}{2}$ minutes
- prepare a cue card with notes about their presentation in **Section 1**
- ask the Examiner 2 or more questions in both **Sections 2** and **3**.

General comments

In **Section 1**, candidates chose a good variety of topics which reflected the culture of a Portuguese-speaking country. Their spontaneous presentations were fully organised and included not only facts and ideas, but also opinions.

As regards **Sections 2** and **3**, many candidates asked the Examiner questions and some Examiners invited the candidates to ask them questions. If candidates do not ask the Examiner questions in both Sections, they lose 10 marks. Examiners must prompt candidates to ask them questions.

Examiners are reminded that the beginning and the end of each Section of the examination should be signalled.

Please always remember to follow the instructions in the Mark Scheme as regards topics, how the **Sections 1, 2** and **3** should be conducted, and also the timing for each Section.

Administration

Most Centres recorded their exam clearly so that both candidates and Examiners were clearly audible. Please ensure that the sound of the recording is checked before sending the samples to Cambridge International. Please make sure that the CD is labelled with syllabus and Centre numbers.

Although most marks were added up correctly, there were some arithmetical errors this year. Examiners are reminded that they need to double check the marks so that the candidates are not penalised.

Please make sure that the marks allocated correspond to the maximum mark for each Section.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

In this Section, candidates are allowed to bring into the examination room a cue card (such as a postcard) in Portuguese to remind them of the main points they wish to make. Candidates may also bring in a limited quantity of illustrative material, such as maps, diagrams, statistics, pictures or short articles. However, a script of the presentation is not allowed.

Good candidates presented topics that reflected the culture of a Portuguese country. Some good examples were: crime in Brazil and Portugal with statistics and different types of crime, music in different parts of Portugal, employment and unemployment in Mozambique with facts as well as opinions, pollution in Manaus with facts, opinions and suggestions, etc.

General topics such as health and fitness, sports, the media, euthanasia should be avoided unless they reflect the culture of the Portuguese-speaking world. Also, candidates should not introduce themselves or talk about themselves in this Section.

Candidates should not be interrupted during their presentation.

Please abide by the timing stipulated in the Mark Scheme and interrupt the learner after 3½ minutes, which should be the timing for this Section.

Section 2

Examiners conducted this Section well by asking pertinent and open questions about the candidates' presentations. It is important to remember that candidates should not continue presenting their topic in this Section. Examiners are reminded that they should ask candidates about their topic presentation.

It is essential to invite the candidates to ask the Examiner questions in this Section otherwise they will lose 5 marks. In order to achieve a high mark when asking the Examiner questions, candidates should use a range of question forms and they should be relevant to the topic under discussion.

Please make sure that long questions or comments by the Examiner are avoided to enable the candidates to have as much time as possible to express themselves.

Please abide by the timing stipulated in the Mark Scheme for this Section which should be between 7 and 8 minutes.

Section 3

Most Examiners were prepared for this Section. They did not return to the topic in the candidates' presentations and they asked pertinent and open questions about several different topics such as sports, free time, work and leisure, inequality at work, living in the country and in the city, European music festivals and so on. Examiners are reminded that they need to cover at least two topics in depth during the General Conversation. Please see the Syllabus for topics to ask candidates.

As well as in **Section 2**, in this Section Examiners are reminded that they need to prompt candidates to ask the Examiner questions if they do not do so. These questions should be about the topic under discussion, and candidates should use a variety of question forms in order to attain the highest mark. Questions such as 'Do you agree?' or 'What do you think?' are not enough.

Examiners are reminded that they should ask candidates one question at a time and not two or three questions at the same time. It is also important not to complete the candidates' answers.

Please abide by the timing stipulated in the Mark Scheme for this Section which should be between 8 and 9 minutes.

PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE

Paper 8684/02
Reading and Writing

Key messages

Candidates should demonstrate that they had read and understood the texts and could express themselves clearly. Therefore candidates should answer the questions according to the text, using a good command of the language by spelling words correctly.

General comments

The two texts were about an interesting topic according to the candidates' age, which revealed a reasonable engagement by candidates.

Candidates should always make an effort to write legibly, and also avoid using slang language as they try to not to copy sentences from the texts.

Comments on specific questions

Exercise 1

This question required candidates to find a word or a phrase in Text 1 which had the same meaning as the definitions given in (a) to (e).

The words given were of a similar level and frequency to those encountered in papers of previous years and most candidates were able to find the correct words/phrases. Candidates should take care that the word or words they choose from the text correspond grammatically with those they provide, that all elements are included in their answers, and that extra unnecessary words are not written.

Quite a lot of candidates also used the word "variam" for 1(e) which was not correct.

Exercise 2

This question required candidates to re-express sentences from the text beginning with phrases provided in the question and demonstrate their knowledge of grammar. This proved to be challenging for many candidates. Answers should not contain spelling mistakes, incorrect accents where applicable, and unnecessary additions. The only changes to be made to these sentences are those grammatical and syntactical ones that the new introductory words elicit. Accuracy is crucial in this task and candidates have to make it very clear which spelling and accentuation is used in their answers.

Exercise 3

This question assessed candidates' ability to paraphrase in Portuguese.

- (a) This question was challenging because of the interpretation of "efeitos" and also because other effects not mentioned in the texts were included. Candidates should always refer to the texts and not add their own opinion.
- (b) Many candidates only wrote "prejudicial" rather of "prejudicial para a comunicação/conversa."
- (c) Many candidates simply mentioned the fact that the elderly generation was less tolerant regarding the use of the mobile phone, without clarifying social situations.

- (d) Many candidates only wrote “Quando contribui para a comunicação/conversa” and the correct answer was: “Quando contribui para a comunicação/conversa entre as pessoas presentes.” The full mark was only given when all the information was there.
- (e) This question was, generally, well answered.

Exercise 4

- (a) Many candidates mentioned “dependência” rather than “dependência emocional”.
- (c) This question was, generally, well answered.
- (d) and (e) Many candidates swapped around the answers to these two questions.

Exercise 5

- (a) The most successful candidates often showed clear evidence of planning attentively using information of the texts. The advantages and disadvantages of using a mobile phone were clear. Unfortunately some candidates provided their own ideas and did not refer to the texts.
- (b) This was the question where candidates could have used their own words and could give their personal opinion but many candidates were not able to do that and just repeated themselves by copying not only reasons given by the texts but also using exactly the same words.

PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE

Paper 8684/03
Essay

Key messages

Candidates should:

- Plan ideas before writing in order to answer the question properly and to avoid repetition of ideas.
- Answer the question that is being asked, not the question the learner would like to answer, in clear paragraphs with an introduction, development and conclusion.
- Use a range of different vocabulary.
- Use correct grammar (prepositions, punctuation, spelling, accentuation and so on).
- Use a range of conjunctions to organise their ideas coherently.

General comments

Many candidates wrote essays that were detailed, clearly relevant to the question and coherently argued and structured in clear paragraphs. They were also very well illustrated. Candidates should avoid deviating from the question because they can lose marks.

Good responses showed a confident use of complex sentences and they were generally accurate with correct grammar. Also, the vocabulary was varied. Candidates should study or revise the grammar rules before taking the examination. Essays should show a good grasp of grammar to convey the message clearly.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The question was in the future and a good number of candidates digressed from the topic and wrote in the past or present and forgot to write about what will happen to family life in the future. Candidates should avoid answering the question only in the last paragraph because they will lose marks. The whole essay should be about the future of family life with different examples.

Good responses answered the question with a good sentence structure and conjunctions to link their ideas. Their grammar was mostly accurate. Long sentences should be avoided and correct punctuation should be used so that the message is not impaired.

Question 2

Many candidates chose this question. Writing about the topic of urban and rural life is not the correct way of answering the question. Candidates need to be aware that they need to write about the question and not the topic.

There were good examples of arguments organised by using sign post words or phrases such as 'firstly', 'secondly', 'in addition', 'in conclusion' and so on. Good candidates showed confident use of complex sentence patterns and their essays were generally accurate. Consistently simple or pedestrian sentence patterns with persistent errors should be avoided so that the learner can achieve a high mark.

Question 3

Few candidates answered this question. They said that it was important to learn philosophy at School because many areas were connected to it. It was essential to develop questioning skills and find solutions. These essays were clearly illustrated in clear paragraphs and the conclusion summarised the ideas mentioned in previous paragraphs. Candidates should be sure that they understand the question before writing about it and they should not digress from the topic.

Question 4

This question consists of two parts and many candidates answered it very well by writing about the benefits of tourism and also about the bad points of it. Good responses explained that the benefits of tourism overcome the damage that it can cause. As a result, the question was fully answered. Candidates should avoid writing about tourism only and be aware that there are two points to discuss in the question.

Question 5

This question consists of two parts and good responses included that it is important to preserve the quality of life rather than just the cultural heritage of a country. Candidates need to write about the two parts of the question and not about cultural heritage only.

