

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 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), which asked candidates to write a letter inviting a friend to spend the next school holidays with them, was the most popular question in **Section A**. Candidates seemed well-prepared for this letter-writing task. The majority of responses to this question were very good and contained clear details about what the candidate and the friend could visit and do together.

Question 1(b), which asked candidates to write a report for the school newsletter describing the recent sports meet that they had taken part in, was selected by a small number of candidates. Those who did choose it generally wrote excellent responses.

Question 1(c), which asked candidates to write a dialogue in which they and a friend discussed ways to protect the environment, attracted lively and meaningful responses. Candidates often wrote of their plans for projects to start campaigns for environmental protection at school or in their neighbourhoods. Candidates seemed to be drawing on the knowledge that they had gained in other subjects when composing their dialogues. Many candidates included ideas about the dangers to the environment from careless disposal of rubbish.

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), which asked candidates to write an essay based on the proverb “Fortune favours the brave”, was chosen by a small number of candidates. Most who tackled this question were unable to create a suitable event or story.

Question 2(b), which gave candidates a starting point of “Yesterday you were at a café with some friends. Something unexpected happened” and asked them to tell the story, was a popular question. Most responses were based on an event in which an intruder, a thief or other criminal rushed into the café when the friends were having a party there. There was an interesting variation in the kind of experience related.

Question 2(c), which asked candidates to describe a film or a play that they enjoyed recently, was answered by only a few candidates. However, those who did select it generally produced good essays in which they described the film they had watched and gave a summary of the plot and the themes.

Question 2(d), which asked candidates to describe their last school trip, was the most popular in **Section B**. Most candidates wrote impressive essays describing a trip they had been on with their classmates and teachers. Most seemed to have drawn on real-life experiences and included details of what they had enjoyed and what they had learnt.

SINHALA

Paper 3205/02
Translation and Reading
Comprehension

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 very well on this paper and most seemed to have been well prepared for the examination. This year, as in previous years, performance on **Question 1** was generally better than performance on **Question 2**.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Translation

Question 1: Translation into English

On the whole, the translation into English was tackled extremely well. Many candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the passage and provided accurate translations. Most candidates gained at least 7 of the 10 marks available here.

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

Most candidates attempted all of the questions but a small number left some of them blank. Candidates should be encouraged to attempt every question in this section so that they have the opportunity to work for marks. On the whole, most scored very good marks in this section.