

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 well on this paper and most seemed to have been well prepared for the examination. There were instances where candidates tried to make up words to express some ideas when they were unsure of the proper vocabulary. A few also used English or colloquial words instead of Sinhala words in their writing. This could be remedied by encouraging candidates to read a wider variety of texts (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 newspaper editor to devote a page of the newspaper to young people was chosen by 20% of the candidates. Candidates seemed well-prepared for this letter-writing task. Most responses to this question were very good.

Question 1(b), which asked candidates to write a speech about the problem of educated people moving away to other countries, was selected by a small number of candidates. Those who did choose it generally wrote good responses.

Question 1(c), which asked candidates to write a dialogue in which they and a friend discussed their choice of A Level subjects, was by far the most popular choice. A lot of candidates did very well in this task.

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 plantation of crops for export in Sri Lanka. Some candidates answered this question very well, whilst the majority of them performed averagely.

Question 2(b) asked candidates to discuss the following point: “having a balanced diet including fruits and vegetables is the only way to enhance the level of immunity in your body.” This was the second most popular choice and the majority of candidates wrote well-constructed essays. Some showed excellent writing skills.

Question 2(c) asked candidates to discuss the following statement: “Although cycling has many benefits, it should be banned because it may increase the number of road accidents.” This was the least popular choice overall, however the candidates who selected this question scored high marks.

Question 2(d), which asked candidates to write a short story based on the proverb “Patience brings peace,” was the most popular in **Section B**, although very closely followed by question 2(b). Most candidates wrote good stories and a fair number scored high to very high marks for this question.



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
- 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. The candidates who did not perform well showed a lack of understanding of the texts, which is most probably due to a limited knowledge of vocabulary.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Translation

Question 1: Translation into English

Overall, 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, and a large number achieved all 10 marks.

Question 2: Translation into Sinhala

Generally, candidates made a good attempt at this question. Many of them achieved high marks. Some candidates struggled to provide an appropriate Sinhala translation of some of the words, and in some cases their poor grasp of grammar prevented the award of marks.

Section B – Reading Comprehension

The vast majority of candidates attempted all of the questions but a small number left some of them blank. Overall they did very well and scored highly for each question, showing a good comprehension skills.