

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

Question 1

Most candidates chose to answer **Question 1 (c)**.

There were successful answers for both **(a)** and for **(b)**. Very few candidates chose **Question 1 (b)**.

Section B

Question 2

The choice of most of the candidates was **Question 2 (b)**.

The second choice was **(c)** and the third choice was **(a)**.

Very few candidates selected **(d)** but there were some good answers for this among them.

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

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

On average this question has been answered well.

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

Question 2

This question has also been answered well on average.

However, the struggle of some candidates in finding appropriate words can be seen.

Section B

The majority of candidates have scored well as they have been good at finding answers from the text.

In this section, short answers were accepted for the questions without the need to construct full sentences.