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FIRST LANGUAGE DUTCH

Paper 0503/02

Reading and Directed Writing

General comments

Overall performance was much better than last year. Most candidates were able to compare both texts in **Question 1** without too many problems.

Question 3: all the candidates were able to set a scene and invent what happened next.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

A few candidates misread the question and gave their opinion about the texts instead of comparing them. Good answers were characterised by a clear sense of detail and a precise understanding of the texts. Although global understanding of the topics raised was evident, candidates did not always interpret the more detailed points correctly.

Question 2

Most candidates were able to write a letter to the newspaper and most of these were clear, convincing and articulate. Some candidates did not present their answers in the required format of a letter to the editor. Most candidates made at least a few spelling mistakes. Candidates are reminded to manage their time well to allow them the opportunity to review what they have written at the end of the examination in order to correct any linguistic mistakes.

Question 3

Most candidates wrote a story and only a few wrote a script – both forms were allowed. Nearly all candidates understood what was required of them in this task and wrote lively pieces. Three candidates did not answer this question, probably because they ran out of time.

Paper 0503/03

Continuous Writing

General comments

Overall the candidates performed quite well and most complied with the topic set. The three favourite topics were: 2 (*een wandeling in de bergen*), 3 ("*... het nut van de computer*") and 4 (*Geld maakt niet gelukkig. Of toch wel?*)

Most candidates had no problems with the Dutch word order and use of past tenses. Quite a few candidates had problems with spelling a number of words basic words, such as *worden*, *misschien*, *interessant*.

Many candidates constructed their essay appropriately, starting with an introduction followed by a discussion and finishing off with a proper conclusion. Nearly all the candidates who chose an adventurous topic showed a sense of originality and enterprise.

Most candidates used a mature and persuasive style.

Comments on specific questions

Candidates were asked to write an essay on one of nine given topics.

The nine topics gave ample freedom to choose between diverse subjects and all topics were chosen for an essay. Better answers were characterised by skill in sustaining ideas and arguments and in particular the ability to argue cogently when responding to informative topics. Better answers were also characterised by skill in expressing clearly what was felt or imagined. A fairly large number of candidates struggled with the spelling of the past tense.