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FIRST LANGUAGE FRENCH

Paper 0501/02
Reading and Directed Writing

General comments

Most candidates seemed to understand what was expected of them on this Paper and, as a result, only a handful scored below half marks. It was particularly pleasing that there were only a couple of instances where candidates did not complete all three of the required tasks.

Although, on the whole, the level of candidates' French was satisfactory, there were rather too many examples of sloppy spelling and grammar. Once again, verb endings were often approximate, with a number of candidates unable to distinguish between the second person plural and the infinitive, e.g. '*je voudrais vous demandez*'.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

This task produced some good responses. Only one candidate, who compared Sabriye Tenberker with *le pasteur*, did not understand the requirements. Most candidates were able to select some relevant elements and ideas were generally organised in a structured way.

Question 2

This exercise produced some very lively and enthusiastic responses. Where candidates scored lower marks, this was usually because they were let down by the quality of their written French. The *tu-* and *vous-* form were both acceptable for this exercise, but candidates needed to be consistent.

Part 2

Question 3

Many candidates wrote an interesting letter, showing they were able to organise their arguments coherently and use a formal register. Candidates who chose to use an informal register did not necessarily lose credit if they made it clear that the mayor was an old acquaintance.

Paper 0501/03
Continuous Writing

General comments

All candidates seemed to find a title which appealed to them from the wide range available and most were able to write relevant, often interesting, essays. However, as in previous years, the quality of language was very varied. **Questions 1, 2, 8 and 9** were the most popular and **Question 5** the least popular.

The better scripts were written in generally accurate French with only occasional minor errors, and were well structured. The vocabulary used was wide enough to convey intended shades of meaning.

Average scripts showed more frequent grammatical and spelling errors. Mainly simple vocabulary was used. The essay was usually structured in paragraphs, although links were sometimes absent or inappropriate.

Weaker scripts showed many serious mistakes of various kinds – in some cases hardly any accurate sentences or even phrases were present. They were often not structured in paragraphs. Vocabulary was sometimes imprecise or inappropriate.