

Examiners' Report of EFL March 2010 Examination

Overall candidates were fairly successful in Section A, they scored well and their performance was satisfactory in this section. In general, it appeared that candidates had prepared adequately; however, a better understanding of the passive voice and participles would have been beneficial. In Part Two candidates were required to underline stressed syllables. This task seemed to be generally more challenging. Hence we would recommend that candidates review syllable stress in greater detail. Overall, candidates were very well prepared for phonemic transcription exercises and were awarded marks for accuracy in transcription.

Section B, Part One posed a number of challenges especially with respect to the identification and correct use of tenses and modal auxiliary verbs. Future candidates would be advised to ensure that they are familiar with both of these areas. Part Two on the other hand, which tested candidates ability to collate words did not seem to create too many difficulties and most candidates managed to find words that collocated well within context. In Part Three candidates identified the errors in the set sentences accurately, although some errors in spelling could have been avoided.

In general, Section C was the most challenging section for most of the candidates, which revealed a weak grasp of the idiomatic use of the English Language. Part One (collocations) was generally answered satisfactorily and marks were also awarded for correct parts of speech and grammar. Part Two, which tested idioms within a specific context, proved to be surprisingly difficult for candidates. In Section Four (which again tested register) candidates preferred archaic or inappropriately formal language given the context. This resulted in lower grades being achieved. Future candidates should be advised to pay more attention to understanding correct register and perhaps refining their own use of language in a given context.

Section D – Writing – Overall many candidates did not take note of the instructions regarding word limit and tended to write excessively long essays. Candidates were not awarded extra marks for longer essays. With regards to the short story, it must be noted that most candidates recounted a personal experience in their life rather than a story. In the case of the argumentative essays, some candidates lost marks for a lack of organisation and structure. Candidates should also note that some essays also showed a limited range of vocabulary and idiomatic expression.

****Printing Error in Section A, Part Four, Number 2 (page 7) - this was duly noted and all candidates were compensated for this.***