

Question 1 - comprehension. This question was well answered by candidates who had the intellectual capacity to grasp the text. There were certain questions that required more effort than merely snatching at the first possible answer that seemed appropriate. Candidates must be made aware that questions such as 1.1, 1.2, 1.10 and 1.13.2, which demand an explanation of contrast, require two answers to earn marks. Too many learners were careless and lost marks unnecessarily.

Answers should be crisp, concise and to the point. Long, rambling answers are unacceptable. Candidates cannot expect to earn marks if they write 10 lines for a one-mark question.

Candidates must be made aware of the instruction to 'use own words'. Merely lifting sections directly from the passage cannot earn marks, as the test is to see whether the candidates have understood the language and vocabulary. Many merely copied sections directly from the passage for questions 1.9, 1.10 and 1.14.

Question 2 tests summarising skills. This question has been a marker's nightmare for many years. This year the candidates who had practiced this skill managed to score marks. The foremost problem with this question was the inability to follow the instructions. 2.2 was answered fairly well but 2.1 showed the inability of candidates to focus on the actual question.

We must realise that this is a grammar examination and therefore grammatical terms need to be taught and understood by the candidates. In Question 3 there were many easy questions that merely required the candidates to be familiar with certain terminology. Terms such as *font*, *main and subordinate clause*, *phrase*, *pun*, *register/style*, *reported speech*, *visual indications*, *deep/full structure*, *ambiguity*, and others need to be understood. Centres where candidates were unfamiliar with, for example, the meaning of *reported speech* had no idea what to do and subsequently lost those marks.

Question 4 concerns editing, and here candidates should be able to pick up marks easily. Again, centres that prepared their candidates for this question managed to gain marks. Candidates must realise that to earn full marks for a question, they have to complete the question. In 4.1.8, they were expected to identify and correct an error of tautology. Many merely identified the example and wrote it down without adding the correction. Very few candidates could spell the word 'influential'.

However, this section was answered pleasingly in most cases.