

The answers to this paper varied from excellent to – in a few cases – very poor. Good teaching shows, particularly so when candidates are weak.

In Section A it could be clearly seen whether the following aspects of the work had received enough attention:

- Vocabulary
- Sentence structures
- The passive voice
- Subjunctive mood

In Section B it was clear that, in some cases, the form of the German letter had not been taught and that in fact many candidates had never had the pleasure of corresponding with pen friends in German-speaking countries. In speaks volumes if candidates, having studied German for a number of years, prefer not to travel to any German-speaking country and instead choose Paris or London as their destinations! It is also significant when candidates still use imaginary names instead of their own, when corresponding with pen-friends. The principle of applicability to the outside world is thus ignored.

If in one centre each and every candidate started his or her letter as follows: “Wie geht es dir? Mir geht es gut.” And if each one of them ends his or her letter with the sentence “Ich vermisse dich”, it is obvious that parrot-fashion learning had taken place.

Although the theme “Das Wetter” is dealt with at an early stage and later on repeated, there simply were too many candidates who could not use the principal parts of the high frequency verb “scheinen” (scheinen, schien, geschien)!

There were even candidates who still do not seem to realise that German nouns have to be written with capital letters, who – in Grade 12 – are still printing, and who were unable to distinguish between the following:

“Bauernhof” and “Farm”

“Lieber Matthias” (maennlich!) and “Liebe Judith” (weiblich!)

Finally, there were candidates who made unnecessary spelling errors because of poor pronunciation. Examples: “Kiiiiche” instead of “Kueche”; “hehren” instead of “ hoeren”.

PAPER 2

Generally speaking, good results were achieved in the reading comprehension paper. This is a clear indication that more attention is being given to this important skill than in the past.