

It is pleasing to know that certain skills have been well taught at most centres. However, many candidates did not follow instructions and there was often incorrect numbering, or no numbering at all.

Teachers should emphasize the importance of quoting correctly and paraphrasing. A lack of vocabulary often disadvantaged candidates as they had to resort to quoting instead of using their own words.

1. Candidates often wrote what they know, but did not answer the question.
2. Teachers need to stress the importance of reading instructions carefully.
3. Candidates should consider the mark allocation for each question. Some candidates wrote unnecessarily long paragraphs and wasted time.
4. Candidates must be taught the importance of reading over their work.
5. Candidates could not detect emotions, tone and setting in poems. Poetry is a nightmare for many candidates and many did not understand what they were expected to write.
6. Sound devices, hyperbole and other figures of speech appear to be taking a back seat in English teaching. These must be taught continually during the high school years.
7. Candidates could identify figures of speech, but could not comment on their effect.
8. Most candidates could not detect irony.

It is becoming a challenge to decode the written language used by Grade 12 candidates. Many candidates could not communicate in English in proper sentences.

Candidates must not write in the margins of the page. It is also worrying that the majority of candidates did not present their answers neatly and systematically.