

The purpose of this report is to identify problem areas and provide recommendations as to how these problems can be rectified. The report will look at how candidates performed in each section and analyse problems that were found.

## Findings

### Section A.

While most candidates did well in this section, there were some centres where students performed beyond expectations. However, the following were the reasons for some poor performances in the essay question:

- Some candidates did not spend time trying to understand what the question was about before attempting to answer.
- The language used by some candidates was informal and not appropriate for an examination answer. They seemed not to understand that they have to use a certain register when writing a formal examination.
- Some candidates failed to observe the basic structure of an essay, i.e. there was no introduction, no structure and no conclusion. Ideas were thrown all over the place.
- It was also noticed that candidates started writing without first spending time planning their essay. This was responsible for illogical presentations. There was often no paragraphing, and, instead, run-on sentences.
- Some candidates had a very limited knowledge of the language and lacked an adequate vocabulary.
- In the question where students were supposed to explain the influence of kwaito in society, they spent time comparing kwaito to gospel. This obviously affected their content marks.

### Section B

- It was discovered that some candidates, when writing their speech, were hampered by the lack of an adequate vocabulary, not to mention the fact that their speech lacks focus and structure. This is the section where the use of language was really wanting from some candidates.
- Some candidates could not differentiate between a dialogue (or conversation) and an essay. This is because they could not make out who the speakers were, let alone understand the conversation.

### Section C

- This was the most poorly answered section of the paper. Apart from the fact that many candidates did not even attempt to write anything on this section, those who did performed poorly.
- In responding to the question, candidates failed to make distinction between a postcard and a letter. Instead of indicating only the names of the recipient and sender, they gave full addresses and also ended with "Yours faithfully".

### General

- Most of candidates were mixing Zulu and Xhosa words. Much attention needs to be given to this area of choice of words.
- Most candidates were unable to spell correctly. It was difficult to find a complete sentence without a spelling error.

### Recommendation

- Candidates should be trained to make use of planning before writing an essay or any other piece of writing. This would help them structure their work better and achieve more clarity.

- Candidates should be doing more reading to help improve their vocabularies.
- Candidates need more practice in essay and functional writing.
- Candidates should be taught how to respond to key instruction words, such as *discuss, narrate, compare* and *contrast*.
- Candidates should be taught how to answer an exam paper.