

## ENGLISH FIRST LANGUAGE SG PAPER 1

The chief concern, as in previous years, is the inability of many candidates to answer the actual questions and to follow and carry out instructions. Possible reasons could be the inability to read properly or that candidates were not prepared sufficiently and had perhaps never seen a 'final' paper before. So often candidates lost marks because they simply did not follow instructions – this is something that they must be taught. If one word is required then only one word will be accepted. It was also disappointing to see that many candidates were unable to answer the questions which referred to the dictionary entries.

The SG candidate must be prepared to answer basic grammar questions. In this section such bizarre answers were received that it is obvious that this area needs serious attention.

It seems that the SMS era has had a major influence on spelling. It is disturbing when we find excessive use of the ampersand (&), 'I' written in lower case, 'you' simply written as 'u' and 'for' merely replaced by the number '4'. Candidates must realise that this is a formal English examination and that they need to make a good impression.

There were centres where learners were well prepared. Thank you to all the teachers who put in time and effort to prepare learners for this exam.