

ENGLISH SECOND LANGUAGE SG PAPER 1

The paper was a very fair paper and revealed that most teachers have exposed the candidates to most of the aspects covered in the paper. However, it also became clear that there are still areas that need some attention.

The most obvious area for concern was indicated by the poor performance of candidates in the last 2 questions of the paper. This reflected a lack of instruction in grammar, e.g. prepositions, reported speech, active and passive voice, parts of speech, etc.

It was also clear from the candidates' responses that other literacies have not been (adequately) taught.

Educators need to teach candidates to quote properly, using ellipsis and quotation marks, etc. Candidates should also be taught how to substantiate True/False answers and identify Facts/Opinions.

While acknowledging that more effort has gone into the preparation of candidates for the summary, it is not yet sufficient. Candidates should be taught to stick to the text when making a summary and not to contextualise it in their own experience.

Other issues that were detected were that candidates still write in capital letters, their handwritings are illegible, the answer-sheets are poorly arranged (lay-out of answers) and they write out the whole passage/sentence when asked to write down one word.

We would like schools to share this report with the ABET centres that are attached to their schools or that are close to them.

We would also like schools to approach the SLES component at their EMDC to assist them with identifying and addressing issues around, those candidates who experience barriers to learning, e.g. dyslexia or problems with spelling or grammar, etc. so that the proper procedures can be followed to assist these candidates in the examination.