

# FIRST LANGUAGE THAI

---

Paper 0518/02  
Reading and Directed Writing

## Key messages

- The best candidates understood how to use appropriate register, organisation, grammar and vocabulary.
- Candidates should take time to read all questions carefully to ensure they do not miss marks by omitting part of the task.

## General comments

This year's candidates, in general, performed very well. Many responses were interesting to read.

Candidates are reminded to take care with their handwriting, to ensure that it is legible. Examiners try hard to understand all that is written, but marks cannot be awarded if communication is not successfully achieved because of illegible handwriting.

In order to do well, candidates need to answer the questions using their own words, rather than lifting large sections from the original reading text.

## Comments on specific questions

### Part 1

#### Question 1

The best candidates well understood the task of how to summarise the two texts according to the questions asked. They were able to use appropriate register and lexis; however, a small number of candidates did not have the skills to select appropriate information, instead adding descriptive details or lifting large sections from the original texts. Such extra information is not required, and cannot receive marks. For this task, candidates need to be precise and give information while comes only from the two texts. This needs to be written as continuous prose, not a list of points or bullet points. They do not need to offer comments or opinions of their own. This year there were some candidates who included their opinions about ecotourism: Some candidates tried to use their own words but chose vocabulary which gave different meanings from the original words. Some candidates lifted large sections from the original texts without using their own words. In order to do well, candidates need to summarise the text without adding their own opinions. When using their own words, candidates need to make sure that the words used have the same meaning in the context.

#### Question 2

Stronger candidates used appropriate language wisely, engaging the reader's interest and making their article effective and convincing. In the very best responses, the reader was able to get a real sense of the importance of ecotourism in the article. In this task, candidates did need to use their own words; it was not enough to copy all the information from the texts.

Strong responses included mention of the meaning and causes of ecotourism. They introduced ecotourism activities to school friends including how young people could support ecotourism. There were some candidates who wrote about ecotourism activities without using their own words. Some candidates did not mention how they could support ecotourism. Candidates are reminded that they must carefully read the question and instructions before beginning to write their response. The better responses included the

importance of ecotourism, details of the project, ecotourism activities, and how to support ecotourism using their own language and emotive language to convince the reader to support ecotourism.

## **Part 2**

### **Question 3**

The majority of candidates found this question to be accessible. The best responses were written in both emotive and factual language, showing an awareness of how to grab the reader's attention. These responses were very convincing and persuasive. Weaker responses tended to lift most information from the text without using their own words or the facts were exaggerated. Some candidates did not read the question carefully. Therefore, they did not mention Mr Kamol and his inspiration in the article. The best responses combined facts and opinions very well. Factual language and emotive language were suitable and blended nicely, including a sense of coherence of paragraphs. They were able to convince the reader to promote Thai traditional fabric and clothes.

# FIRST LANGUAGE THAI

---

Paper 0518/03  
Continuous Writing

## Key messages

- Candidates should continue to pay attention to the word count (350 to 500 words). This is not an indicative number but a maximum limit.
- Candidate should take care to properly read the instructions.

## General comments

In the best responses, there was evidence of a wide range of vocabulary being used, which allowed for the expression of deeper and more nuanced meanings. Comparative adjectives and advanced syntax were correctly used, which increased the sophistication of the responses. Spelling and punctuation were also accurate. The content was appropriately linked to the topic, which reflected good planning by the candidates.

In less successful responses, one of the the main deficiencies was relevance. Although the content was broadly relevant, there were generalisations and a lack of consistency, with a consequent detrimental effect on the response. Ideas need to be developed in a logical order, so that the reader can follow the story. Candidates should avoid inserting pre-learned formulaic phrases and expressions without due consideration of the specific topic under consideration. This detracts from the content and flow of the script. There were also some rudimentary spelling errors that at this level should not be being made for example, “รับประทาน” was written as “รับประทาน” ; “ล้มจม” was written as “ร้มจม”.

## Comment on specific questions

The most popular questions selected by candidates were **Questions 8, 9 and 6**. **Questions 8 and 9** were particularly popular: they called for descriptive essays where candidates were able to use their imagination and personal experiences on the matters relevant to love and relationships, friendship and remembrance.

**Question 6** was related to Thai food, where candidates were again inclined to already have good knowledge and insight!

The least popular question was **Question 1** which called for a more analytical essay to provide a critique of a poem regarding the significance of a conversation – this required a clear understanding of the meanings and symbols conveyed in the poem before a meaningful analysis could be undertaken. The relative lack of successful answers to such a question suggests that candidates could do more preparatory work during the course in order to be better equipped to address such questions/topics in the future. Thai literature and poetry is a central and rich facet of Thai culture, which candidates at this level are expected to be able to critically appreciate and evaluate in a way suitable to their maturity level.