FIRST LANGUAGE FRENCH

Paper 0501/02
Reading and Directed Writing

General comments

In general, the standard of work produced by candidates was very pleasing, with most candidates scoring above half marks.

The level of French was satisfactory, although spelling and grammar were too often approximate – not being able to distinguish between the past participle and the infinitive was a very common mistake.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

This task produced the best marks. Most candidates were able to select some relevant elements, but did not always manage to find them all. Ideas were generally organised in a structured way.

Question 2

This exercise stimulated some very imaginative responses. Although, the performance was very good on the whole, a small number of candidates did not pay enough attention to what was expected of them and this reduced their marks. The past participle was sometimes very inaccurate.

Part 2

Question 3

Many candidates wrote an interesting article, using the statistics appropriately. This was the least well answered question, partly because the subject matter was often treated in a vague fashion with few convincing arguments (and in some cases the article written was totally irrelevant), and partly because the standard of accuracy was poor.

Paper 0501/03
Continuous Writing

General comments

The overall performance was very varied. Although many candidates wrote an interesting – or at least relevant – essay, the quality of the language was, as in previous years, very varied.

The better scripts were written in generally accurate French with only occasional minor errors, and were well structured. The vocabulary used was wide enough to convey intended shades of meaning.

Average scripts showed more frequent grammatical and spelling errors. Mainly simple vocabulary was used. The essay was usually structured in paragraphs, although links were sometimes absent or inappropriate.

The weaker scripts showed many serious mistakes of various kinds – in some cases hardly any accurate sentences or even phrases were present. They were often not structured in paragraphs. Vocabulary was sometimes imprecise or inappropriate.