

Examiners' Report

GCE O Level Thai (7645)

June 2006

delivered locally, recognised globally

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General Comments

The majority of candidates found the paper fairly accessible and a good proportion of candidates performed well and scored high marks. The demands of the paper were comparable with previous year's paper. Candidates performed particularly well when having to translate English into Thai and demonstrated an excellent comprehension of both languages.

Question 1

This question required translating a Thai passage into English which tested the candidates' transmission skills as well as the quality of language. This passage about the different types of fruits used for facial skin care proved to be accessible and candidates competently grasped the main points.

The following words proved to be challenging to most candidates:

- สงเกตได้เลยว
- พวพรรณด
- ผลไม้บางชนิดนนอกจากประทานแฉวขงสามารถนามาพอกทำไบน
- สบประดสดๆ คนเอาแตน
- สมดล
- ปนไหนด
- ผ่านเป็นชนบางๆ
- มะละกอสก
- แดกป่นขยๆ

Some excellent translations were produced in this section. However, verb tenses, subject-verb agreement and passive form are still a major problem.

Question 2

Candidates were asked to translate an English passage into Thai. This passage described how the Loy Kratong Festival originated and what people do on that day to commemorate the event.

More able candidates performed very well. However, less able candidates misunderstood certain parts of the passage, names such as 'Noppamas', who she was, what the contest was called and what Brahmin was.

The following words and phrases were some of the examples that most candidates had difficulty to translated.

- the rainy season is over
- Brahmin origin
- Indeed, it is the time to be joyful and happy as the sufferings are floated away.
- people of all walks of life
- a beauty queen contest
- "Miss Noppamas Contest"
- the chief royal consort
- She was said to...

Question 3

Most candidates did really well at the sentence level. However, some candidates had problem with 'younger brother', 'older brother' and collective nouns.

Question 4

Candidates were asked to write a 200 - 250 word essay in Thai on any one of the four given choices. Although the level of the Thai language used was quite high, the organisation of the essay, main ideas and supporting arguments still need to be improved and extended.

Option B 'Life without a mobile phone' proved to be the most popular choice. However, most candidates did not do well as expected because instead of explaining what life would be like without a mobile phone, candidates only pointed out how useful the mobile phone was.

Centres should advise candidates to read the questions more carefully during the examination and in preparation for the examination. Candidates should practice more on the skill of translation and composition. Moreover, it will be very useful if candidates took time to plan and organise ideas before starting to write their essays.

THAI 7645, GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	67	55	44	39	32