

SWAHILI

Paper 3162/01
Paper 1

Key message

In order to do well in this examination, candidates should:

- ensure that all the words and phrases in a sentence have been translated in **Question 1** and **Question 2**
- carefully proofread their translations in **Question 1** and **Question 2**
- read the text carefully and write concise responses to the questions in their own words in **Question 3**
- choose a topic on which they have something to say and for which they have command of appropriate structures and vocabulary in **Question 4**.

General comments

- Candidates should remember to translate every piece of information in a sentence when translating the texts in **Question 1** and **2**. When candidates summarize or paraphrase passages, they leave out important information and lose marks. Accuracy is also paramount: words such as *ndogo zaidi* should be translated as 'smaller' and not simply 'small' or be omitted. Candidate should be careful not to omit relevant words or phrases in a sentence, even if they feel that they have previously or subsequently showed themselves capable of translating the same word or phrase.
- There seemed to be a general enhancement in the ability to use the correct grammatical agreements across different noun classes, although this is still an area where there is still considerable room for further improvement.
- Centres should strive to use stationary that is more durable and that can be properly bound. A small number of centres this year submitted scripts that consisted of loose sheets of paper which led to considerable confusion. Centres are reminded that a candidate's work should be bound together at all times.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This question was done well by most candidates.

- It is important that candidates translate all pieces of information from the source sentences, including adjectives and adverbs. For instance, words such as *kubwa*, *muhimu* and *sana* had to be translated words in the sentence *amepata kazi kubwa katika nyumba ya mwanamke muhimu sana*.
- Marks were awarded for translations which adhered to the general idea of passages. For example *nyumba ndogo zaidi* could be translated as 'the smaller house', 'the smallest house' and even 'the very small house' as all three translations conveyed the idea that a comparison was being made.
- The items of vocabulary found to be most challenging were *matofali*, *mwembe*, *muhogo*, *kupiga randa*, *kuchonga*, *jiko* and *marafu*.

Question 2:

As usual, this question was found to be more challenging than the previous question.

- Some candidates did not correctly produce the infinitive form of secondary/subsequent verbs in a phrase; more specifically, there was a tendency to drop the infinitive marker for second-placed verbs (as would happen in English), e.g. '*unaweza tuma pesa*' instead of *kutuma*.
- Often marks were lost because 'Africa' was used instead of *Afrika* or 'campani' instead of *kampuni*. A number of candidates did not know how to translate 'East Africa'.
- Marks were often lost where candidates omitted the letter 'h' in the spelling of words such as *hata* and *rahisi*.
- The use of relative pronouns 'that' and 'which' (e.g. 'contributions that are being' or 'which is available anywhere') caused problems for some candidates.
- The most commonly mistranslated or unknown words were: 'invented', 'created', 'contributions', 'services', 'secure', 'insurance', 'salaries', 'queues' and 'improved'.

Question 3:

- There seemed to be a general improvement in the standard of answers to **Question 3** this year, with apparently fewer candidates rushing through the exercise, or giving simple, single-word answers.
- Questions that candidates found most challenging were:
 - 3(b)** – some candidates listed the desired attributes of astronauts instead of the obstacles faced by the company
 - 3(d)** – few candidates knew the standard meaning of *ubunifu* (to be creative) and interpreted the word as meaning something along the lines of the English phrase 'street smart'
 - 3(h)** – often candidates either contrasted the opinions of Zuhura/Juma and the parents combined (rather than contrasting the opinions of the two parents individually, as was required) or attributed opinions to the wrong person.

Question 4:

- There were some very good essays this year. There were fewer instances of essays that were too long and the use of non-Swahili words was also reduced in relation to previous years, which was excellent to see. It is important that candidates continue to pay heed to the word limit of 120 words.
- Candidates should be careful to ensure they fully address the essay topic they have chosen in order to maximise their marks. For example, whereas topic **4(c)** refers to taking part in a TV talent show last year, some candidates wrote about different events, such as taking part in a school quiz last week, which made their essays largely or even wholly irrelevant to the task set.