

**Portuguese**

Advanced GCE A2 H596

Advanced Subsidiary GCE AS H196

**Examiners' Reports**

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**HX96/R/11**

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Reports should be read in conjunction with the published question papers and mark schemes for the Examination.

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## F887: Listening, Reading and Writing (1)

Generally most candidates coped well with the paper. As in last year's paper, the quality of language, both for Portuguese and English, was not always consistent. Some candidates were unsure of grammar, spelling and punctuation, and sometimes there was interference from other languages.

### Section A: Listening and Writing

#### Tarefa 1

This multiple-choice exercise in Portuguese was generally well answered by the majority of candidates. Some candidates answered Question 1(b) incorrectly.

#### Tarefa 2: Compreensão auditiva

This gap-filling exercise was also generally well answered by candidates.

#### Task 3: Listening

This listening comprehension exercise in English was generally well answered, though candidates did not always ensure their answers were clearly expressed. A few candidates wrote one or more of their answers in Portuguese.

#### Task 4: Writing

Examiners reported that candidates coped well with this writing exercise. Most candidates conveyed most or all the information successfully. Many candidates did not convey 'application' correctly and used *aplicação*.

Some candidates used the singular familiar forms of the possessive adjective and the subject pronoun, which should not be used when writing to strangers. The space in which the answer was to be written started with *Prezados senhores*. A few candidates omitted one or two items of information and a few wrote much more than was required.

Some candidates struggled to score highly for their Quality of Language. Errors identified included punctuation, spelling, endings, verb forms, gender of common nouns, agreements, vocabulary and structures. Some language errors were caused by the influence of English and other languages, usually Spanish.

### Section B: Reading and Writing

#### Tarefa 5: Reading

Most candidates coped well with this multiple-choice exercise in Portuguese.

#### Tarefa 6: Leitura

Many candidates ticked only 8 blank boxes rather than the prescribed 10. Candidates should ensure that they read the instructions carefully so that they answer such exercises correctly.

#### Tarefa 7: Leitura

Many candidates made a successful attempt at answering most of the questions. However, some candidates simply lifted material from the text and made little attempt to use their own words, and this limited the marks they achieved for Quality of Language. Some candidates did not ensure their answers were based on the text, and gave extraneous details or repeated details such as *doces, salgados e gordurosos* regardless of the question they were answering.

In Questions 7(a) and 7(b), some candidates simply copied the relevant parts of the text. Sometimes candidates omitted or changed one or two words, but their answers did not demonstrate that they were communicating using their own words.

In Question 7(c), many candidates omitted to state that it was *mais de quatro horas por dia*. Many candidates misinterpreted the text and stated that research had found that young people spend more than four hours a day playing video games.

Question 7(d) was generally well done. However, some wrong answers included *chocolates, hamburgueres e batatas fritas*.

In Question 7(e) some candidates misunderstood the word *elementos* and answered *alimentos com excesso de açúcar, sal ou gordura*.

Questions 7(f) to 7(m) were in the main successfully answered. The mark scheme provides specific details of which answers were and were not accepted.

## **Tarefa 8: Leitura e Escrita**

### **Part a**

The question was generally well answered and candidates included some relevant information showing an understanding of the text. This exercise required the candidate to demonstrate an understanding of the text and the answers should have been based on the contents of the text. Some candidates included irrelevant material, such as detailed descriptions of the countries they knew.

### **Part b**

In this exercise, the candidate was free to express an opinion on the text. Some candidates did not go beyond points of view already expressed in the text. They managed the beginning of a response to the requirements of the task but had difficulty in developing points of view. Sometimes a lack of original ideas and personal points of view meant that the task was not fulfilled.

Many candidates wrote in excess of the recommended word limit for question 8(a) and this meant that their answer to 8(b) was short and incomplete. Candidates should be aware of the number of marks allocated for each part of the question and plan their time better to enable them to access the higher marks.

In both Questions 8(a) and 8(b) some candidates struggled to score highly for their Quality of Language. Some answers showed evidence of gaps in grammar with errors in spellings, endings, verb forms, gender of common nouns, adjectival and other agreements. However, most candidates successfully used simple sentence structures.

Candidates scored less well if they used a restricted range of vocabulary and structures, frequently repeating the same words and phrases and sometimes using parts of the text were. As in Tasks 4 and 7, candidates who used their own original language and developed their own ideas and opinions scored the best marks.

## F888: Listening, Reading and Writing (2)

It is most pleasing to report that this year's A2 paper was done well by many candidates who had clearly been well prepared for the examination by their teachers.

In general, candidates did well when they:

- Answered questions as instructed by the rubric
- Checked and corrected their responses
- Answered succinctly and within the recommended space or word limit
- Wrote accurate Portuguese, with particular attention to verb endings
- Wrote in an appropriate register, avoiding informal speech and colloquialisms.

### SECTION A: Listening and Writing

#### Task 1: Listening

Most candidates did very well with the four questions here, although examiners did note considerable variation in the quality of written English. As a result, the meaning of some responses was not clear and therefore marks could not be rewarded.

#### Tarefa 2: Compreensão auditiva

This listening task presented few difficulties in terms of comprehension, although it did provide early indications of issues with spelling and lexis. Some candidates confused the verb endings – *am* and –*ão*.

### SECTION B: Reading and Writing

#### Tarefa 3

Many candidates achieved high marks for this task. Those who performed less well might have benefited from more practice in this kind of exercise. In particular, there were significant numbers of candidates who failed to recognise the part of speech required in some of the gaps and who, for example, inserted a verb where an adjective was required.

#### Tarefa 4

This task was well done by most candidates.

#### Tarefa 5

This task was less well done, with some candidates unable to find the correct answers from within the text. Many candidates thought *já existem* was the opposite of *ainda não*.

#### Tarefa 6

Performance here was generally good. In order for candidates to achieve the highest marks for Quality of Language they should use their own words as far as possible and avoid copying large parts of the text.

#### Tarefa 7

This task was a good discriminator, with the higher achieving candidates writing in clearly expressed, accurate and idiomatic English. Some items of lexis that caused problems were *migração*, *em massa*, *indígenas* (translated translates as 'indie', 'Indian' and even 'indignant'), *remanescentes*, *lavradores* (bizarrely rendered as 'cleaners' by some candidates) and *subsistência*.

### **Tarefa 8**

This task was generally well done by most candidates. Lower achieving candidates found the rules of agreement of verbs and adjectives more challenging. For example, many filled the first gap with *tradicionalis*, which appeared in the text, rather than the correctly manipulated *tradicional*.

### **Tarefa 9**

This task was generally well done. As with Task 6, candidates who copied from the text did not score highly for Quality of Language.

## **SECTION C: Writing**

Many candidates had clear ideas about their chosen topic and wrote with conviction. There were many well-structured and well-argued responses, which drew upon specific knowledge and examples or experiences. The highest achieving candidates wrote with flair and intelligence, demonstrating an appropriate breadth of vocabulary and accurate and persuasive language.

When candidates did not get high marks for this section, it was often because essays lacked structure and analysis, and only made superficial reference to a Portuguese-speaking country or community. Candidates could prepare better for this section of the paper by studying the topic areas more, so enabling them to incorporate appropriate information and examples into their responses.

Pleasingly, the great majority of candidates wrote within the word limits recommended in the rubric. However, poor spelling was a feature of some responses. There was a good spread of responses across most of the questions, with only 16 and 17 proving less popular.

Question 10 could have been better answered by making reference to Portuguese-speaking countries or communities and supporting arguments with facts and evidence.

Responses to Question 11 often focused too much on describing the imagined organisation and not enough on evaluation.

Questions 12 and 13 were usually well answered, with many candidates supplying a great deal of information and statistical data to lend weight to their chosen case studies.

Question 14 was answered with knowledge and conviction by most candidates, although the requirement to focus on a Portuguese-speaking country or community proved a difficult hurdle.

Question 15 was very popular, with some interesting and imaginative responses. Examiners felt, however, that the Portuguese-speaking references should have been more frequent and effective in some essays.

Question 16 was answered with some passion by candidates, but again candidates should have shown more specific knowledge here, as some information quoted was incorrect.

Question 17 was answered by only a few candidates. Unfortunately, some of these responses were enthusiastic descriptive travelogues which did not score highly as they did not fully meet the criteria of the task.

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