

# PORTUGUESE LITERATURE

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Paper 8672/04  
Texts

## Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates should:

- Check carefully that they manage their time in the examination room well and answer three questions on three different texts.
- Check carefully that they answer one question from **section 1**, one question from **section 2** and one other as long as it is not from the same text as the previous questions.
- Think carefully about what the question is asking them before they start to write and do not be tempted to write everything they know about the book in one question.
- Refer to the question during the answer using quotes where possible (without page numbers).
- Label questions with the number and passage-based questions with **(i)** and **(ii)**.
- Choose carefully either **(a)** or **(b)** and invest in providing as complete and relevant an answer to that one question as possible.
- Finish with a concluding paragraph without repeating everything that has been said previously.
- Make sure their handwriting is clear.

## General comments

To do well in this paper, candidates are expected to use their own language, show their ability to organise material, demonstrate close attention to the detail of passages, have a good insight when discussing characters and be sensitive to the language and to the author's intentions. Quality of Language is also important, therefore candidates should display a good command of the language by spelling words correctly, varying the way they start their sentences and showing a good grasp of grammatical structures.

Some candidates only answered 2 question and there were a few who only answered **Question a(i)**. Candidates are reminded to follow the rubric.

Many candidates did well, and produced responses in the 16–17 band: Painstaking. Sound knowledge of texts; mainly relevant. Some attempt to analyse and compare, some sense of understanding. Possibly not in full control of material; solid but indiscriminate. Candidates should write focused and coherent essays and not write too much.

## **Comments on specific questions**

### **Section 1**

#### **Question 1**

José Saramago: *Memorial do Convento*

- (a) This was the most popular question but some candidates failed to describe Blimunda. Many candidates knew her story with Baltasar but could not give examples or reasons for the two of them to be together. Many mentioned the passarola and wrote a lot about it. Some candidates also wrote about the importance of the numbers and the Convento de Mafra which was expected to be done in **Question (b)** and not here.
- (b) Many candidates were able to explain the importance of these three symbols. There was a lot of detail in most of the answers and sometimes quotes from the original text too.

#### **Question 2**

Mia Couto: *Terra Sonâmbula*

- (a) This question was also very popular. Many candidates wrote about the naparamas and some gave very good answers explaining why Kindzu wanted to become one of them but unfortunately the many were not able to answer the second part of the question and gave no example or quotes, and wrote very brief answers.
- (b) Not all candidates thought Farida represented the women from Mozambique but were able to justify their answers. It's a shame that many candidates did not understand what Romão represented when they described the part of the book where he took advantage of Farida.

#### **Question 3**

Erico Veríssimo: *Olhai os Lírios do Campo*

- (a) Many candidates answered this question and were able to explain why Eugénio and Eunice's relationship did not work. There was a lot of detail but also a lot of repetition.
- (b) There were few responses to this question.

#### **Question 4**

Rachel de Queiroz: *As três Marias*

- (a) In general, candidates answered this question well. Some candidates did not have higher marks here because they only focused their attention in Guta's love life and mentioned only briefly the other two main characters.
- (b) Many candidates were able to write about the stratification of the society inside the convent School and used quotes to express Guta's point of view, how she felt while she was at this School and the impact it had in her life.

#### **Question 5**

Lídia Jorge: *A Costa dos Murmúrios*

- (a) There were few responses to this question.
- (b) As this was a new book only a few candidates answered these questions but the ones who did were able to understand how women were treated and what made them be unfaithful while the husbands were away. There were some very reasonable answers.

**Question 6**

Baltasar Lopes: *Chiquinho*

- (a) Many candidates were able to justify the importance of the Grémio for S. Vicente.
- (b) Although many candidates decided to explain not only the third but also the first and second parts of the novel they were able to explain, to a certain level, the reasons why the last part reflected the society from Cape Verde.