

#### **4.1 PAPER 1 (101/1)**

##### **Preamble**

Paper 1 registered an improvement in the performance as indicated by the mean which rose from 15.00 to 16.36. This was attributed to the quality of the questions that did not lend themselves to misinterpretation and the accessibility especially of question 3 and 4. Though quite a sizeable percentage of the candidates suffered penalties for rubric contravention in question 1, the performance in the second question compensated for the losses hence the improved mean. But there is still much room for improvement if the teachers put a lot more into teaching and guiding the students and candidates in this area of composition writing as will be seen in the ensuing discussion of the individual questions.

##### **Question 1 Compulsory**

Two of your classmates who happen to be your best friends wish to visit your home during the December holidays. Give them detailed and usable directions on how to get to your home from the school. Remember to describe the landmarks and any other features that they will come across on their way to your home. Include a brief description of the home.

In 2004 the compulsory question required candidates to write detailed direction on how to get to the candidate's home from school. Candidates were expected to write in the passive voice and to include detailed and interesting landmarks and description of the home – real or imagined.

##### **Weaknesses**

This elicited a number of wrong formats. Some wrote letters (friendly and official), others wrote dialogues and got penalized. The instructions were clear and candidates should have stuck to the format required. It may seem candidates are made to anticipate certain formats which, when they do not find them in the examination, they still present, notwithstanding. This is wrong as it borders on cheating.

##### **Question 2**

Describe what the youth should do to assist the elderly in their community.

Required candidates, being the youth, to describe what they can do to assist the elderly in their communities.

##### **Weaknesses**

Apart from the fact that very few candidates attempted this question those who did could not display thorough knowledge of the needs of the elderly, beyond fetching water/firewood for the rural folk. It may seem that the youth have lost touch with the