NOTE ON THE 2012 SPECIMEN PAPERS

General Note

In accordance with the new Form 1 English Curriculum, which caters for a wide range of levels of achievement, the annual examination will henceforth offer three multi-levelled papers. Every student is to sit for one of these papers.

The three specimen papers attached with this Note reflect this new provision. One of the papers contains tasks pitched at Levels 5, 6 and 7 of the Curriculum. A second paper contains tasks pitched at Levels 6 and 7. A third paper contains tasks pitched at Levels 7 and 8.

The balance of levels in each paper is specified in the Marking Schemes. This balance will be maintained in future years.

Listening and Speaking

The three-paper approach will also apply to the Listening Comprehension component. As in previous years, this will consist of a 15-minute listening test.

Assessment in Speaking will be conducted in the same way as in previous years, that is, on a continuous assessment basis. An assessment criteria guideline is attached with the specimen papers.

The Literature Questions

It will be noted in the Specimen Papers that the Literature section consists only of questions on two unprepared texts, while the usual questions on prepared texts have been removed. The unprepared texts that will feature in future exams may be taken from any two of the three genres that appear in the English Curriculum, namely, poetry, prose and drama.

Given the constraints of the examination paper, which includes both language and literature tasks, unprepared texts give more scope for meaningful questions that should give candidates a better opportunity to demonstrate the literary appreciation skills learnt in the classroom as outlined in the English Curriculum.