

TAMIL

Paper 9689/02
Reading and Writing

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should take care to understand the full demands of the question before attempting to answer.

In **Question 5**, candidates should avoid repetition of ideas.

General comments

In general, candidates performed quite well on this paper. Poor spelling and faulty sentence formation were features of many answers.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

Several candidates struggled to answer **Question 1**. Candidates would benefit from further practice in this area. Some candidates were confused here and used the words in sentences instead of identifying matching words. Candidates need to ensure that they read the rubric carefully before beginning to write.

Question 2

Most candidates succeeded in using the words or phrases in their own sentences. Many students made spelling mistakes and formed sentences without due regard for the basic rules of Tamil grammar. Candidates need further practice in this area.

Question 3

Candidates generally performed quite well here.

Section 2

Question 4

On the whole, candidates performed quite well here.

Question 5

A few candidates omitted to answer either **Question 5(a)** or **5(b)**. Candidates should be advised to plan their time carefully in order to leave time to address each question.

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Paper 9689/03

Essay

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to ensure that they answer the specific question asked and that they understand the focus of the question before beginning to write their answers.

Candidates need to ensure that they expand their answers.

General comments

This is an Essay paper in which candidates are required to compose one essay from a choice of five topics. The essay is marked out of 40 with 16 marks available for Content and 24 marks available for Quality of Language.

Overall, performance on this paper was good and there were no infringements of the rubric.

Weaker responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstanding of the question (leading to loss of marks for Content) and poor language skills.

The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following letters, which were often written in an incorrect form: 1. ல – ழ – ள 2. ந – ன – ண 3. ர – ற

Candidates would benefit from more practice in using these letters. Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ஏ, when conjugated with consonants, will become கே, சே, தே etc. Some candidates wrote அங்கை, இங்கை, எங்கை rather than அங்கே, இங்கே, எங்கே.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

There were too few responses to this question for any meaningful conclusions to be drawn.

Question 2

This was the most popular question. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well-structured, complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Poor spelling and lack of focused content was seen in weaker candidates' responses.

Question 3

There were a number of strong responses to this question and these were characterised by well-structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors.

Question 4

A small number of candidates attempted this question. There was a range of performance here.

Question 5

The best answers contained well-structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors.

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Paper 9689/04

Texts

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to ensure that they answer the specific question asked and that they understand the focus of the question before beginning to write their answers.

Candidates should be reminded that, in passage-based questions, the passage is a stimulus to be used as a springboard to give them a starting point for their answer. Candidates need to ensure that they expand their answers.

General comments

Overall, performance on this paper was quite good.

Several candidates misread or did not follow the rubrics. Candidates need to answer **three** questions in total (choosing **either (a) or (b)** in each case). They should answer one question from **Section 1**, one from **Section 2** and one other of their choice. Each answer must be on a **different** set text. It is important that all candidates are aware of this. This year, a few candidates did not do as well on this paper as they should have done, either because they answered two questions on the same set text, or because they answered more than the required number of questions, or because they answered three questions from the same section.

In some cases, candidates' language was so poor as to render parts of their answer unintelligible. Whilst a mark for Language is not awarded in this paper, it was noted that candidates made many spelling errors and often formed sentences without due regard to the basic rules of Tamil grammar.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

There were too few responses to **Questions 1(a)** and **1(b)** for any useful observations to be made.

Questions 2 and 3

Questions 2(a), **2(b)**, **3(a)** and **3(b)** were popular. In **Question 3**, some candidates wrote general answers which did not address the specific question that had been asked.

Section 2

Question 4

Questions 4(a) and **4(b)** were popular.

Questions 5 and 6

Candidates who attempted **Questions 5(a)**, **5(b)**, **6(a)** and **6(b)** often did not present their work in appropriate paragraphs.

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Paper 9689/05
Prose

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should ensure that they read through the prose passage carefully before beginning to translate. When translating, candidates should bear in mind the context of the passage: it is not enough to translate individual words or short phrases from the text without regard for the context in which they are found in the question paper.

Candidates should try to allow themselves a little time at the end to read over what they have written to ensure that it makes sense and to check their spelling and grammar.

General comments

In this paper, candidates are required to translate a short passage from English to Tamil.

Performance on this paper was generally good and there were no infringements of the rubric.

Weaker answers were characterised by spelling errors, faulty sentence construction and incorrect translation of vocabulary items.

Stronger candidates were able to break up some of the longer sentences into two separate sentences and produce a meaningful translation that was largely correct.

Some candidates encountered difficulty with the following phrases:

- *my priority is to maintain good health*
- *she is calm and kind and I try to be like her with our clients*
- *they can be quite demanding sometimes, finding faults with everything*
- *I feel physically and mentally exhausted*