

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 was a feature of many answers.

Comments on specific questions

Section 1

Question 1

In general, this question was answered poorly.

Question 2

Responses to this question were generally quite poor. Most candidates attempted this question but were unable to use the given words appropriately in the sentences.

Question 3 and Question 4

The majority of candidates found the right answers but did not write in their own words. Candidates should be encouraged to write in their own words, using concise and clear sentences.

Question 5

Question 5(a) was generally answered badly. Some candidates seemed to have rushed through this part of the paper: they need to remember to plan their time so that they can make a good attempt at all parts of the paper.

In **Question 5(b)**, candidates are expected to offer a personal response. The majority of candidates gave a good response to this question.

TAMIL

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

This was the most popular question. Good 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 responses.

Question 2

Most responses to this question were very good.

Question 3

There were several strong responses to this question.

Question 4

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

Question 5

There was a range of performance on this question.

TAMIL

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.

A small number of candidates misread the rubrics. Candidates should 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 because they answered two questions on the same set text.

Generally, candidates who used relevant quotations from the set texts in their responses gained higher marks, as the examples they chose helped to support and clarify their answers.

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.

Question 2

Questions 2(a) and **2(b)** were popular. Many candidates wrote a general answer which did not address the question. In addition, some candidates wrote about verses from *Tirukkural* which were not included in the list provided in the syllabus. Candidates need to ensure that they select relevant comments for their response and should avoid simply writing down everything they know about the author or set text in general.

Question 3

There was generally a poor response to **Questions 3(a)** and **3(b)**.

Question 4

A few candidates confused Bharati with Bharatidasan, and consequently produced answers which were irrelevant, unclear or muddled.

Question 5 and Question 6

There were too few responses to **Questions 5(a)**, **5(b)**, **6(a)** and **6(b)** for any useful observations to be made.

TAMIL

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:

- *the peculiar dream*
- *my nephew, only two years younger than me*
- *to meet a long list of mutual friends*
- *only to be met by the postman*