

HINDI AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0549/01
Reading and Writing

Key Messages

In Exercises 1, 3 and 5 the emphasis is on reading skills. Spelling errors are tolerated provided they do not interfere with the communication of the correct answer. Candidates are not required to write in full sentences to score the marks, as long as the answer is clearly communicated. In Exercise 2, complete accuracy is required when completing all details. In Exercise 4 and Exercise 6 marks are awarded not only for content but also for accuracy of language. Therefore, it is important that candidates check their work carefully for spelling and grammatical errors.

General Comments

This year the majority of candidates performed well and appeared to be well prepared for the exam format. Most candidates managed to write within the word limit where it was applicable. However, a few candidates still exceeded the word limit in Exercise 3.

Comments on Specific Questions

Section 1

Exercise 1

Question 1–5

This exercise focused on a text about a camp to provide peace in people's lives without access to mobile phones and the internet. Question 2 asked "What is the danger of using the internet during working hours?" and the correct answer was "Your work suffers" or "you have to work long hours". A few candidates tried to copy the whole section from the text and as a result they did not receive the mark.

In this examination series, there was a tendency for some candidates to copy long sentences from the text. However, the actual answer required was just one or two words. Candidates should be reminded that assessment objective R2 requires them to '**select** and organise material relevant to specific purposes'.

Exercise 2

Question 6

In this exercise candidates are required to transfer information from the text without any kind of error or inaccuracy. Most candidates did not encounter difficulties in finding the correct information to complete the form. Candidates should ensure when writing the address that they follow the correct order i.e. first give the house number, then the apartment name, the street, and finally the city name. This year most of the candidates correctly transcribed the address. Few candidates made significant mistakes.

Exercise 3

Question 7–9

The source text was about encouraging children to lead a healthy lifestyle. Most of the candidates gave correct details under the headings except for 8 which proved challenging.

Question 7

The first heading under which candidates had to come up with two points focused on the problems created by an imbalanced diet. The correct answers were: “anger and irritation” and “find it hard to get on with other children”. Most candidates managed to provide two correct points. A few candidates made ‘anger’ and ‘irritation’ two separate points and only achieved 1 mark rather than 2.

Question 8

The next heading required candidates to state what were specialists’ views about a balanced diet. The stronger candidates gave three correct points under this heading. Others only managed to provide 1 or 2 details.

Question 9

The heading here was ‘how to protect yourself from becoming overweight’. Most of the candidates gave correct details and achieved the marks.

Exercise 4

Question 10

In this summary-writing exercise up to 6 marks are available for Content and up to 4 marks are available for Language. Most candidates appeared to be well prepared for the requirements of this exercise and they generally performed well. Many candidates wrote their summaries in their own words and they were, therefore, able to access the full range of marks available for Language. Most of the candidates wrote concisely, covering 5 or 6 correct points from the text. They also managed to secure 3 out of 4 marks for language; a few candidates scored full marks for language. The majority of candidates kept their answer within the word limit. However, a small number of candidates exceeded the word length requirement.

Section 2

Exercise 5

Questions 11–17

This text was about a man who became a detective as he liked to know about others’ lives. Many of the candidates performed well in this exercise. Most candidates answered the true/false questions accurately and managed to supply the correct statement for the false options. From Question 15–17, most of the candidates gave accurate responses. Some candidates gave an incorrect answer to Question 15. The question was about how the fee was decided. There were two points for this answer (i) day to day (ii) according to the task. Some candidates only offered 1 point.

Exercise 6

This year’s essay topic was “How an inspiring personality has affected your life.” Several candidates gave the name of the person and explained in detail why and how this person has inspired them. Others did not understand the task and gave an irrelevant answer.

Summary

As last year, spelling errors were the main reason for loss of marks. Firstly, the use of the vowel sound ‘Ee’ was often used incorrectly. Secondly, the aspirated letters were written with non-aspirated letters in Hindi. Thirdly, the conjunct in Hindi, especially with the letter ‘Ra’, was not used correctly. Teachers should encourage their students to think in Hindi because some sentence constructions sounded as if students were planning what they wanted to write in English and then translating their thoughts into Hindi. This caused problems with the syntax of their writing.

HINDI AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0549/02
Listening

Key messages

In order to do well in this examination, candidates should:

- Write their answers as clearly as possible so that the meaning can be obviously understood.
- Take care to include all the relevant details in their answers to the questions in **Exercise 4**.

General comments

Overall, candidates performed quite well in this examination and the full range of ability was seen. Most candidates attempted all the questions in the paper.

For this component, credit is given for communication of the correct information. Answers are not assessed for accuracy of spelling and grammar. However, if language errors change the meaning or the meaning is unclear, the answer cannot be given credit.

Exercise 1, Questions 1–6

The majority of candidates performed reasonably well on this exercise. **Questions 1–6** required short answers, and candidates mostly fared well. There were variations in the spelling of some words 'आधा घंटा', 'वर्षा', 'छात्रवृत्ति,' etc. Marks were awarded if the mis-spelt word did not change the meaning, but not for answers such as 'आदि' instead of 'आधा', or 'वर्ष' instead of 'वर्षा'.

Questions 1, 2 and 3 were mostly answered correctly, though with some variations in spelling.

Question 4 the word 'छात्रवृत्ति' was found to be challenging by a good number of candidates.

Questions 5 and 6 were mostly answered correctly.

Exercise 2, Questions 7 (i)–(viii)

Question 7(i)–(vii) candidates were required to fill in the blank space with the appropriate word. The accuracy of spelling was a significant issue. There were too many variations in the spelling of words like 'कैदखाना' 'पहेलियाँ' and 'किस्सा'. Marks were lost for answers like 'कारखाने', 'कैरखाने' which have a completely different meaning from 'कैदखाने'.

Exercise 3, Questions 8–13

Candidates seemed to be well prepared for this exercise and most candidates managed to achieve quite good marks. A small number of weaker candidates seemed to be relying on guess work to answer some of the questions. They would benefit in future by not putting ticks and crosses in both boxes.

Exercise 4, Questions 14–19

In general, candidates made a good attempt to answer the questions in this exercise, but many were unable to provide all the details required to score full marks. For a few questions, more than one piece of information needed to be given as part of the full, correct answer. Most candidates were able to provide at least some of the details required, nonetheless.

Question 14 proved to be challenging due to unfamiliarity with the word 'अराजकता' and a variety of incorrect answers were given. **Question 15(i)** was fine, but **(ii)** presented some difficulty with understanding the meaning of 'चारागाह'. Only the strongest candidates answered it correctly.

Question 16 In this exercise, answers are expected to be precise and to answer the question fully. Marks could not be awarded to one word answers such as 'दैम'/'दाम' when 'छोटे बनाए डैम छोटे-' was required.

Question 17 was mostly answered correctly.

Questions 18 and **19** were mostly answered correctly. Some candidates got confused and wrote the answer to Question 18 for 19, and vice versa.

Question 20 some candidates couldn't answer this question correctly and lost the mark. The required answer was 'एक नई फ़िल्म दिखाई जा रही है'.

Summary

Candidates should listen to the recording very carefully and develop techniques and strategies to enable them to identify and select appropriate detail for their answers. There is a need to work on increasing Hindi vocabulary to access some questions and also to focus on sounds and letters, paying particular attention to similar sounding letters. Candidates should gain as much practice as possible at listening exercises in class, and attempt past papers under timed conditions. This would certainly help to raise the overall standard.