

TAMIL

Paper 9689/22
Reading and Writing

Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates need to:

- ensure that they answer **all** question from **Section 1 and Section 2**
- adhere to the word limits specified for **Question 5** in **Section 2**
- ensure that the work is legible, accurate and logically presented
- show an awareness of the conventions of paragraphing and sentence structure
- demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling
- understand and be able to employ a range of apt vocabulary
- be able to order and present facts, ideas and options
- ensure the same word is not repeated many times
- ensure that the candidate present the response in the form stipulated in **Question 5(b)**
- plan their use of time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work.

General comments

In general candidates performed quite well on this paper, with a wide range of marks awarded.

It was encouraging to note that the stronger candidates made significantly fewer spelling errors. Weaker candidates generally struggled to construct sentences accurately and made frequent spelling mistakes.

Answers to **Question 1** and **Question 2** can be simple sentences to gain full marks. Stronger candidates were able to construct complex sentences.

Also, one should note that the answer for **Question 5 (a)** should be a summary of **Part 1** and **Part 2** of the passages in their own words with ten points from both passages to achieve ten marks. These ten points need to be relevant to the question being asked.

The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following letters, which were often written in an incorrect form:

- 1 ன – ண – ந (தொடர்பு கொண்டு – தொடர்பு கொன்று)
- 2 ல – ள – ழ (அழித்தல் – அளித்தல், கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன் – கேட்டுக்கொள்கிறேன்)
- 3 ற – ர (குறைந்த – குரைந்த, செல்கிறார்கள் – செல்கிரார்கள், செய்முறை – செய்முரை)
- 4 மெய் மிகும் இடங்கள் மெய் மிகா இடங்கள் – (வைகிறது – வைக்கிறது, அழித்தல் – அழிதல், மதிப்பெண்கள் – மதிபெண்கள், தாமதமாக – தாமதம்மாக, உயரமாக – உயரம்மாக, வாரமாக – வாரம்மாக, நடனம் – நடன்னம், படிப்படியாக – படிபடியாக)
- 5 குறில் – நெடில் (செல்ல விரும்புகிறேன் – சொல்ல விரும்புகிறேன்)
- 6 ஒருமை, பன்மை முடிவுகள் – கட்டிடங்கள் வந்துவிட்டன/வந்துவிட்டது, பொருட்கள் தேவைப்படுகின்றது – பொருட்கள் தேவைப்படுகின்றன/தேவைப்படுகிறது, பரிசுகள் வழங்கப்பட்டன/வழங்கப்பட்டது

Candidates seemed to have organised their time in the examination well and there were no rubric infringements.



TAMIL

Paper 9689/32
Essay

Key messages

- 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.

General comments

The overall performance on this paper was good and there were no infringements of the rubric. Weaker responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstandings of the question, leading to loss of marks for content and some poor language skills. The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following letters, which were written in an incorrect form:

1. ல – ழ – ள
2. ந – ன – ண
3. ர – ற
4. த் – ட்

Candidates would benefit from more practice in using these letters.

- Another common mistake is the 'குறில்' and 'நெடில்' letters. It refers to short vowel and long vowel sounds.

Example: திமைகள் (incorrect) – தீமைகள் (correct)

- Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ஏ conjugates with other consonants.

Example: க + ஏ = கே/ல + ஏ = லே

- Next, candidates use the informal language which is used in daily conversation. Some words which are used in daily conversation are not suitable to write in formal pieces of writing.
- Candidate should write the accurate version of idioms, proverbs and 'Thirukural' – Mistakes made by candidates by not writing the full version of 'Thirukural' and the explanation did not reflect the proverb/idioms.

Example: one candidate wrote – 'கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின்...' (hanging ^)

Correct: கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின் நிற்க அதற்குத் தக (full form)

- There are a few candidates who have written proverbs of *Pazhamozhi* and *Thirukural* as well. This shows good knowledge of using the Tamil proverbs and Thirukural according to the situation.

Overall

Candidates did well. To gain more marks, try to insert idioms and link to real world examples. Support your answer by giving supporting evidence. Candidates should also be able to write more than 250 words.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Some candidates attempted this question, and the essay was at satisfactory level. Candidates should be able to explain 'how modern lifestyles help improve family relationships more than ever before'.

Question 2

Some candidates attempted this question. Few did well. Candidates should explain how people and the government can help the younger generation to follow law and order and become good citizens.

Question 3

Some candidates attempted this question and performed fairly well. The question is about the importance of tourism to a country. Some candidates were able to explain a few important aspects of tourism to a country.

Question 4

Few candidates attempted this question. Candidates needed to be able to argue to what extent technological innovation benefits mankind.

Question 5

This was the most popular question for this series. Almost all candidates chose this question. Candidates should be able to write how individual, society and nations are affected by environmental pollution. Most of them were able to explain and elaborate their answers very well.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/42
Texts

Key messages

This is a literature paper in which candidates are required to write the response in an essay form which covers three essays from a choice of six different forms of work, such as poetry – Sangam, Thirukural etc., dramas, short stories, a novel, etc.

The essay is marked out of 75 in total and 25 for each response checking on the content, word count and quality of language.

General comments

The overall performance on this paper was good and there were no infringements of the rubric. Weaker responses were characterised by a combination of not directly answering to the question, leading to loss of marks for content and some poor language skills. The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following letters, which were written in an incorrect form:

- ல – ழ – ள
- ந – ன – ண
- ர – ற
- த் – ட்

Students would benefit from more practice in using these letters.

- Another major mistake is the 'குறில்' and 'நெடில்' letters. It refers to short vowel and long vowel sound. Example: பர்வை (incorrect) – பார்வை (correct).
- The use of the colloquial language or the spoken language which is used in normal conversation is not appropriate in an exam situation. Some words which are in daily conversation are not suitable in formal writing.
- Example: கட்பு should be written as கற்பு, பேந்து will be பிறகு, ஆக்கள் should be ஆட்கள் and other similar examples.
- Candidates should not reproduce the Thirukkural in their responses. They are only expected to explain and write the answer accordingly.
- In case of answering **Question 4** from section 2, many candidates only wrote about the biography of the author or the poet rather answering the question for the poetry or story, which is irrelevant.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

- (a) Most of the candidates did not attempt this question.

- (b) This question is often answered with an irrelevant introduction about the author and his life history. Some irrelevant personal opinions were offered, such as 'this kind of betrayal doesn't happen in my country'. Comments such as these were not awarded any marks.

Question 2

- (a) &(b) The response for this question is mostly repetitive, containing a vast explanation about the author, his life history, etc. Out of the ten couplets, the candidates tended to answer explaining only three to four.

Question 3

This question was mostly answered very well.

Question 4

This question was responded in the same way, explaining more about the author and his life history, rather answering the question directly.

Question 5

Few candidates attempted this question.

Question 6

The response for this question was rarely satisfactory and did not cover the word limited.



TAMIL

Paper 9689/52
Prose

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper candidates should:

- Use appropriate vocabulary and management their time effectively.
- Avoid missing out parts of the passages along with the key words.
- Refer to each and every sentence and follow the same order of the sentences in the given passage.
- Understand how the mark scheme works. The passage is worth 40 marks. Each sentence is likely to be split into multiple marks with a very fixed scoring system.
- Have good grammar and spelling throughout the translation.

General comments

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

More successful responses were characterised by answers which broke up longer sentences into two separate sentences. They produced largely correct and meaningful translations.

A few sentences were very complex and long. In a few cases at least eight or seven blocks were categorised to one sentence. Candidates are allowed to break up longer sentences into shorter ones as long as they convey the same meaning.

Answers from weaker candidates were often characterised by serious spelling errors, errors in sentence construction and incorrect translations of key vocabulary items.

The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following letters, which were written in an incorrect form:

1. ல – ழ – ள
2. ந – ன – ண
3. ர – ற
4. த் – ட்

Candidates would benefit from more practice in using these letters.

Another common mistake is the 'குறில்' and 'நெடில்' letters. It refers to short vowel and long vowel sound.

Example: திமைகள் (incorrect) – தீமைகள் (correct).

Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ஏ conjugates with other consonants.

Example: க + ஏ = கே/ல + ஏ = லே

Finally, some candidates used the colloquial language which is used in daily conversation. Some words which are in daily conversation are not suitable in formal writing.