

TAMIL

Paper 9689/21
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 they 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.

Comments on specific questions

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 (பணி – பனி)
2. ல – ள – ழ (அழித்தல் – அளித்தல்)
3. ர – ற (கூருவது – கூறுவது)
4. ப – பா (பார்க்க – பார்க்க, பூக்கும் – புக்கும்) போன்ற குறில் – நெடில் எழுத்துக்கள்
5. ல – ல் (கல்வி – கலவி, ஆனால் – ஆன்னால்) போன்ற மெய் – உயிர்மெய் எழுத்துக்கள்
6. மெய் மிகும் இடங்கள் மெய் மிகா இடங்கள் (மதிப்பெண்கள் – மதிபெண்கள், நடனம் – நடன்னம், படிப்படியாக – படிபடியாக)

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

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Paper 9689/22
Reading and Writing

There were too few candidates for a meaningful report to be produced.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/31
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 sound.

Example: திமைகள் (incorrect) – தீமைகள் (correct)

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

Example: க + ஏ = கே

- Next, the candidate uses the normal language which is used in daily conversation. Some words which in daily conversation are not suitable to write in formal situations.

Example: இதுக்கு முன்னால should be written as 'இதற்கு முன்னால்'/'இதற்கு முன்'

- Candidate should write the accurate version of idioms, proverb and 'Thirukural' – Mistakes made by candidates by not writing the full version of 'Thirukural' and their explanation did not reflect the proverb/idioms.

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

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

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Only few candidates answered this question. The candidates that attempted this question did fairly well.

Question 2

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

Question 3

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

Question 4

Some candidates attempted this question and did fairly well.

Question 5

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

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Paper 9689/32
Essay

There were too few candidates for a meaningful report to be produced.

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Paper 9689/41
Texts

Key messages

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

- Check carefully that they manage their time well and answer three questions.
- Check carefully that they do not answer two questions on the same text.
- Think carefully about what the question is asking of them before they start to write.
- Refer to the question during the answer, not just at the start and the finish.
- Practise responses to the passage-based exercises, where the passage is a stimulus and should be used as a starting point for their answer.

General comments

Candidates are advised to clearly write the question number. A few candidates answered more than three questions, against the advice of the rubrics which disadvantaged them.

Comments on specific questions

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the report for this syllabus will be available at a later date. Please check again in the future for this report.

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Paper 9689/42
Texts

There were too few candidates for a meaningful report to be produced.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/51
Prose

Key messages

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

- Check carefully that they manage their time well.
- Think carefully about what the question is asking of them before they start to write.
- Refer to the question during the answer, not just at the start and the finish.

General comments

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

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 a meaningful translation.

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

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Paper 9689/52
Prose

There were too few candidates for a meaningful report to be produced.