

# TAMIL

Paper 9689/21  
Reading and Writing 21

## Key messages

### To do well in this paper, candidates need to:

- ensure that they answer **all** questions from **Section 1** and **Section 2**
- adhere to the word limits specified for **Question 5** in **Section 2**
- ensure that their 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 opinions
- 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 stronger candidates made significantly fewer errors in **Question 1** and **Question 2**. These two questions check the ability of the vocabulary skills the candidate has. **Question 2** does not need complex sentences. Identifying the word as noun or verb and constructing a simple sentence will help the candidate to gain full marks for **Question 2**. For example;  
பிரச்சினை – எனக்கு அது ஒரு பிரச்சினையாக இருந்தது.  
முகமூடி – நான் முகமூடி அணிந்தேன்.

Weaker candidates generally struggled to construct sentences accurately throughout their answers.

**Question 5(a)** should be a summary of Text 1 and Text 2 of the reading passages contained in the Insert. Therefore, identifying the points from the passages and giving a straightforward answer will help candidates to save time. It is expected that candidates should list ten points from both passages to gain full marks for this question. Answer for **Question 5(b)** is always expected to be their own experience in their own words. A few candidates tried to copy the lines from the passages as their answers for **Question 5(b)** which is against the marking rules.

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

- ன – ன – ந (பணி – பணி)
- ல – ள – ழ (அழித்தல் – அளித்தல்)
- ர – ற (செருவது – செறுவது)
- ப – பா (பார்க்க – பர்க்க, பூக்கும் – புக்கும்) போன்ற குறில் – நெடில் எழுத்துக்கள்
- ல – ல் (கல்வி – கலவி, ஆனால் – ஆன்னால்) போன்ற மெய் – உயிர்மெய் எழுத்துக்கள்
- மெய் மிகும் இடங்கள் மெய் மிகா இடங்கள் – (அழித்தல் – அழிதல், மதிப்பெண்கள் – மதிபெண்கள், நடனம் – நடன்னம், படிப்படியாக – படிப்படியாக)

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

# TAMIL

Paper 9689/22  
Reading and Writing 22

## Key messages

### To do well in this paper, candidates need to:

- ensure that they answer **all** questions from **Section 1** and **Section 2**
- adhere to the word limits specified for **Question 5** in **Section 2**
- ensure that their 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 opinions
- 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 stronger candidates made significantly fewer errors in **Question 1** and **Question 2**. These two questions check the ability of the vocabulary skills the candidate has. **Question 2** does not need complex sentences. Identifying the word as noun or verb and constructing a simple sentence will help the candidate to gain full marks for **Question 2**. For example;  
பிரச்சினை – எனக்கு அது ஒரு பிரச்சினையாக இருந்தது.  
முகமூடி – நான் முகமூடி அணிந்தேன்.

Weaker candidates generally struggled to construct sentences accurately throughout their answers.

**Question 5(a)** should be a summary of Text 1 and Text 2 of the reading passages contained in the Insert. Therefore, identifying the points from the passages and giving a straightforward answer will help candidates to save time. It is expected that candidates should list ten points from both passages to gain full marks for this question. Answer for **Question 5(b)** is always expected to be their own experience in their own words. A few candidates tried to copy the lines from the passages as their answers for **Question 5(b)** which is against the marking rules.

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

- ன – ன – ந (பணி – பணி)
- ல – ள – ழ (அழித்தல் – அளித்தல்)
- ர – ற (செருவது – செறுவது)
- ப – பா (பார்க்க – பர்க்க, பூக்கும் – புக்கும்) போன்ற குறில் – நெடில் எழுத்துக்கள்
- ல – ல் (கல்வி – கலவி, ஆனால் – ஆன்னால்) போன்ற மெய் – உயிர்மெய் எழுத்துக்கள்
- மெய் மிகும் இடங்கள் மெய் மிகா இடங்கள் – (அழித்தல் – அழிதல், மதிப்பெண்கள் – மதிபெண்கள், நடனம் – நடன்னம், படிப்படியாக – படிப்படியாக)

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

# TAMIL

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**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. வ – வு – வா
2. நு – னா – னோ
3. ஏ – ஏ
4. து – த

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

- Next, candidates sometimes use the colloquial language which is used in daily conversation. Some words which are in daily conversation are not suitable for formal writing.

Example:

இப்போ பாதுகித்திங்கனா should be written as ‘தற்பொழுது’.

- Candidates should write the accurate version of idioms, proverbs and ‘Thirukural’ – Mistakes were made by candidates through not writing the full version of the ‘Thirukural’ and their explanations which did not reflect the proverb/idiom.

Example: candidate wrote – ‘கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின்...’ (hanging ^)

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

- There are some candidates who wrote proverbs as well. A few proverbs for this series were as follow:
- நோயற்ற வாழ்வே குறைவற்ற செல்வம்.
- சுவர் இருந்தால்தான் சித்திரம் வரைய முடியும்.
- காலம் பொன் போன்றது, கட்டமை கண் போன்றது.
- Thirukural from this series were as follows:
- நோய்நாடி நோய்முதல் நாடி அதுதனிக்கும் வாய்நாடி வாய்ப்பச் செயல் (குறள் 948).
- தன்நெஞ் சறிவது பொய்யற்க பொய்த்தபின் தன்நெஞ்சே தன்னைச் சுடும். (குறள் 293).

## Overall

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

### Comments on specific questions

#### Question 1

Most candidates attempted this question, and the essay was at a good level. For this question, candidates can agree or disagree that money plays an important role in happiness of a family. There were candidates that were able to explain how money plays an important role but there are other factors as well which deserved to be mentioned.

#### Question 2

Very few candidates answered this question. Many candidates were not able to answer the question regarding 'laws and regulations'. Candidates needed to explain why a citizen should obey the rules and regulations of a country.

#### Question 3

A few candidates chose this essay. They needed to be able to explain how travelling can help personal development of an individual. In general, those candidates that attempted this question scored higher marks.

#### Question 4

This topic was quite popular. Candidates needed to be able to link how technological advancement helps to boost a country's economy.

#### Question 5

Some candidate answered this question. They needed to be able to explain how irresponsible people cause pollution to the environment and offer examples to back up their argument.

# TAMIL

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**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:

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

Example: க + ஏ = கே/ல + ஏ = லே

- Next, candidates sometimes use the colloquial language which is used in daily conversation. Some words which are in daily conversation are not suitable for formal writing.

Example:

இப்போ பாதுகித்திங்கனா should be written as ‘தற்பொழுது’.

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- காலம் பொன் போன்றது, கட்டமை கண் போன்றது.
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#### Question 5

Some candidate answered this question. They needed to be able to explain how irresponsible people cause pollution to the environment and offer examples to back up their argument.

# TAMIL

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**Paper 9689/41**  
**Texts**

This report is not currently available. This will be accessible as soon as possible.

# TAMIL

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**Paper 9689/42**

**Texts**

This report is not currently available. This will be accessible as soon as possible.

# TAMIL

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**Paper 9689/51**

**Prose**

## **Key messages**

In order to do well in this paper candidates should:

- Avoid missing blocks of passages along with the key words.
- Refer to each sentence and follow the same order of the sentences in the given passage.
- Be mindful of grammar and spelling.
- Manage their time effectively to finish within the time limit.

## **General comments**

The passage scores 40 marks. Each sentence is likely to be split into multiple marks with a very fixed scoring system. Please see the Mark Scheme for further information.

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 வு – பு – எ
- 2 மு – னு – னே
- 3 ரு – மு
- 4 து – லு

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.

A few terminologies used in the English language in the context surrounding television, broadcasting, and technology were tricky for candidates to translate into Tamil. They should be practised by candidates.

# TAMIL

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**Paper 9689/52**

**Prose**

## **Key messages**

In order to do well in this paper candidates should:

- Avoid missing blocks of passages along with the key words.
- Refer to each sentence and follow the same order of the sentences in the given passage.
- Be mindful of grammar and spelling.
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## **General comments**

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

**1** வு – மு – னு

**2** மு – னு – னை

**3** ஏ – ம

**4** த் – ல்

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.

A few terminologies used in the English language in the context surrounding technology were tricky for candidates to translate into Tamil. They should be practised by candidates.