

TAMIL

Paper 9689/21
Reading and Writing

Key messages

- In order to do well in this paper, candidates should demonstrate an understanding of the passage given and answer the questions using their own vocabulary as far as possible.
- In **Questions 3 and 4**, candidates should be aware of the direct relationship between the number of points they need to make and the number of marks available e.g. four points for a four mark question, three points for a three mark question.

General comments

Hand writing was neater and there were fewer spelling mistakes than last year. In the comprehension questions, candidates should make sure they understand the full demands of the question before attempting to answer. Some candidates copied out long portions of the text, which was not always selective enough to demonstrate adequate comprehension. However, there were many who did their best to use their own language and were rewarded for successfully doing so.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Candidates need more practise regarding **Question 1**. A few candidates did not understand the question. Instead of giving synonyms from the relevant text, they used the words in sentences.

Question 2

The use in sentences question was well attempted. However, some students struggled with at least two out of five words. They may be asked to practice in mock tests or class lessons.

Question 3 and 4

A generally good performance was made by candidates. Some candidates just copied the text; they should be encouraged to write their own sentences. Even bullet points will do. Candidates who write full sentences receive higher marks for quality of language.

In a three mark question at least three points are expected. Candidates must be told this. Likewise a four mark question must have four points.

Question 5

(a) Candidates should be told to write in three paragraphs.

Paragraph 1: Points from first text.

Paragraph 2: Points from second text.

(b) Paragraph 3: Personal experience.

Candidates must be told to write the question number they choose.

The overall performance of candidates was good.

Question 5(b) was a question about the head of the family and his/her role. It was completed very well from the majority of the candidates. They praised the hard work and sacrifice done by their parents for them. They fully understood the question and wrote the answers from their family background. There was a clear appreciation of the hard work of parents in every family which produced some excellent and emotive responses.



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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.

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

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Many candidates attempted this question and did well.

Question 2

A few candidates tried this question and they performed well.

Question 3

Some candidates attempted this question and performed fairly well.

Question 4

A few candidates attempted this question and they did fairly well.

Question 5

This was another popular question and many candidates scored high marks.

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Paper 9689/32
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Question 4

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This was another popular question and many candidates scored high marks.

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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. Candidates' handwriting and spelling was very good on the whole this year.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

A small number of candidates attempted the question on Sangam verse. Those who attempted the Silappadikaram epic performed well.

Many candidates wrote the background story rather than a precise answer targeting on the actual question.

Candidates should be trained to quote lines from text and comment on them.

Question 2

Tirukkural - Many candidates attempted this question and performed well.

Question 3

Once again more background information was written rather than precise answers for this topic.

For instance, if they are asked to write about poet's description of Lord Shiva they write in general on the background story.

Question 4

Modern Poets – Question on Bharatiyar's poem was attempted by several candidates and they performed well.

Question 5

Drama – Those who attempted this question did well.

Question 6

With this question, many candidates narrated the story well but did not give examples to justify their answer.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/42
Texts

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- 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. Candidates' handwriting and spelling was very good on the whole this year.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1(b) on Tamil Epic Silappadikaram, **Question 2** on Tirukkural and **Question 3** on Thevaram were attempted by most of the candidates.

Question 1(a) was not attempted by any candidates.

While dealing with **Questions 1(b)** and **3** candidates often simply narrated the story of Kannaki or Appar. Candidates should be trained to give a precise answer with background information.

Question 4 on Bharatiyar was taken by many candidates and they performed well.

Questions on the drama and short stories were attempted by only a few candidates.

A few candidates attempted more than 3 questions. Candidates must know that they must only complete 3 in total.

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

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- Refer to the question during the answer, not just at the start and the finish.

General comments

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

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