

TAMIL LANGUAGE

Paper 8689/21
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, etc.

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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Paper 8689/31
Essay

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

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Paper 8689/32
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