

# HINDI AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

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Paper 0549/01  
Reading and Writing

## Key messages

- In **Exercises 1, 2 and 3** the emphasis is on reading skills. Spelling errors are tolerated provided that they do not interfere with communicating the correct answer to the Examiner. As long as the answer is clear, candidates are not required to write in full sentences.
- In **Exercise 3**, complete sentences are expected while writing notes.
- In **Exercises 5 and Exercise 6**, marks are awarded not only for content but also for accuracy. Therefore, it is important that candidates carefully check their work for spelling and grammatical errors.

## General comments

This was the second year testing the revised syllabus of 0549 Hindi as a second language. It was reassuring to see that most candidates followed the guidelines well and most of them had written their answers within the word limit. The majority of candidates appeared to be at ease with **Exercises 1, 2, 5 and 6**.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Section 1**

#### **Exercise 1**

##### **Questions 1–5**

This exercise focused on a text about the famous poet Rabindranath Tagore. The theme of the text was an Indian festival which is primarily a Hindu festival. However, the poet went and celebrated the festival with the local Muslim community thus creating an atmosphere of brotherhood and communal harmony. The majority of candidates had no difficulties in answering **Questions 1 to 6**.

#### **Exercise 2**

##### **Question 7–15**

This exercise has been replaced by a multiple choice exercise. After reading the text, candidates were required to put a tick mark in the right box. Most of the candidates performed very well in this exercise. Very few candidates made mistakes in choosing the right answers.

#### **Exercise 3**

##### **Questions 16–19**

The topic of this year's text was Yoga. This text described the different benefits of Yoga and how it helps to reduce the mental stress and provides spiritual peace. According to the new syllabus candidates were expected to write notes under the given headings.

##### **Question 16**

The first heading required candidates to write about the two different points related to the meaning and definition of the word Yoga. Most of the candidates managed to write two correct points.

### Question 17

This question asked: 'What is the ideal climate to grow orchids in'? Several candidates managed to give two correct points.

### Question 18

This question required candidates to give two points which highlighted the physical and mental aspects of Yoga. Some of the candidates were able to give two correct points.

### Question 19

This question asked candidates to list three points related to the benefits of Yoga. Most of the candidates correctly mentioned three points.

### Exercise 4

#### Question 20

According to the new syllabus the text that is the basis for questions set on note-making, is also the same text on the basis of which candidates are required to write a summary in **Exercise 4**. It is noteworthy that despite the fact that the rubric clearly explained the basis on which the summary should be written and mentioned what points need to be included in it, most candidates did not follow the rubric. Consequently, few candidates managed to get the full four marks allocated for the content portion of this answer. This year's rubric asked candidates to write their summary on the basis of four points: firstly, on the fact that the body gets strength to fight different illnesses; secondly, on the positive impact on memory and psychological concentration, Thirdly, on the fact that Meditation has been included in the syllabus of several schools in London, to help candidates fight stress and tension. Most candidates managed to get good marks for language. However, those who were unable to include any relevant points in their summary were not awarded any marks for language.

### Exercise 5

#### Question 21

Candidates were expected to write an e-mail to their friend who lives in a different city in order to plan a trip to their friend's city. This exercise asked candidates to include three specific points in their e-mail: (1) highlighting their travelling plan (2) outline their feelings before meeting their friend (3) Explain an activity which they would like to carry out with their friend. Most of the candidates managed to complete this writing task well. The majority of the candidates included three points in their email and received full marks for content and also received good marks for language.

### Exercise 6

This year the essay topic was framed in terms of two opposite view points. However, while discussing to what extent they agreed with each view, candidates were also expected to reflect on the two opposing views on women's liberation which was presented in the question paper vis-à-vis, (1) how women have received liberation after introducing the law of equality; (2) that despite introducing such laws women have not actually received freedom in real terms. This exercise and manner of setting the question has been done in accordance with the new syllabus which calls for not just giving a topic to candidates to write on but, also giving them two opposite views related to the topic that they must also consider while writing on the given theme. Several candidates gave some strong reasons in favour of these two opposite views. Good answers not only highlighted these reasons but also included valuable examples in support of their views.

Writing in Hindi without making grammatical mistakes and spelling errors continues to be a central issue. Spellings mistakes are definitely an area of concern and should be addressed with some urgency. Improvement in this would make a positive difference to candidates' grades.

# HINDI AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0549/02  
Listening

## Key messages

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

- Write their answers as clearly as possible so that the meaning can be understood.
- Take care to include all the relevant details in their answers to the questions in **Exercise 3**.

## General comments

Overall, candidates performed quite well in this examination and the full range of ability was observed. Most candidates attempted all the questions in the paper.

For this component, credit is given for communication of the correct information. Answers are not assessed for accuracy of spelling and grammar. However, if language errors change the meaning or the meaning is unclear, the answer cannot be given credit.

## Comments on specific questions

### **Exercise 1 – Questions 1–6**

The majority of candidates performed reasonably well on this exercise. **Questions 1–6** require short answers, and most candidates fared well. There were variations in spelling of some words. Some of the words are part of basic vocabulary and candidates are expected to be able to spell them correctly. Marks were awarded if the misspelt word did not change the meaning, but not for answers such as, for example आकलन मशीन, अकारण मशीन.

#### **Question 1**

**Question 1** was mostly answered correctly by all the candidates.

#### **Question 2**

**Question 2** was mostly answered correctly.

#### **Question 3**

There were several variations in spelling the correct answer, आकलन मशीन. Some variations, such as, आकलण मशीन were accepted but, answers like अकारण, साइकिल वाले मशीन were not accepted as a correct answer.

#### **Question 4**

There were many variations of गुसलखाने में थी some of them, such as, मुसल खान ,खा रही थी, etc. were clearly not correct.

### Question 5

**Question 5** was mostly answered correctly with several variations of spelling पारंपरिक चीज़.

### Question 6

The listening test assesses candidates' ability to register the main information required to answer the question without getting distracted by the peripheral information. This question proved to be very challenging for many of the candidates. अपनी यात्रा एक ट्रक ड्राइवर के रूप में शुरू की थी was a distracter not the correct answer.

### Question 7

(i) – (viii) candidates are required to fill in the blank spaces with the appropriate word. This section proved very challenging. Maybe due to candidates' concentration, some parts of questions were left blank.

### Questions 8–15

Candidates needed to replace the incorrect information with the correct information provided in the spoken text. Most candidates managed to score marks for **Questions 8, 9, 11, 13** and **15**, but struggled with **Questions 10, 12** and **14**. Some candidates copied the incorrect text from the question. The emphasis of this examination is on active listening with understanding the meaning of the spoken language.

### Questions 16–23

**Questions 16–23** were multiple-choice questions. Most candidates fared well in selecting the correct option except for **Question 20**. A few candidates seemed to guess and ticked random boxes or ticked more than one box.

### Summary

The questions were not unusually challenging, but required careful listening and identifying the context. Candidates should listen to the recording very carefully and develop techniques and strategies to enable them to identify and select appropriate detail for their answers. There is a need to work on increasing Hindi vocabulary to access some questions and also to focus on sounds and letters, paying particular attention to similar sounding letters. Teacher should also perform dictation regularly in class. Candidates should gain as much practice as possible at listening exercises in class, and attempt past papers under timed conditions. This would certainly help to raise the overall standard.