

SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/11
Language 11

Key messages

Overall there was a sound level of Sanskrit on display in this year's scripts, the standard of which was broadly in line with those seen in previous years.

Candidates would do well to revise the basic rules of Sandhi thoroughly. In addition, the spelling of basic Sanskrit words caused difficulties for candidates.

General comments

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of precision in the following key areas:

1. Singulars and Plural (check the noun endings in particular)
2. Transliteration – in particular noting the lengths of individual vowels
3. Word order when translating into Sanskrit, and the agreement of verb and subject where appropriate.

Comments on specific questions

This paper was well answered by many candidates. The following specific points were noted by the Examiners:

Question 1

- (a) Plural flowers (not singular)
- (c) It is important to look at the number of marks available, and translate every word.
- (f) This question was less well-answered.
- (g) A lot of candidates did not gain marks on the Sandhi as noted above. Particular care is needed with final visarga sandhi, which was heavily tested in this passage, and caused numerous issues.
- (h) There was a variety of translations on offer here, but candidates would do well to keep to the structure of the Sanskrit to ensure the accuracy of their translation.

Question 2

- (a) The only issues here were muddling words or just not knowing vocabulary; the former can be rectified with careful checking during the examination, the latter with thorough revision.
- (b – c) These sentences produced a mixture of results. The best candidates were precise in their approach, and ensured that they had translated each word accurately. Missing out words should be avoided – again checking is key to this. Candidates would do well to observe the sentence structure, and keep with this, rather than muddling words.

Question 3

In each of these sentences, the same issues arose.

- (i) Word order – the verb should sit at the end of each phrase or sentence
- (ii) Agreement of subject and verb
- (iii) Accurate tenses – in particular recalling the future of gam.
- (iv) For king, candidates would be well-advised to use nripa, rather than raajan.
- (v) The revision of basic vocabulary is essential for success in these questions.

Question 4

This passage was well handled by many candidates. A few points stand out:

- (c) Precision on translation was essential here, especially in recognising 'to his servants'. The key here was accurate recognition of the relevant case endings.
- (f) There was some confusion about who was eating whom from some candidates. In (ii) straightaway was not always accurately translated/recalled – this was a vocabulary issue.

SANSKRIT

Paper 0499/12
Language 12

Key messages

Overall there was a good level of Sanskrit on display in this year's scripts, the standard of which was broadly in line with those seen in previous years.

Candidates would do well to revise the basic rules of Sandhi thoroughly – often some otherwise accomplished candidates found this area difficult. In addition, the spelling of basic Sanskrit words (such as 'having seen') caused candidates difficulties.

General comments

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of precision in the following key areas:

1. Singulars and Plural (check the noun endings in particular)
2. Transliteration – in particular noting the lengths of individual vowels
3. Word order when translating into Sanskrit, and the agreement of verb and subject where appropriate.

Comments on specific questions

This paper was well answered by many candidates. The following specific points were noted by the Examiners:

Question 1

- (a) Care is needed with the spelling of the name here.
- (b) Some candidates did not recognise the instruction 'kill' in this sentence; translating each word is also essential here.
- (c) This sentence posed a challenge for many candidates, who were not sure how to phrase it accurately. Examiners accepted a number of variants, but candidates would do well to revise this construction.
- (f) The translation of 'your' was not always well handled
- (g) As in paper 11, Sandhi was not always well handled. Candidates here need to know the visarga sandhi rules well. Particular care is also needed with clear handwriting to ensure that the details of the Sanskrit script are clear.

Question 2

- (a) The only issues here were muddling words or just not knowing vocabulary; the former can be rectified with careful checking during the examination, the latter with thorough revision. Candidates should also be careful with the tenses of verbs, which were not always accurately rendered in the translations.
- (b – c) These sentences produced a mixture of results. The strongest candidates were precise in their approach, and ensured that they had translated each word accurately. Missing out words should be avoided – again checking is key to this. Candidates would do well to observe the sentence

structure, and keep with this, rather than muddling words. In 2(c) (i) particular care was needed with the second sentence to recognise that there was a dispute between the two of them.

Question 3

In each of these sentences, the same issues arose.

- (i) Word order – the verb should sit at the end of each phrase or sentence
- (ii) Agreement of subject and verb
- (ii) Accurate tenses – in particular not adding an 'a' for the future.
- (iv) The passive construction in (b) was not well rendered by many candidates – revision of the formation of these forms and the agreement with the subject would be helpful.
- (v) Revision of the declension of guru would be advisable.
- (vi) The revision of basic vocabulary is essential for success in these questions.

Question 4

This passage was well handled by many candidates. In general, candidates need to identify the relevant piece of Sanskrit, and ensure that they use this to answer the questions rather than other parts of the passage.

A few points stand out:

- (b) 'Near' was not that well known by candidates
- (d) The construction in this sentence was not universally known, and could be usefully revised.
- (e) Many candidates were uncertain about the type of compound. Revision of the basic types would be beneficial.
- (h) It was important in this question to get the notion of the other pigeons being freed.

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Paper 0499/21
Literature and Epic Civilisation

Key messages

As in the Language papers, there was a good level of Sanskrit and knowledge of the Epic Civilisation content on display from many candidates. The vast majority seemed confident with how to answer the questions, and had the relevant knowledge to do so successfully. Very few, if any, candidates appeared to struggle with the timing. One simple point, which has been raised in previous years, is that candidates should be enjoined to learn their set texts thoroughly.

General comments

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of precision in the following key areas:

- 1 Transliteration of names, as noted in the Language paper.
- 2 Giving two pieces of information or points for the 2-mark questions in the civilisation section.
- 3 Giving an accurate translation of the set texts.

Comments on specific questions

This paper was well answered by many candidates. The following specific points were noted by the Examiners:

Question 1

(a) (i) and (d) The spelling/transliteration of these names was not always accurate

(b) Immediately was not well known by candidates.

(f) Precision on reading the question, and remembering to give all 3 pieces of information was key here.

(g) Again the three points was key here – with two marks allocated for the activities in the story, and then one for a response.

Question 2

These questions were well answered, and mostly well known.

(b) Some candidates forgot to note the 'human' in their answers. A close translation would always be advisable with these questions.

(e) There was a variety of different translations on offer, but most candidates showed a good knowledge of the verse. Candidates should ensure that the structure of their translation is close to that of the Sanskrit.

Question 3

For the short answer questions, candidates mostly knew the answers well. They should, however, be careful, as noted above, to give two points for each response where two marks are on offer, and to ensure that the answer is appropriately developed. Care should also be taken to note when Sanskrit words are being requested, or when there is a need for English terminology. This is made clear in the questions. There were a few specific issues

- (a) (iv) Confusion with *vikalpa*
- (d) This was less well-answered
- (e) (ii) Here it was particularly important to give full information as noted in the mark scheme
- (iv) There were a variety of excellent answers to this question, which went beyond the mark scheme, and were accepted if they were deemed accurate.
- (f) The essays were well received, with the first option being more popular. Candidates should be reminded of the importance of giving as much detail as they can about the topic, and then coming to some effective conclusions about the nature of that topic. They should study the marking grid when preparing for the examination.

Question 4

These questions were the least well-answered on the paper. Candidates are advised to revise all their set texts thoroughly. Many of the errors, such as in 4 (a) and (f), could have been avoided through careful revision. Candidates should also be reminded to look at the types of compound in their texts. There was some outstanding answers to 4(d)(ii) which went well beyond the limitations of the mark scheme – these were excellent to read.

SANSKRIT

**Paper 0499/22
Literature and Epic Civilisation 22**

Key messages

This paper proved challenging for the candidates who took it. This was due to a lack of knowledge of the basic concepts in the Epic Civilisation element of the paper, and an equally weak knowledge of the set texts shown by most candidates. Some candidates scored highly, but too many did not appear to have had access to the materials and ideas which would have supported them to a successful outcome in this examination. Many were uncertain about how to answer questions, and just repeated the question, or gave answers which lacked relevant material. The general comments below still stand, as they did for paper 21, but must be taken in the light of this message.

General comments

Candidates should be reminded of the importance of precision in the following key areas:

1. Transliteration of names, as noted in the Language paper.
2. Giving two pieces of information or points for the 2-mark questions in the civilisation section.
3. Giving an accurate translation of the set texts.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

There were no specific areas of weakness here which can be pinpointed to an individual question. Too many candidates appeared not to know the basic vocabulary, and some just chose to copy out portions of the Sanskrit text rather than answer the question. It is important to note that the questions must be answered in English or transliteration, as appropriate. Candidates would also be well advised to revise and remember the meanings of each of the case endings, so that they can recognise the basic structure of each Sanskrit sentence.

Question 2

Again, those who had revised the text were able to answer these questions effectively. Many picked up a mark for expressing an opinion in the final question but did not appear to have learned or revised the text, and so were unable to produce accurate answers in relation to the questions which required a knowledge of the Sanskrit.

Question 3

The basic knowledge required to answer these questions was, all too often, missing from candidates' answers. There was often confusion about the terminology and, on occasion, answers were given which bore no relation to the question set. Teachers and candidates should be encouraged to look at the relevant resources to support learning in this area.

Candidates should be careful, as noted above, to give two points for each response where two marks are on offer, and to ensure that the answer is appropriately developed. Care should also be taken to note when Sanskrit words are being requested, or when there is a need for English terminology. This is made clear in the questions.

The essay questions were better answered than the short answer questions, with candidate showing some knowledge of the issues raised, and being able to express intelligent opinions about the contemporary questions which they might give rise to.

Question 4

These questions were the least well-answered on the paper. Candidates need to revise their set texts thoroughly. Candidates should also be reminded to look at the types of compound in their texts.