

TAMIL

Paper 3226/01
Composition

Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates need to:

- ensure that they answer one question from **Section A** and one question from **Section B**
- adhere to the word limits specified
- 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 that they present their response in the form stipulated in the question (e.g. letter, dialogue, etc.)
- 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.

In **Section A**, topic (a) was the most popular and in **Section B**, topic (a) and (c) were the ones most often selected.

The stronger candidates made significantly fewer spelling errors than last year. Weaker candidates generally struggled to construct sentences accurately and made frequent spelling mistakes.

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

1. ன – ண – ந
2. ல – ள – ழ
3. ர – ற (கற்க – கர்க)
4. ட – ற (கொண்டு – கொண்டு)
5. நெடில் எழுத்து – குறில் எழுத்து (கீழே – கீழை, வேலையிலிருந்து – வேலையிலிருந்து)

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

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue

Candidates were asked to write a response of approximately 120 words in Tamil on one of the three given topics.

Question 1(a), which asked candidates to write a letter to their landlord about water that was leaking into their kitchen from the flat above, was chosen by just over half of candidates. Many candidates wrote a good response to this question.

Question 1(b), which asked candidates to write a report about a recent drama production at their school, was chosen by a small number of candidates and was generally tackled well.

Question 1(c), which asked candidates to produce a dialogue detailing an argument between two drivers whose cars were involved in a minor road accident, was answered by nearly a third of candidates. Again, performance here was generally good.

Section B – Essay

Candidates were asked to write one essay of approximately 200 words in Tamil from a choice of four topics.

Question 2(a), which asked candidates to write a story about a boy returning to school after a week's illness, was chosen by nearly a third of candidates. Responses were generally adequate.

Question 2(b), which asked candidates to describe the type of job that they wanted to do in future and explain why, was the most popular in this section. Responses were, overall, good.

Question 2(c), which asked candidates to discuss whether or not schools should teach only academic subjects, was often answered well.

Question 2(d), which asked candidates to write a story based on the proverb "Coming events cast their shadow before them", was chosen by a small number of candidates but those who did attempt it generally did well.

TAMIL

Paper 3226/02
Translation and Reading
Comprehension

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to make sure that they express themselves in clear, correct and concise language.

In addition, candidates need to:

- ensure that they plan their time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work
- ensure that their work is legible and logically presented
- read the translation passages carefully before beginning to translate.

General comments

Overall, a range of performance was seen on this paper. Candidates seemed to have organised their time in the examination well and there were no rubric infringements.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Translation

Question 1: Translation into English

Candidates were required to translate a passage from Tamil into English. The majority of candidates coped very well with this exercise.

Question 2: Translation into Tamil

Candidates were required to translate a passage from English into Tamil, and a range of performance was seen here. Some common errors were as follows:

1. ன – ண – ந 2. ல – ள – ழ 3. ர – ற 4. கீழே – கீழை, கீளை

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Most candidates demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the passage. Some weaker candidates gave the same response for **Questions 3** and **5**. Some candidates struggled to give an appropriate answer to **Question 3**. The majority of candidates gave correct answers to **Questions 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10** and **12**. Some candidates provided only partial responses to **Questions 9** and **10**.

If two marks are available for a question, then candidates need to provide two points in their answer in order to have access to full marks for that question. Likewise if three marks are available for a question, then candidates will need to provide three points, and so on.