

Examiners' Report/
Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2012

International GCSE Tamil (4TA0)
Paper 01

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Publications Code UG033151

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General Comments

This is the second year that the International GCSE Tamil examination has been sat. Centres should ensure that they make full use of the past papers, from last year and from the legacy specification, in order to ensure that candidates perform to the best of their ability.

Question 1

The majority of candidates understood the concept of the question and translated the passage correctly. However, some did not construct the sentences properly and often had parts of speech in the wrong order.

Question 2

Many candidates understood the heading 'Meditation' and wrote the correct Tamil equivalent of the term. Yet those who did not translate the heading were still able to translate the main text nicely. A considerable number of candidates scored highly on this question. Very few translated the heading with the related Tamil word.

Question 3

In general, the candidates performed adequately in transmission. Although they grasped the majority of the text, many candidates showed difficulties with some of the more complex texts. The Quality of Language was largely accurate when using short phrases.

Question 4

On the whole, candidates committed spelling mistakes and grammatical errors in the essays but a few did write without any errors.

(a) Describe life without electricity.

The majority of candidates who answered this question performed distinctively. There were good arguments put forward for and against the point in discussion.

(b) The candidates who answered this question understood the meaning of the proverb and explained it exquisitely. They proposed agreeable arguments and scored good marks.

(c) The candidates who answered this question described admirably about their sports person.

(d) Those who answered this question followed the letter writing format correctly and the body text was well organised. They also scored very good marks.

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