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Examiners' Report

Principal Examiner Feedback

Summer 2017

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE
In Tamil (4TA0) Paper 1

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Publications Code 4TA0_01_1706_ER

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The paper this series, as in previous series, provided challenge to candidates however was of a comparable level of accessibility as before. It is noted that the majority of candidates found the paper well within their limitations and attempted all the questions.

Question 1

Most of the candidates understood the concept of the question and translated the words correctly. Some of the candidates made mistakes in forming the sentences in the correct grammatical order. Most of the candidates did well, scoring full marks.

Question 2

The majority of the candidates understood the concept and ideas expressed in the English passage and translated these well into Tamil. Very few candidates were unable to complete this task. A number of candidates did very well achieving high marks. Some completed the Tamil translation well using the English quotes in the last paragraph of this element of the examination.

Question 3

The Tamil to English translation was about the importance of food. Most of the candidates did the right translation for 'soft' drinks and 'hard' drinks. It is noted that some candidates completed the translation of western countries as European countries. The majority of the candidates completed the translation competently.

Question 4

A wide range of topics were covered in the essay. This section was answered by all candidates. A few scored good marks. The top end of candidates did well and it was very pleasant to read their essays. Lower end candidates made grammatical and spelling mistakes in forming the sentences.

(a) A few attempted this heading. Those who attempted showed good understanding of the topic and lively imagination.

(b) A number of candidates attempted this question and provided very good descriptions. They have shown the creative thinking in their writing. Most of them sleeted the Pongal festival (harvesting festival).

(c) The candidates who attempted this topic argued well by focusing on the advantages and disadvantages of using social media for communication. As

it appears to be part of their daily life style they were able to use appropriate vocabulary.

(d) A few candidates attempted this question. They explained their vision and the problems of becoming a Prime Minister.

Concluding remarks

Candidates showed great strength in their translations from English to Tamil, however in some cases this level of ability was not demonstrated in the other questions answered. In this, generally, more challenging area of the examination, candidates were able to demonstrate a good knowledge of key vocabulary in English and the same in Tamil. This provides evidence that all candidates had a good understanding of the topics in knowing key vocabulary, language structures and command of the languages.

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link:

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