

HINDI AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Paper 0549/01
Reading and Writing

Key messages

In order to raise the standards, candidates need to ensure to:

- Pay more attention to spellings, vocabulary and grammatical structures.
- Follow the word limit prescribed for each question.
- Read the question carefully before answering it.

General comments

The performance of candidates varied from very good to average and a few below average. Some more able candidates seem well prepared to attempt all the questions. Some weaker candidates could identify and select relevant information from the text, but had difficulty in understanding the connection between ideas, opinions and writer's intention. Spelling and Grammatical errors were widespread.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Exercise 1

Questions 1 – 6

Candidates read a passage to identify and select relevant information, show understanding of the connection between ideas, opinions and attitudes and understand what is implied but not directly stated. The answers can be one word or a short phrase.

Most candidates did well in **Question 1, 2, 4 and 6** but missed the second point in **Question 3**, हल्दी का उपयोग विवाह के समय मांगलिक माना जाता है। Some candidates answered **Question 5** by using general knowledge and missed the point stated in the Text, वैज्ञानिक शोध के परिणाम स्वरूप हल्दी को प्ला के रूप में मान्यता मिली।

Exercise 2

Questions 7 – 15

Multiple matching: candidates read a series of short paragraphs followed by a series of sentences, then match each sentence to one of the paragraphs.

Exercise 3

Questions 16 – 19



Candidates read a longer text and make brief notes under a number of given headings. Most candidates performed well in this exercise.

Exercise 4

Question 20

Candidates write a paragraph-length summary of no more than 100 words about an aspect of the text in **Exercise 3**. **Exercise 4, 5 and 6** assess their reading and writing abilities, so Language marks are awarded separately from the content marks. Most candidates managed to adhere to the prescribed word limit while summarising the main points from the text. The weaker candidates tended to lift big chunks of the text which did not show their own writing skills or ability to identify the main points of a text.

Exercise 5

Question 21

Candidates write a short functional prose of approximately 120 words as an e-mail in response to a series of 3 prompts. Candidates mostly performed well on this task; however, their written work has errors in spelling of everyday vocabulary and grammatical structures. It is also important to stick to the word limit of the task.

Exercise 6

Question 22

Candidates write a longer piece of continuous prose of approximately 200 words. The topic was found to be engaging for almost all the candidates. Most candidates discussed both sides of the given statement and provided a logical conclusion. The quality of written work is variable. More attention to spelling and a range of correct grammatical structures will further raise the standards of IGCSE Hindi as a Second Language.

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Paper 0549/02 Listening
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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

The majority of candidates performed reasonably well on this exercise. **Questions 1–6** require short answers, and most candidates scored well. There were variations in the 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.

Section A

Question 1

Most of the candidates answered very well.

Question 2.

Lots of candidates were unable to get full marks on **Question 2**. To which the answer was “app” ‘ऐप’

Question 3

Most of the candidates scored a full mark in this question.

Question 4

This question was accessible to the majority of candidates.

Question 5

Some candidates managed to get the correct answer which was “Asian games”.

Question 6

Most of the candidates could not spell कुत्तों का मैला correctly, and instead wrote कुत्तों का मेला which changed the sentence meaning.

Question 7 (i)–(viii)

Candidates are required to fill in the blank spaces with the appropriate word which should fit in the sentence with the correct grammar. There was a variation of answers in this section but most candidates picked up the words from the audio very well and answered the question properly and scored most of the marks. The majority of the candidates did not score marks in question number 7(f).

Questions 8–15

Candidates are required to fill in the blank spaces with the appropriate word which should fit in the sentence with the correct grammar. This section proved quite challenging, maybe due to the candidates' concentration levels and understanding of grammar.

Question 8

Most of the candidates were able to answer this question but weaker candidates were not able to answer the question correctly.

Question 9

Some candidates answered well in this section as they chose the correct wording to fit in, however, some candidates wrote only a word or two which made sentence grammatically incorrect.

Question 10

Many candidates understood the question and interpreted the correct answer from the audio yet some candidates could not infer the correct type of data for the question and wrote चार गुना instead of कम.

Question 11

This question was understood by most candidates and with various spelling variations they answered the question correctly.

Question 12

The majority of candidates were able to answer this question correctly. A small percentage of candidates wrote the wrong answer.

Question 13

Many of the candidates answered the question but it did not fit grammatically and did not receive a mark.

Question 14

The majority of candidates wrote this answer correctly. Some of the candidates got this question incorrect as they wrote far too much leading to a completely random answer or it being grammatically incorrect.

Question 15

Some candidates found this question very accessible and answered the question correctly with the correct spelling or a variation, which we accepted.

Questions 16–23

Questions 16–23 were multiple choice questions. There were a small amount of candidates who did not attempt the questions but many got on average 3–4 questions correct. However, the main question that candidates answered incorrectly was **Question 23**.

Summary

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 their Hindi vocabulary to access some questions and also to focus on sounds and letters, paying particular attention to similar sounding letters. Teachers should also give some dictation regularly. Candidates should gain as much practice as possible by conducting listening exercises in class and attempting past papers under timed conditions. This would certainly help to raise the overall standard.

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Paper 0549/03 Speaking

The Test is comprised of three parts.

Part 1

Candidates give a 2/3-minute presentation on a topic chosen from the list of topics prescribed in the syllabus. Candidates may prepare a single cue card, containing a maximum of five headings and some illustrative material to bring into the examination room. Any additional written support or scripts for their presentation is not allowed.

Part 2

Candidates have 3/4-minute discussion with the Examiner about the Presentation to further assess their knowledge and understanding of their prepared topic in an interactive manner.

Part 3

Candidates engage in a 3/4-minute conversation with the Examiner about at least two general topics from the syllabus (one from areas A-B and one from areas C-E). Candidates are not given prior information/choice about the topics.

General comments

Most candidates performed well in the speaking test in this year's examination. Candidates who did well were well prepared for the three-part examination and followed the guidelines set out. The examination protocol was followed by most of the internal Examiners. If a large number of candidates appear from a centre and several internal Examiners are engaged in the assessment process, it is important to ensure consistency of approach in conducting the examination. Some Examiners introduced the candidates, explained the composition of three-part examination and gave them the opportunity to perform to the best of their ability without prompting, interrupting or attempting to complete their sentences for them. This needs to be followed by all the Examiners.

The recordings were consistently of a good quality.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1: Topic Presentation

The performance varied from excellent to average/below average. Candidates who did well made a well organised presentation. They covered the topic area comprehensively to make it lively and interesting. They used topic appropriate vocabulary, simple and some complex grammatical structures to present ideas, opinions and facts. Their pronunciation and intonations were good. Some candidates tended to use English words frequently. This practice needs to be discouraged.

Part 2: Topic Conversation

This part of the Speaking Test is designed to stretch and challenge the candidates on their prepared topic. It should not be a repetition of the Presentation. Ideally, the questions should be well thought out to achieve this objective. Some of the questions fell in the category of repetition of the Presentation.

The overall performance was good to very good. Most candidates responded spontaneously and thoughtfully. They used a sufficient range of precise vocabulary and errors did not impede communication. The questions were generally relevant for the topic and age of the candidates. They are expected to respond without any prompting from the Examiner, but this was not followed consistently. In future, general knowledge questions and questions which can be answered by one word (Yes/No) should be avoided in this section.

Part 3: General Conversation

This part of the Speaking test assesses conversational skills and fluency in Hindi. The guidelines to choose one topic from areas A to B and another one from C to E need to be followed consistently. General conversation topics cannot be a repetition of the Presentation. This part of the Speaking Test needs to be structured carefully in line with the Syllabus. In order to provide the candidates with a fair opportunity to show their true ability to use Hindi in an interactive situation, it is important to resist from prompting or summing up for them. Questions also need to provide opportunities to use a range of grammatical structures including a variety of tenses and some complex sentences to express ideas and opinions.