

TAMIL LANGUAGE

Paper 8689/21
Reading and Writing

Key messages

To do well in this paper candidates should:

- ensure that they answer **all** question from **Section 1** and **Section 2**
- adhere to the word limits specified for **Question 5** in **Section 2**
- ensure that the 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 options
- ensure the same word is not repeated many times
- ensure that the candidates present the response in the form stipulated in **Question 5(b)**
- 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.

It was encouraging to note that the stronger candidates made significantly fewer spelling errors. Weaker candidates generally struggled to construct sentences accurately and made frequent spelling mistakes. Also, one should note that the answer for **Question 5(a)** should be a summary of Part-1 and Part-2 of the Text in their own words.

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 (பணி - பனி)
- 2 ல - ள - ழ (அழித்தல் - அளித்தல்)
- 3 ர - ற (கூருவது - கூறுவது)
- 4 ப - பா (பார்க்க - பர்க்க, பூக்கும் - புக்கும்) போன்ற குறில் - நெடில் எழுத்துக்கள்
- 5 ல - ல் (கல்வி - கலவி, ஆனால் - ஆன்னால்) போன்ற மெய் - உயிர்மெய் எழுத்துக்கள்
- 6 மெய் மிகும் இடங்கள் மெய் மிகா இடங்கள் - (அழித்தல் - அழிதல், மதிப்பெண்கள் - மதிபெண்கள், நடனம் - நடன்னம், படிப்படியாக - படிபடியாக)

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

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TAMIL LANGUAGE

Paper 8689/31
Essay

Key messages

- This is an essay paper in which candidates are required to compose one essay from a choice of five topics.
- The essay is marked out of 40 with 16 marks available for content and 24 marks available for quality of Language.

General comments

The overall performance on this paper was good and there were no infringements of the rubric. Weaker responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstandings of the question, leading to loss of marks for content and some poor language skills. The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following letters, which were written in an incorrect form:

1. ல – ழ – ள
2. ந – ன – ண
3. ர – ற
4. த் – ட்

Candidates would benefit from more practice in using these letters.

- Another common mistake is the 'குறில்' and 'நெடில்' letters. It refers to short vowel and long vowel sound.

Example: திமைகள் (incorrect) – தீமைகள் (correct)

- Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ஏ conjugates with other consonants.

Example: க + ஏ = கே/ல + ஏ = லே

- Next, candidates use the colloquial language which is used in daily conversation. Some words which are in daily conversation are not suitable in formal writing.

Example:

இப்போ பாதுகித்திங்கனா should be written as 'தற்பொழுது'

- Candidates should write the accurate version of idioms, proverbs and 'Thirukural' – Mistakes were made by candidates by not writing the full version of the 'Thirukural' and their explanations which did not reflect the proverb/idiom.

Example: candidate wrote – 'கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின்...' (hanging ^)

Correct: கற்க கசடறக் கற்பவை கற்றபின் நிற்க அதற்குத் தக (full form)

- There are some candidates who wrote proverbs as well. A few proverbs for this series were as follows:
 - நோயற்ற வாழ்வே குறைவற்ற செல்வம்.
 - சுவர் இருந்தால்தான் சித்திரம் வரைய முடியும்.
 - காலம் பொன் போன்றது, கடமை கண் போன்றது.
- Thirukural from this series were as follows:
 - நோய்நாடி நோய்முதல் நாடி அதுதணிக்கும் வாய்நாடி வாய்ப்பச் செயல் (குறள் 948).
 - தன்நெஞ் சறிவது பொய்யற்க பொய்த்தபின் தன்நெஞ்சே தன்னைச் சுடும். (குறள் 293).

Overall

Candidates did well. To gain more marks, try to insert idioms and link to real world examples. Support your answer by giving supporting evidence. Candidates also should be able to write more than 250 words.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Some candidates attempted this question, and the essay was at satisfactory level. For this question, candidates can agree or disagree that nowadays youngsters have limited responsibility compared to past. Candidates explained that youngsters have less responsibility now but did not give a clear explanation.

Question 2

Some candidates attempted this question, but few did well. Candidates should explain the difference and similarity between reading news on newspaper and online. A few candidates are not able to explain clearly the difference between reading news on newspaper and online, but some candidate did. A few candidates explained the different types of media and how communication happened from the early stages until now.

Question 3

Some candidates attempted this question and performed fairly well. The question was, 'why it is difficult for new mothers to return to work despite equal employment opportunities' in which candidates should explain what the challenges are faced by new mothers after giving birth. As an example, it could be the responsibility of taking care of a child, the love between mother and child could be the reason as well, the mothers find it hard to manage both work and life, etc. Candidates should be able to discuss with some examples to gain higher marks.

Question 4

This was the most popular question for this series. Almost all candidates chose this question. Some candidates did well. Candidates should be able to list the free time activities and the benefits gained mentally and physically. For example, play football and yoga. Yoga can reduce anger and make a person calm. Football can make someone fit physically. Another example, plant trees in your free time. This can give self-satisfaction and save mother nature as well. Keeping our environment green and helping to keep us calm.

Question 5

A few candidates chose this question. Candidates should explain whether they agree or not that technological advancement in medical science has increased human's life expectancy. A few candidates did not perform well because they did not write about the technological advancement in medical science. Candidates can add points such as, availability of facilities, services, medicines, etc.

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