

TAMIL

Paper 9689/22
Reading and Writing

Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates need to:

- ensure that they answer **all** questions 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.

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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Paper 9689/32
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, referring to the differences between the 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
- Candidates sometimes use the colloquial form of the language which is used in daily conversation. Some words which are used in daily conversation are not suitable to write in formal situations.
Example:
இப்போ பாதுகித்திங்கனா should be written as தற்பொழுது.
- Candidates should write the accurate version of idioms, proverbs and 'Thirukural'. Some candidates did not write the full version of each 'Thirukural' and the explanation did not reflect the proverb/idioms.
Example: One 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:

- அளவுக்கு மீறினால் அமிர்தமும் நஞ்சு
- நோயற்ற வாழ்வே குறைவற்ற செல்வம்
- சுவர் இருந்தால்தான் சித்திரம் வரைய முடியும்.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Very few candidates attempted this question but did well. For this question, candidates can agree or disagree that nowadays teenagers are given less or more responsibility.

Question 2

A few candidates answered this question in this series. The question was about the 'differences and similarities between reading news online and newspapers'. A few candidates elaborated and structured the answers properly.

Question 3

No candidates attempted this question.

Question 4

A few candidates chose this question. Candidates were asked to write the benefit of free time activities. Several candidates were able to elaborate and explain with examples, but a few were not able to do that. This resulted in a several candidates not being able to access the higher bands of the mark scheme.

Question 5

There were too few responses to this question to make a general comment appropriate.

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Paper 9689/42
Texts

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- Check carefully that they manage their time well and answer three questions.
- Check carefully that they do not answer two questions on the same text.
- Think carefully about what the question is asking of them before they start to write.
- Refer to the question during the answer, not just at the start and the finish.
- Practise responses to the passage-based exercises, where the passage is a stimulus and should be used as a starting point for their answer.

General comments

Candidates are advised to clearly write the question number. A few candidates answered more than three questions, against the advice of the rubrics which disadvantaged them. Candidates should pay attention to their handwriting and spelling.

Comments on specific questions

Section A

Question 1

(a) Sangam Literature

Very few candidates attempted Sangam literature. They were not able to answer it in full. When word meanings or the genre (Thurai in Tamil) was asked, candidates found it difficult to answer fully.

(b) Silappadikaram

A good number of candidates answered this question, but they narrated the story rather than giving the specific points. If candidates copy the question from the question paper, they will remember what to write.

Question 2

(a) Tirukkural

There are ten verses in each chapter of Tirukkural. Most students answered all the ten verses. They are expected to give the meaning or essence of all the verses. Those who gave quotes obtained higher marks.

(b) Tirukkural

On the whole, this question was completed fairly well.

Question 3

(a) and (b) – Tevaram

Questions are set from the same ten verses year after year. Most of the candidates just gave the background story and the essence of the verses. But the questions are on style or devotion or the description of devotees or the appearance of God.

Candidates who understood the specific question and answered appropriately obtained better marks. However, some candidates narrated the story more than giving the relevant points required in the question.

Candidates who give the background story will access the higher marks in the mark scheme. A suggestion would be to write sub-headings which would make the essay clearer to the reader.

Question 4

(a) Bharati

Many of the candidates chose the question. Quotations were given by only a few candidates. On the whole, this question was answered well.

(b) Bharathidasan

Very few candidates attempted this question; those who answered this question did well on the whole.

Question 5

(a) and (b) – Novel

Examples or quotes from the novel were lacking in candidates' answers. There were mostly incomplete answers to this question.

Question 6

(a) and (b) – Short Stories

Candidates who attempted these questions did well in general. However, many wrote about the story alone. When the question is about style, descriptive skill or specific role of characters, candidates are expected to deal with them more elaborately and using examples or quotes will embellish it further. Candidates can be advised to write five to ten quotations from the text while studying in the classroom.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/52 Prose
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Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should:

- Check carefully that they manage their time well.
- Read the passage carefully and understand the entire text before they start to translate.
- Refer each sentence carefully while answering and make sure to translate appropriately.
- Not to interpret/create their own meaning while translation.

General comments

In this paper candidates are required to translate a short passage from English into Tamil.

Performance on this paper was generally good and there were no infringements of the rubric.

More successful responses were characterised by answers which broke up longer sentences into two separate sentences. They produced largely correct and meaningful translations.

Answers from weaker candidates were often characterised by serious spelling errors, errors in sentence construction and incorrect translations of key vocabulary items.