TAMIL

Paper 9689/21
Reading and Writing

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Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should demonstrate an understanding of the passage given and answer the questions using their own vocabulary as far as possible.

In Questions 3 and 4, candidates should be aware of the direct relationship between the number of points they need to make and the number of marks available e.g. 4 points for a 4 mark question, 3 points for a 3 mark question, etc.

General comments

In the comprehension questions, candidates should make sure they understand the full demands of the question before attempting to answer. Some candidates copied out long portions of the text, which was not always selective enough to demonstrate adequate comprehension. However, there were many who did their best to use their own language and were rewarded for successfully doing so. Some of the candidates used additional sheets and most of those sheets were left blank.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Most of the candidates answered this question well.

Question 2

Almost all the candidates found this question accessible.

Question 3

Candidates often found **(e)** and **(g)** were the more difficult questions.

Candidates must know that there are at least 3 points for a three mark question and four points for a four mark question. Some candidates wrote just one sentence/answer for a three mark question.

Question 4

(c)   Instead of writing the answer in three stages/3 points, some candidates finished it in one sentence and needed to answer it in full to achieve all the available marks.

(e)   This question was difficult for many candidates.

Candidates should be trained to write in bullet points 1, 2, 3…etc.

Question 5

(a)   This question was answered well.

(b)   Some candidates wrote the answer without mentioning **5(b)** and a few candidates even missed it out completely.

Cambridge Assessment
International Education

If they write (copy) the question first and then answer, they should have a better understanding of what is being asked.

Another suggestion is to write **5(b)** in a separate place. It will avoid the mixing up of answers or entirely missing the answer for **5(b)**.

If candidates are asked to practise with model question papers, it will help them. **5(b)** is about a personal experience or an opinion.

TAMIL

> **Paper 9689/22**
> **Reading and Writing**

Key messages

In order to do well in this paper, candidates should demonstrate an understanding of the passage given and answer the questions using their own vocabulary as far as possible.

In Questions 3 and 4, candidates should be aware of the direct relationship between the number of points they need to make and the number of marks available e.g. 4 points for a 4 mark question, 3 points for a 3 mark question, etc.

General comments

In the comprehension questions, candidates should make sure they understand the full demands of the question before attempting to answer. Some candidates copied out long portions of the text, which was not always selective enough to demonstrate adequate comprehension. However, there were many who did their best to use their own language and were rewarded for successfully doing so.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The candidates found it very difficult to identify the words with equivalent meaning (synonyms) in the given text. Candidates may benefit from specific training on how to find synonyms in a passage.

Question 2

Candidates answered this question well, in general.

Candidates should be trained to complete their sentences with the appropriate verb and tense.

Question 3

(a)   Instead of mentioning three different sounds, most of the candidates gave only two or fewer.

(b)   Most of the candidates did not get full marks. It is a five mark question, so they must understand that there are five points or five sentences to be given to achieve full marks.

(c)   Same as **3(b)**. Most of the candidates did not get all the four points and thus did not achieve full marks.

Question 4

(a)   Candidates generally did not give all the five points in the answer.

(c)   Candidates generally did not give all the points in the answer, as **4(a)**.

The other questions were answered well.

Question 5

(a)   This was answered well by the candidates.

(b)   Some candidates wrote the answer without mentioning **5(b)** and a few candidates even missed it out completely.

If they write (copy) the question first and then answer, they should have a better understanding of what is being asked.

Another suggestion is to write **5(b)** in a separate place. It will avoid the mixing up of answers or entirely missing the answer for **5(b)**.

If candidates are asked to practise with model question papers, it will help them. **5(b)** is about a personal experience or an opinion.

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Paper 9689/31 **Essay**

Key messages

In order to perform well on this paper, candidates should:

> select a title which they understand and focus on the terms in the question
> write a clear, concise and logical argument with appropriate exemplification
> use accurate and idiomatic Tamil with a range of grammatical structures and appropriate vocabulary
> plan their essay and ensure that the opening paragraph sets out the terms of argument
> write a conclusion based on the prior arguments

General comments

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.

Overall, performances on this paper were good and there were no infringements of the rubric.

Weaker responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstanding of the question (leading to loss of marks for Content) and 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. ன – ந – ண 3. ர – ற 4. த - ட

Candidates would benefit from more practice in using these letters. Candidates should also be reminded that the letter ஏ when conjugated with consonants will become கே சே தே பே மே etc.

Some candidates wrote அங்கை இங்கை எங்கை rather than அங்கே இங்கேஎங்கே

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This question was answered by the greatest number of candidates. The best answers contained well-structured complex sentences with few or no errors in spelling and grammar. Weaker responses contained numerous grammatical and spelling errors which lowered their marks.

Question 2

Too few candidates opted for this question to make comment possible.

Question 3

A good proportion of candidates chose this question. The best answers were characterised by well structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Poor spelling and a lack of focused content was seen in weaker answers.

Question 4

Too few candidates opted for this question to make comment possible.

Question 5

This was the third most popular question. The best answers contained well-structured, complex sentences and very few spelling and grammatical errors.

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Paper 9689/32
Essay
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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

Overall performance on this paper was good and there were no infringements of the rubric.

Weaker responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstanding of the question (leading to loss of marks for content) and 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 ன – ன – ண 3 ர – ற 4 த் ட்

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This question was answered by the greatest number of candidates. The best answers contained well-structured complex sentences with few or no errors in spelling and grammar. Weaker responses contained numerous grammatical and spelling errors which lowered their marks.

Question 2

Too few candidates opted for this question to make comment possible.

Question 3

Too few candidates opted for this question to make comment possible.

Question 4

Too few candidates opted for this question to make comment possible.

Question 5

A good proportion of candidates chose this question. The best answers were characterised by well-structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Poor spelling and a lack of focused content was seen in weaker answers.

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Paper 9689/41

Texts

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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

The majority of the candidates only attempted a few texts such as Tirukkural, Tevaram and Bharati.

They should be encouraged to study Sangam literature and Silappadikaram.

Spelling mistakes can be avoided by practising in regular tests or mock exams.

Candidates should be advised to learn 5 to ten quotations from each text in the class room. This will be very helpful when they answer the questions in examinations. Very few candidates gave quotes from the texts.

If the candidates write (copy) the questions first and then answer, it would avoid lot of confusion when answering.

Candidates are advised to clearly write the question number.

A few candidates answered more than three questions, against the advice of the rubrics.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

A Natrinai from Sangam Literature

(a)   SILAPPADIKARAM

Only a few candidates attempted this question. Many didn't answer the sub questions satisfactorily (word meanings).

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

Encourage them to give quotes from the text. The question specifically asks candidates to give examples/quotes, etc.

Question 2

(a) TIRUKKURAL

Candidates need to practise the second part of the question (word meanings) as there were many errors in this section.

(b) The candidates that attempted this question performed fairly well.

Question 3

(a),**(b)** TEVARAM

Some candidates narrated the story more than giving the relevant points. Giving the background story is good but very little matter came from the 10 stanzas in the text.

Some candidates wrote sub headings and this was a good technique.

Question 4

(a) BHARATI

Many of the candidates chose this question.

Examples were given only by a minority of the candidates.

(b) BHARATIDASAN

A few candidates attempted this question but struggled to answer this topic well.

Question 5

(a),**(b)** NOVEL

Examples or quotes from the novel were lacking in the answers and candidates mostly gave incomplete answers.

Question 6

(a),**(b)** SHORT STORIES

Candidates who attempted these questions did well.

Candidates should remember that examples or quotes will embellish their answer.

Candidates could be advised to learn 5 to ten quotations from the text while studying in the class room.

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Key messages

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

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Check carefully that they do not answer two questions on the same text;
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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

The majority of the candidates only attempted a few texts such as Tirukkural, Tevaram and Bharati.

They should be encouraged to study Sangam literature and Silappadikaram.

Spelling mistakes can be avoided by practising in regular tests or mock exams.

Candidates should be advised to learn 5 to ten quotations from each text in the class room. This will be very helpful when they answer the questions in examinations. Very few candidates gave quotes from the texts.

If the candidates write (copy) the questions first and then answer, it would avoid lot of confusion when answering.

Candidates are advised to clearly write the question number.

A few candidates answered more than three questions, against the advice of the rubrics.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

(a)   PURANANURU

Candidates generally performed well. Many didn't answer the sub questions satisfactorily (word meanings).

(b)   SILAPPADIKARAM

Many candidates narrated the story without giving relevant quotations or points from the text.

Students should be encouraged to write with sub headings to help them.

Question 2

(a)   TIRUKKURAL

Those candidates who attempted this question gave the meaning for only the four couplets printed in the question paper. We have previously specified that they must answer covering all the ten couplets.

Many didn't answer the sub questions satisfactorily (word meanings).

A few candidates covered all 10 couplets.

(b) TIRUKKURAL

The candidates that attempted this did fairly well.

Question 3

(a),**(b)** TEVARAM

Candidates that attempted the questions on Tevaram were not always answering to the point. They must try to give more of the background story to create better responses.

Students may be advised to discuss various aspects in the stanzas in the class room, e.g. the description of Lord's appearance, his sufferings or his appeals, the literary style, the choice of words etc.

Question 4

(a) BHARATI

The question was about the description of nature. Candidates need to write more quotes to support their answer. In general, this question was well answered.

Bharatidasan was not attempted at all.

Question 5

(a),**(b)** NOVEL

Many candidates did not answer this question in enough detail and had incomplete answers.

The qualities or activities of each character in the novel could be discussed in the class room or enacted to practise.

Question 6

(a),**(b)** SHORT STORIES

There was good narration in the answers.

Quotations would have added more colour to the answer and allowed the candidate to receive more credit.

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| Paper 9689/51 |
| 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;
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.

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.

Better answers were those that broke up some longer sentences into two separate sentences. They produced largely correct and meaningful translation. Answers from weaker candidates were often characterised by serious spelling errors, errors in sentence construction and incorrect translation of vocabulary items.

The phrases / sentences that seemed to be problematic for some candidates include:

It also has many green fields
…and started counting the days
in a luxurious hotel
we visited some historic sites.

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| Paper 9689/52 |
| Prose |

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Key messages

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

General comments

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

The majority of candidates were able to break up some longer sentences into two separate sentences and produce a largely correct and meaningful translation. Answers from weaker students were often characterised by serious spelling errors, faulty sentence constructions and incorrect translations of vocabulary.

Comments on specific questions

Specific sentences within the translation that caused problem for some candidates were:

to stop complaining

she found a builder

Is there a leak?

…carrying a nest with two small sparrows inside

Without any disturbance after that.