TAMIL

> **Paper 9689/21**
> **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

Hand writing was neater and there were fewer spelling mistakes than the previous year. 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

Most of the candidates answered this question well.

Question 2

Almost all the candidates found this question accessible.

Question 3

(a) and (b) were answered well.

(c) Out of the four points at least one was missed out.

(d) Candidates regularly missed at least one point.

The candidates found **(e)** and **(g)** difficult to answer correctly.

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

Question 4

(a) This was difficult for many candidates. Only a few candidates got four out of four.

(b), (c), (d), and (e) were answered well. Some candidates missed one point in questions like these without realising a three mark question will have at least three things to write. Candidates should consider this in the future.

Question 5

(a)   This was answered well.

(b)   In **5(b)**, generally a question is asked to narrate the candidate's personal experience or views on a topic, very briefly. There are a maximum of five sentences for five marks.

Some candidates wrote the answer without mentioning **5(b)**. A few candidates even missed it out altogether. Some candidates repeated the material from the text. They must be trained to write in their own words.

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

TAMIL

Paper 9689/22
Reading and Writing

Key messages

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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

Hand writing was neater and there were fewer spelling mistakes than the previous year. 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

Some candidates found it difficult to identify the words with the equivalent meaning (synonyms) in the given text.

Question 2

Almost all the candidates found this question accessible.

Question 3

(a) and **(b)** were answered correctly.

(c), (d) and **(e)** some of the candidates did not give a complete answer. If they understand that a two mark question will have at least two points and a three mark question will have at least three points, they may fare better.

Question 4

(a)   Candidates struggled to give a full answer. They wrote which toy was given to a girl or a boy, but could not say the impact of it.

(c), (d) and **(e)** Very few candidates were able to obtain full marks in this section.

Question 5

(a)   Almost all the candidates found this question accessible.

(b)   In **5(b)**, generally a question is asked to narrate the candidate's personal experience or views on a
topic, very briefly. There are a maximum of five sentences for five marks.

Some candidates wrote the answer without mentioning **5(b)**. A few candidates even missed it out
altogether. Some candidates repeated the material from the text. They must be trained to write in
their own words.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/31
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 misunderstanding 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 1. ந – ன – ண 3 ர – ற 4 த் –ட்

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 இங்கே எங்கே.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

The candidates that attempted this question did fairly well.

Question 2

This was the most popular question. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well structured complex sentences and few errors in spelling and grammar. Poor spelling and lack of focused content was seen in weaker candidates' responses.

Question 3

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

Question 4

Some candidates attempted this question and did fairly well.

Question 5

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

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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

The 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 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 1. ந – ன – ண 3 ர – ற 4 த் –ட்

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 இங்கே எங்கே.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

This was the most popular question. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Poor spelling and lack of focused content was seen in weaker candidates.

Question 2

This was the second most popular question. Strong candidates responses were characterised by well structured complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors. Poor spelling and lack of focused content was seen in weaker candidates' responses.

Question 3

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

Question 4

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

Question 5

Too few candidates attempted this question to make a general remark.

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Paper 9689/41
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' handwriting and spelling was very good on the whole this year.

Comments on specific questions

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. Candidates should be encouraged to give quotes from the text. The question specifically asks for candidates to give examples/quotes, etc.

Question 2 – A Tirukkural

There are ten verses in each chapter of Tirukkural. Candidates tended to only answer with the five couplets given in the question. They are expected to give the meaning or gist 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 gist 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 only by minority of the candidates. On the whole, this question was answered well.

B Bharatidasan

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 or ten quotations from the text while studying in the class room.

TAMIL

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' handwriting and spelling was very good on the whole this year.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1 – A Sangam Literature

Very few candidates attempted Sangam literature. They were not able to answer it in full. When word meanings were 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. Candidates should be encouraged to give quotes from the text. The question specifically asks for candidates to give examples/quotes, etc.

Question 2 – A Tirukkural

There are ten verses in each chapter of Tirukkural. Candidates tended to only answer with the five couplets given in the question. They are expected to give the meaning or gist 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

Many candidates wrote about Tevaram's background story rather than them trying to deal with what the question specifically asked for. Candidates may be advised to discuss various aspects of the stanzas in the class room. When the questions are about description of the Lord's appearance or devotee's sufferings or his appeals, the literary style, or a description/choice of words, those aspects must be explored by the candidates in their response.

Question 4 – A Bharati

On the whole, this question was answered well.

Bharatidasan

This question was attempted by very few candidates. 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 – 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 or ten quotations from the text while studying in the class room.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/51
Prose

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.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/52
Prose

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.