

TAMIL

Paper 3226/01
Composition

Key messages

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

- ensure that they answer one question from **Section A** and one question from **Section B**
- adhere to the word limits specified
- ensure that their work is legible, accurate and logically presented
- ensure that they present their responses in the form stipulated in the question (e.g. letter, dialogue, etc.)
- show an awareness of the conventions of paragraphing and sentence structure
- demonstrate adequate control of grammar, punctuation and spelling
- understand and be able to employ a range of apt vocabulary
- be able to order and present facts, ideas and opinions
- 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. Many candidates produced competent responses to the questions. Some showed an ability to select relevant information for the questions and used it to construct a strong answer with very good vocabulary and syntax.

In **Section A**, topic (a) was the most popular and in **Section B**, topic (c) was the one most often selected.

The most common spelling errors occurred in the use of the following letters, which were often written in an incorrect form:

1. – – 2. – – 3. –

Errors were also seen in consonant–vowel combinations and in the formation of words from these. The most common errors of this sort were:

உதாரணமாக: குறுகிறேன் – கூறுகிறேன்

செர்ந்து – சேர்ந்து

என் என்றால் – ஏன் என்றால்

சத்தம் – சுத்தம்

பேகிறேன் – போகிறேன்

அனால் – ஆனால்

There were also some common errors of consonants that appear in the middle of words:

கிரும்மிகள் – கிருமிகள்

நலம்மா – நலமா

முக்கியம்மாக – முக்கியமாக

Some candidates wrote their essays in spoken idiom, which was not usually appropriate; candidates need to become more familiar with written Tamil traditions. Candidates should be encouraged to read more widely (e.g. books, newspapers) to help consolidate spelling and grammar.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue

Candidates were asked to write a response of approximately 120 words in Tamil on one of the three given topics.

Question 1(a), which asked candidates to write a letter about their first day at secondary school, was the most popular question in **Section A**. It was clear that many candidates had drawn on their personal experiences when answering this question. The majority of candidates did well here.

Question 1(b), which asked candidates to write a report about the ways in which waste was polluting a local river, was generally tackled adequately. Candidates came up with a variety of ideas to explain how the river had become polluted.

Question 1(c), which asked candidates to produce a dialogue between an employee at the airport and a passenger complaining about his lost luggage, was also popular. There were some vibrant responses to this question.

Section B – Essay

Candidates were asked to write one essay of approximately 200 words in Tamil from a choice of four topics.

Question 2(a), which asked candidates to write an essay on whether or not it was the government's responsibility to provide free housing for the poor, was generally tackled quite well.

There was a mixed response to **Question 2(b)**, which asked candidates to write an essay on the proverb 'too much of anything is good for nothing'. Some candidates used examples from daily life to good effect.

Question 2(c), which asked candidates to describe the kinds of films that they liked watching and why, was a very popular topic and most wrote a good piece in response.

Candidates who chose **Question 2(d)**, which asked them to write an essay stating their opinion on the age at which people should be allowed to vote in elections, presented mixed views.

TAMIL

Paper 3226/02
Translation and Reading
Comprehension

General comments

In order to do well in this paper, candidates need to make sure that they express themselves in clear, correct and concise language.

In addition, candidates need to:

- ensure that they plan their time for each question and allow time for thorough checking of their work
- ensure that their work is legible and logically presented
- read the translation passages carefully before beginning to translate.

Overall, a range of performance was seen on this paper. Candidates seemed to have organised their time in the examination well and there were no rubric infringements.

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Translation

Question 1: Translation into English

Candidates were required to translate a passage from Tamil into English. The majority of candidates coped very well with this exercise.

Question 2: Translation into Tamil

Candidates were required to translate a passage from English into Tamil, and a range of performance was seen here. Some common errors were as follows:

1. ன – ண – ந 2. ல – ள – ழ 3. ர – ற 4. கீழே – கீழை, கீளை

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Most candidates demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the passage. Some weaker candidates gave the same response for **Questions 3** and **5**. The majority of candidates gave correct answers to **Questions 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10** and **12**. Some provided only a partial response to **Question 8**. Most candidates omitted the second part of the answer when tackling **Questions 5** and **11**.

If two marks are available for a question, then candidates need to provide two points in their answer in order to have access to full marks for that question. Likewise if three marks are available for a question, then candidates will need to provide three points, and so on.