

TAMIL

Paper 3206/01
Composition

Key messages

To do well in this paper, candidates need to:

- 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
- 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 opinions
- ensure that they present their response in the form stipulated in the question (e.g. letter, dialogue etc)
- 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. A wide range of marks was awarded.

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

It was encouraging to note that the stronger candidates made significantly fewer spelling errors than last year. 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 2. ல – ள – ழ 3. ர – ற 4. கீழே - கிழை

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

Comments on specific questions

Section A – Letter, Report or Speech, Dialogue

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

A range of performance was seen on **Question 1(a)** ("Write a letter to a large company that is recruiting young people for temporary work experience, stating your qualities and why you are ideally suited to the job."). Answers to this question appeared to be generally satisfactory.

A range of performance was also seen on **Question 1(b)** ("You are asked to give a speech at your old primary school based on your best memories of your time there. Write that speech.") A number of candidates chose this question. Weaker candidates struggled to produce accurate syntax and spelling; stronger candidates demonstrated fluency in these areas.

Question 1(c) asked candidates to write a dialogue in which they and their friend discussed a Tamil film they had watched recently. Many candidates attempted this question and answers appeared to be more fluent than those given to the other questions in **Section A**.

Section B – Essay

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

A range of performance was seen on **Question 2(a)** (“Describe a recent sporting event that you saw.”). This was the most popular question in **Section B**. The majority of candidates wrote about their own experiences in their responses. There were limited responses from weaker candidates, but fluent and well-presented arguments were offered by stronger candidates.

Question 2(b) (“Schools should teach students how to become good citizens. Discuss.”): A limited response was seen from weaker candidates, both in terms of content and of linguistic accuracy. Responses from stronger candidates were characterised by good syntax and spelling. Common errors included spelling mistakes, low word count and repetition.

Overall, answers to **Question 2(c)** (“Write about a famous historical place you visited recently.”), were good. The majority of candidates had written about their own experiences. The strongest responses were characterised by fluency and well-presented points.

Question 2(d) (“Describe a situation where a younger brother or sister got you in trouble.”) produced mixed results. The strongest candidates constructed fluent and well-presented essays; weaker responses contained limited ideas and demonstrated poor linguistic accuracy and understanding of the question.

TAMIL

Paper 3206/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

Key messages

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:

- show that they can understand and adequately convey information
- understand, order and present facts
- evaluate information, select what is relevant to specific purposes and express it in their own words
- show a sense of audience and an awareness of register
- exercise control of appropriate structures
- understand and employ a range of apt vocabulary
- be able to recognise implicit meaning and attitude
- demonstrate an awareness of the conventions of sentence structure
- demonstrate adequate control of vocabulary, syntax and grammar, punctuation and spelling
- 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.

General comments

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. The way in which candidates presented their translation was not always the most appropriate. For example:

“குதிரைகள் பயந்து ஓட ஆரம்பித்தன வயலின் குறுக்கே” was sometimes offered instead of “குதிரைகள் பயந்து வயலின் குறுக்கே ஓட ஆரம்பித்தன.”

Section B – Reading Comprehension

Most candidates demonstrated a reasonable understanding of the passage.

Some weaker candidates gave the same response for **Questions 4** and **9**.

The majority of candidates gave correct answers to **Questions 3, 5, 6, 7, 8** and **11**.

Many provided only partial response to **Questions 4, 8, 9** and **10**.

If two marks are available for a question, then candidates will 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.