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FOREWORD

This booklet contains reports written by Examiners on the work of candidates in certain papers. **Its contents are primarily for the information of the subject teachers concerned.**

TAMIL

GCE Advanced Level

Paper 9689/02
Reading and Writing

General comments

In general, the performance of the candidates was good. To illustrate the clear simple style an answer for **Question 3 (a)** follows.

குழந்தை பாலர் பள்ளிக்கூடத்தில் படிக்கிறது. அந்தக் குழந்தைக்குத் தாய் இல்லை. தன் தந்தை கொடிய நோயால் இருக்கிறார். குழந்தை பள்ளியில் இருந்து திரும்பியவுடன் நாள்தோறும் அப்பாவைப் பார்க்கவேண்டும். அவருக்குத் தண்ணீர், மருந்து, மாத்திரைகள் எடுத்துக் கொடுத்துப் பணிவிடைகள் செய்து வந்தது.

The candidates' performance in understanding the meanings of words and concepts was also good.

However, the use of language could be improved as candidates struggled with the use of case markers, tenses and transitive and intransitive verbs. Examples:

வேற்றுமை உருபு - தைப்பூசக் காவடி என்பதற்கு (என்பது) தமிழர்களுக்கு ஒரு முக்கியமான விழாவாகும்.

காலம் - ஒரு மாதத்திற்குள் என்னைவிட்டு இறந்துவிட்டீர்கள் (விடுவீர்கள்) என்று நண்பர்கள் சொல்கிறார்கள்.

There were also some difficulties with phonetics, certain problems causing spelling mistakes such as:

ஆரு (று) தல், கன (ண) வன், மணை (ன) வி, கத (ட) வள்

Special attention in this area is required.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

(e) Candidates found it difficult to identify the following word:

'உறுதுணை'.

Question 2

Candidates were expected to use the words in their own sentences and most of them performed well.

Questions 3 and 4

Many of the candidates identified the required content. They were expected to respond in their own words. They should be trained in that way.

Question 5

Candidates were successful in summarising the ideas from the given passage, but they did not go beyond the passage. They should be trained not only to draw out ideas from the passage but also to express their own opinion about the material.

Paper 9689/03

Essay

General comments

The general performance in this Paper was good. Candidates were able to organise and structure their essays. Headings were also used appropriately.

Example 1

Structure of the essay with subtitles:

முன்னுரை

நன்மைகள், புதிய ஆராய்ச்சிகள், வேலைகள், கல்விப் பணியில் கணினி, உலகச் செய்திகளை அறிதல், மற்ற வசதிகள்.

தீமைகள் : கணினி மூலம் அடிமைத்தனம், கெட்டப் பழக்கங்கள், படிப்பில் கவனக் குறைவு, வேலை குறைதல்.

முடிவுரை

Example 2

This reveals the simple style and good introduction to the essay.

பற்பல ஆண்டுகளுக்கு முன் கல்வியின் முக்கியத்துவத்தை நன்குணர்ந்த நம் தமிழ்த் தெய்வப்புலவராகிய திருவள்ளுவர் தாம் எழுதிய திருக்குறள் என்னும் புதிய நூலில் கல்வியைப் பற்றி கேள்வி, கல்வி, அறிவுடைமை, கல்லாமை ஆகிய நான்கு அதிகாரங்களை இயற்றியுள்ளார்.

கேடில் விழுச்செல்வம் கல்வி ஒருவற்கு
மாடல்ல மற்றை யவை.

- என்று இனிமையாகக் கூறியுள்ளார். அதாவது எல்லாச் செல்வங்களிலும் கல்விச் செல்வம்தான் மிகச் சிறந்த செல்வமாகும். இன்றைய உலகத்திலும் ஒரு நல்ல இன்பமான வாழ்க்கையை வேண்டுகிறவர்களுக்கும் ஒரு செம்மையான வாழ்வுக்காக நம்புகிறவர்களுக்கும் கல்விச் செல்வமே தேவையானது.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Candidates should think of the present day situation in India. A tradition strongly followed so far is challenged. Candidates were expected to argue and illustrate whether traditions can be followed as such or in a modified way and to draw conclusions.

Question 2

Performance was good, but candidates usually described rather than analysed the importance of education. Instead, candidates should have tried to approach this particular question to bring out the importance of education in the present day world.

Question 3

An analysis of the implications of computer technology in present day life was expected in this question. Candidates did fairly well, but more emphasis should be put on analysis and the drawing of conclusions.

Question 4

In this question candidates were expected to understand the effect of war and to think about ways to avoid it.

Question 5

Candidates had to think about the present day position of employment and suggest solutions. This brought out candidates' problem solving ability.

Question 6

No candidates answered on Young People.

Paper 9689/04

Texts

General comments

Candidates performed better than last year in this Paper. The language style of the candidates also improved considerably. They were able to use complex sentences and literary style. An example follows:

அவன் வலிய வந்த போர்களிலும், தானாகப் படையெடுத்து நடத்திய போர்களிலும்
வெற்றி நங்கையைத் தழுவி, புலவர்கள் பாடும் பெரும் புகழுக்கு ஆளானான்.

However, the introductions to the question attempted by the candidates were quite lengthy when compared to the length of the answers. Instead of this Teachers should train candidates to see beyond the lines, and understand the author's intention and underlying themes.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

- (a)(i) The meaning of the lines given in simple sentences in enough.
- (ii) Candidates struggled to answer this sub-division of the question.
- (b) The points should be presented in a comprehensive way bringing out the intention of the poet.

Question 2

- (a)(i) The idea of the author as envisaged in the given five couplets is expected to be written.
- (ii) This essay type question expects the ideas of the author from the chapter as a whole. Candidates attempted this, but some guidance is still required from Teachers.
- (b) Candidates did fairly well for this question.

Question 3

- (a)(b) Candidates' performance was good. The answers were acceptable.

Question 4

- (a)(b) These questions were usually well answered.

Question 5

- (a)(b) In both texts the given ideas were well comprehended by the candidates. They also tried to find out the underlying idea in the poems.

Question 6

- (a) Candidates tried to bring together all the information available in the drama. The expectation is to assess the knowledge of the candidates about the characterisation in reference to that king. The development of the character of that king should have been discussed.
- (b) The information available about the statue was given adequately.

Question 7

- (a) The incidents in the life of Karpagam as described in the short story were expected and given.
- (b) The story is expected to be given in the candidates' own language. Candidates were able to do it.

Question 8

- (a)(b) This question was well answered.

Paper 9689/05

Prose

General comments

In general the candidates were able to answer this Paper well. Some of the words like dancers, treachery, triumph of good over evil, tourist industry were found to be difficult to translate, eg:

தீ விளையாட்டு

for

பட்டாசுகள்

shows the inability of the candidates to find the exact word in the target language.