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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 and GCE Advanced Subsidiary Level

Papers 8689/02 and 9689/02
Reading and Writing

No report available.

Papers 8689/03 and 9689/03
Essay

General comments

All questions were attempted and provided a good degree of differentiation between candidates. **Question 3** was by far the most popular with candidates, and a range of marks was attained. **Questions 2, 4 and 6** were also attempted by a number of candidates and produced a good spread of marks. **Questions 1 and 5** were the least popular.

The overall performance of candidates was good, with only a small number of entrants at both extremes of the mark range. Weaker candidates' responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstanding of the question, leading to loss of marks for content, and poorer language skills (spelling mistakes and poor construction of sentences).

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Attempted by only two candidates, one of whom gave a brief and unfinished response which displayed misunderstanding of the question. Good attempt by the other candidate.

Question 2

Answers were in the middle range (20-33 marks). Weaker candidates tended to drop marks on both the language and content areas.

Question 3

A good range of marks attained here (12-36). Poor spelling and lack of focused content were seen in weaker candidates' responses.

Question 4

This question showed the biggest range of marks (10-40). Once again spelling errors and poor focus on content, as well as repetition, were seen in weaker responses. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well-structured, complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors.

Question 5

Attempted by only two candidates both of whom did fairly well and picked up similar proportions of marks on language and content areas.

Question 6

Attempted by seven candidates with a reasonable range of marks (18-34). More marks were dropped on the content area for this question by some of the weaker candidates.

Paper 9689/04

Texts

No report available.

Paper 9689/05

Prose

General comments

The overall performance of the candidates was generally good. There was a wide range of marks, with most candidates achieving over 20 marks. Weaker candidates lost additional marks through misunderstanding of sentences, especially lines 17 and 18, and lines 27 and 28. The remainder of the translation was reasonably attempted.

The lines which candidates found most difficult are as follows:

“Yet he has the same face as you had when you were young”

“And the old man who was holding the water shook so much”

“Each time the old man wondered who he was”

“this troubled him”

“they were so deeply moved”

Problems with the use of time and interpretation of the rubric were not apparent.