HINDI LITERATURE

| Paper 8675/04 |
| Texts |

General comments

This report covers the work of candidates for 9687/04 as well as for 8675/04. This year's candidates in general performed well, with a good number demonstrating reasonable understanding of their chosen texts. There was evidence, however, as in previous years that some candidates were using pre-prepared answers, leading to difficulties of specific focus on the questions asked.

Candidates were able in general to write well in standard Hindi. There was a noticeable improvement in the spelling and grammar of the candidates. To improve further, candidates should be reminded of the differences between similar looking Devanagari letters e.g. 'ज' / 'च' and similar sounding letters e.g. त / द, ट / ठ, न / ण. Candidates should also be trained to appreciate the cultural importance of addressing authors and gods/goddesses and elders with 'politeness', e.g. भगवान राम कहता है / प्रेमचन्द कहता है । should be replaced by भगवान राम कहते हैं / प्रेमचन्द कहते हैं ।

Teachers should remind their candidates that they should not answer both **Questions (k)** and **(kh)** of any question as only one of these will be counted.

It should also be noted in the mark scheme that a candidate who writes more than 600 words cannot be placed higher than the 16 - 17 category.

Comments on specific questions

Part 1

Question 1

(k) Quite a few candidates attempted this question. Whilst there were some good answers, there were some difficulties of recognition of the context. Mistakes occurred where candidates saw this as a dialogue between Vibhishan and Ravan, whereas it was between Ram and Sugreev and others.

(kh) Equally popular with candidates. The question expected candidates to have a clear understanding of the concepts लोक रक्षक / लोक रंजक . The first refers to someone who is a 'protector of all the people'. Tulsi's portrayal of Lord Rama is that of a God who is compassionate and kind to everyone, whether a sinner or murder, who seeks refuge in him. Candidates should therefore discuss the statement referring to the verses where Tulsi's Rama in his conversation with Hanuman and Sugreeva asserts his merciful nature. On the other hand, Surdas' portrayal of Lord Krishna is that of an 'entertainer of the people', his romantic and childlike aspects. In 'Gokul Lila' verse 26, the little Krishna complains to his mother about his frustration that his hair has not been growing fast enough, in spite of his having regularly drunk milk. Lord Krishna's 'Lila' is that of a deity performed at pleasure. There was a tendency to use pre-prepared answers and as a result candidates drifted away from the basic distinction to a general characterization of Ram and Krishna.

Question 2

(k) Although a few candidates managed this question well, most candidates had very poor understanding of the छायावादी परंपरा. Mahadevi's poem was generally not well understood and appreciated: candidates had no clear idea of 'kavya saundarya' in the poem and very few commented on similes and metaphors. The Examiners were expecting candidates to discuss the characteristics of the Romantic tradition, illustrating it through the poem. Mahadevi's poetry

describes the inner world of her feelings, describes a blend of wonder and anguish within her, a sense of loneliness. Like other Romantic poets, her poetry is addressed to a lover, imaginary or divine. The poem illustrates the importance of the subjective life of her emotions, associated with mythical love.

(kh) This was not a popular question and those who did choose it were rarely able to produce a 'full' answer describing the characteristics of Mahadevi or Nirala's poetry.

Question 3

(k) Very popular question. A number of well-prepared candidates demonstrated their understanding of the extract very well. Some candidates discussed only part of the extract.

(kh) A popular question. Some had a very good understanding of the text and produced very satisfactory answers. Others however were not able give the details of the differences between the 'past' and the 'present', tending towards general remarks without giving examples from the poem.

Part 2

Question 4

(k) Generally good answers, showing a great deal of enjoyment and enthusiasm from their reading of the novel 'Pratigya'.

(kh) A very popular question. Candidates seemed to share Premchand's feelings about the problems faced by women in society at the time and wrote with passion.

Question 5

(k) Most candidates found this question straightforward and answered it with a clear understanding of the story's message about the religious fundamentalists.

(kh) Most candidates successfully portrayed the character of Nankhu Singh by highlighting different aspects of his character. It would have been good to comment on the 'naveen sampraday'.

Question 6

(k) (kh) Relatively more candidates tackled these questions than in previous years.