

TAMIL AND TAMIL LANGUAGE

Paper 9689/02
Reading and Writing

General comments

Overall the performance of the candidates was good however there were numerous spelling mistakes in most of the answer papers.

Very few candidates had sufficient vocabulary to write responses to the questions in their own word. Most responses contained much material that was copied straight from the text.

Comments on individual questions

Question 4.3 In this question candidates were asked to write about the preparations needed for a trip. Very few candidates answered this part well with most repeating what was given in the text.

Question 5.1 In this question candidates were asked to write the similarities and differences between the educational tour and pleasure trips. Most candidates simply copied their answers directly from the question paper.

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Paper 9689/03

Essay

General Comments

The overall performance of candidates was good, with only a small number of entrants at both extremes of the mark range. There were no widespread issues around the use of time or interpretation of the rubric by candidates. Weaker candidates' responses were characterised by a combination of misunderstanding of the question, especially on **Questions 2, 3 and 4**, leading to loss of marks for content, and poor language skills such as spelling mistakes and sentence construction.

Comments on specific questions

Question 1

Candidates who attempted this essay title achieved marks across the middle range.

Question 2

This was by far the most popular question producing a wide range of marks. Poor spelling and lack of focused content characterised the weaker candidates' responses. Strong candidates' responses were well-structured with complex sentences containing few spelling mistakes and grammatical errors.

Question 3

Candidates who attempted this question achieved a wide range of marks.

Question 4

This was the second most popular title also producing a wide range of marks. Weaker candidates produced work with many spelling errors, poor focus on content with a considerable amount of repetition. Strong candidates' responses were characterised by well structured, complex sentences and few spelling and grammatical errors.

Question 5

The few candidates who attempted this essay title performed very well.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/04

Texts

General comments

In general the performance of candidates this year has improved with some candidates performing extremely well. A wider variety of questions were answered this year compared with previous years showing that some candidates had read all the books in the syllabus giving them more choice in the examination. This is a very good development.

In general however **Questions 1 and 2** were not satisfactorily answered.

Some candidates were unable to express their ideas and understanding clearly because of their weak language skills with some tending to copy words and phrases that appeared on the question paper rather than using their own words. Most candidates would benefit from practice in spelling and sentence construction. For example Tamil, being an SOV language, uses the verb at the end of sentences.

TAMIL

Paper 9689/05

Prose

General comments

The overall performance of candidates was generally good. The marks ranged between 6 and 36. The majority of candidates gained more than half the marks available while the weaker candidates lost marks through spelling errors and incorrect sentence construction.

There were several sentences within the translation that caused problems for some candidates, for example 'The middle aged car driver who was on his way to visit a friend, had seen the solitary walker', 'In spite of the slow progress', 'and pulled over' and 'The young man looked confused'. Even the stronger candidates found the relatively long fifth sentence challenging which they managed by breaking it up into two separate sentences to produce a largely correct translation. Weaker candidates failed to produce a correct translation here.

Overall there were no problems with the use of time and interpretation of the rubric.