

Examiners' Report/ Principal Examiner Feedback

June 2011

International GCSE Tamil (4TA0)
Paper 1

Edexcel is one of the leading examining and awarding bodies in the UK and throughout the world. We provide a wide range of qualifications including academic, vocational, occupational and specific programmes for employers.

Through a network of UK and overseas offices, Edexcel's centres receive the support they need to help them deliver their education and training programmes to learners.

For further information, please call our GCE line on 0844 576 0025, our GCSE team on 0844 576 0027, or visit our website at www.edexcel.com.

If you have any subject specific questions about the content of this Examiners' Report that require the help of a subject specialist, you may find our **Ask The Expert** email service helpful.

Ask The Expert can be accessed online at the following link:
<http://www.edexcel.com/Aboutus/contact-us/>

Alternatively, you can contact our Languages Advisor directly by sending an email to Alistair Drewery on
LanguagesSubjectAdvisor@EdexcelExperts.co.uk.

You can also telephone 0844 576 0035 to speak to a member of our subject advisor team.

(If you are calling from outside the UK please dial + 44 1204 770 696 and state that you would like to speak to the Languages subject specialist).

June 2011

Publications Code UG028851

All the material in this publication is copyright

© Edexcel Ltd 2011

General Comments

This is the first year that IGCSE Tamil 4TA0 has been sat, and it was pleasing to note an increase in the number of UK based centres making entries for this examination. For both established and new centres to Edexcel, please note that to ensure candidates are allowed to perform to the best of their abilities. teachers should familiarise themselves with the specification and make use of past papers from the legacy qualification O level Tamil (7644). There were some instances where candidates who appeared to have a good grasp of Tamil, lost marks as they did not follow the rubrics.

However, the pieces of compositions written in response to the questions paper were quite interesting with the majority of the candidates providing imaginative and creative answers and scored good marks.

Question 1

Most candidates did very well and scored good marks. However some of the candidates did not achieve good marks as they could not translate the sentences. Candidates should be encouraged to practice translating from English in Tamil to ensure they do not lose mark needlessly.

Question 2

The text set for this section was accessible and the majority of the candidates understood the contents in the English language. Candidates gave a range of different vocabulary and their translation. The more able candidates at the upper end of ability range scored good marks and used a wide range of vocabulary and their translations were of a good quality. Less able candidates lost marks as they made common mistakes relating to the sentence structure, grammar and spelling.

Question 3

Most of the candidates did well on this question, particularly those candidates with a strong grasp of English. Their construction of sentences was appropriate and the contents of the text understood well by these candidates. Less able candidates lost marks as they did not complete their sentences.

Question 4

This section of the paper was attempted well by all candidates. As the candidate were given options to choose what they write about, option (C) appeared to be the most favourite as a majority of candidates chose this. The question was designed to promote creative thinking and directed candidates to write about what they enjoyed in a film.

The second favourite choice of candidates was option (D) which required of them to write about a writer. These candidates achieved high marks in their respective pieces of composition. The content of their work demonstrated that the majority of candidates know about films and were able to describe what they have seen using analytical and creative thinking. There were very good evidence of originality, as personal thinking of candidates was evident in their writings and in some cases detailed and elaborate descriptions of the plot and the actors demonstrating good subject knowledge. The

candidates who managed to score good marks on this question had a sound knowledge of grammar and appropriate vocabulary. The majority of the essays were of a high standard.

A few of the candidates found it difficult to address the points clearly and added irrelevant detail. Most candidates who attempted this question were able to understand the topic and have written according to their ability and they were awarded marks accordingly.

A few candidates did not attempt this section and did not write any piece of composition. This group of candidates had limited knowledge of Tamil and did not know how to construct sentences or spelling simple Tamil words. Their common mistakes were spellings, sentence structure and a lack of understanding of the use of singular and plural nouns and verb agreement.

Overall, candidates have responded well to this paper. Teachers are advised to pay attention to the specification contents and grammatical structures defined in the specification. Those candidates who are preparing for the exam by themselves should ensure they are familiar with the requirement of the specification.

For all centres and candidates for further information about Tamil, please refer to the Edexcel Tamil page: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/igcse/igcse09/lang/tamil/Pages/default.aspx> for access to past papers please refer to the legacy specification, please go here: <http://www.edexcel.com/quals/olevel/languages/7644/Pages/default.aspx>

Grade Boundaries

The modern foreign languages specifications share a common design, but the assessments in different languages are not identical. Grade boundaries at unit level reflect these differences in assessments, ensuring that candidate outcomes across these specifications are comparable at specification level.

Grade boundaries for this, and all other papers, can be found on the website on this link: <http://www.edexcel.com/iwantto/Pages/grade-boundaries.aspx>

Further copies of this publication are available from
International Regional Offices at www.edexcel.com/international

For more information on Edexcel qualifications, please visit
www.edexcel.com

Alternatively, you can contact Customer Services at
www.edexcel.com/ask or on + 44 1204 770 696

Pearson Education Limited. Registered company number 872828
with its registered office at Edinburgh Gate, Harlow, Essex CM20 2JE

Ofqual



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

