

TAMIL

Paper 3206/01
Composition

Most candidates wrote good essays in both parts of the exam.

Question 1(a) was the most popular question. **Question 1(b)** and **Question 1(c)** were attempted by a smaller number of candidates.

In the second part of the exam, most candidates opted for **Question 2(a)**.

The work of the weakest candidates was characterised by the fact that they tended to make a lot of spelling errors in both **Questions 1** and **2**. They also struggled to construct sentences accurately. It should, on the other hand, also be noted that the stronger candidates made significantly fewer spelling errors than the stronger candidates last year. This suggests Centres have given extra attention to grammar and spelling which has paid off in the work of their candidates.

The main mistakes occurred in the use of the following letters in the incorrect form:

1 **d - z - e** 2 **y - s - o** 3 **u - w** 4 **n - N** 5 **Nf - if**

Question 1(a). A wide range of marks was achieved on this question. The question discriminated well between candidates of stronger and lesser ability.

Question 1(b). Only a very small number of candidates attempted this question. They performed very well to reasonably well.

Question 1(c). A fairly small number of candidates attempted this question. The weakest candidates struggled with syntax and spelling. The strongest candidates wrote fluently.

Question 2(a). Essays encompassed a broad range, with the weakest candidates struggling with syntax and spelling. Errors included spelling mistakes, low word count and repetition.

Question 2(b). Only a very small number of candidates attempted this question. Most did well.

Question 2(c). Only a very small number of candidates attempted this question.

Question 2(d). A wide range of marks was given. Weaker candidates not only made many linguistic mistakes, but their responses tended to be limited in scope. Strong candidates ensured they presented solid arguments to back up their opinions.

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Paper 3206/02

Translation and Reading Comprehension

General Comments.

A higher range of marks was attained on the translation questions this year, suggesting that this year's candidates possessed stronger language skills than last year's.

Overall, a wide range of marks was attained. Weaker candidates tended to score weakly across all parts of this paper, but, in general, even the weaker candidates picked up more marks on **Paper 2** than they were able to do on **Paper 1**, as the latter demanded more creative and independent input.

Comments on specific questions.

Section A - Translation

Candidates typically did better in this section than they did in the Comprehension section. Most managed to produce translations that were faithful to the meaning of the texts they had to translate.

Section B - Comprehension

A large number of candidates struggled in this part of the test as they appeared not to have read either the text or the questions thoroughly. As a result, a number of candidates wrote answers that overlapped with answers to other questions, especially in **Question 3**.

Candidates are strongly advised to read the text and all the questions thoroughly before starting to formulate their answers.

Questions 4, 8, and 9 were answered entirely correctly by many candidates. Questions such as **Questions 5, 7 and 13** tended to be answered correctly only partially. Not all the points allocated to such questions could therefore be given, and, again, there was quite a bit of overlap in the answers to different questions.

Although no candidates appeared to have struggled to complete the work within the allocated time, some appeared to find it difficult to understand what the passage was all about, indicating a likely lack of exposure to written Tamil. Candidates are to be encouraged to read widely in Tamil to boost their vocabulary and linguistic repertoire.