

London Examinations

GCE Ordinary Level

Mark Scheme and Examiners' Report
for Tamil 7644

May/June 2000

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TAMIL 7644

Mark Scheme

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TAMIL 7644, MARK SCHEME

Question 1 – Translation from Tamil into English

This part of the paper is marked out of thirty.

- 25 negative marks, subject to usual deductions for errors and omissions
- 1 mark off for serious error or omission
- ½ mark off for minor error or omission
- up to 2 marks off for a phrase or part of a sentence which distorts the meaning of the message in the sentence
- up to 4 marks for spelling
- 5 positive marks for elegance/fluidity of expression

Question 2 – Translation from English into Tamil

This part of the paper is marked out of thirty.

Marks should be distributed in the following way:

- correct decoding 7
- correct encoding 8
- linguistic accuracy 8
- cohesion/fluidity 7

Question 3 – Sentences testing grammatical knowledge

This part of the paper is marked out of fifteen.

Deduct ½ mark for each minor error.

Question 4 – Short Essay

This part of the paper is marked out of twenty-five.

Marks should be distributed in the following way:

- relevant content 10
- quality of language 10
- accuracy of spelling 5

TAMIL 7644, CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

General comments

Although the performance of a good number of candidates was comforting, attention paid to orthography and to the construction of sentences was rather disappointing. It must be emphasised that those who obtained low scores are those who were unable to express themselves in simple Tamil without making spelling and grammatical mistakes.

Comments on individual questions

Question 1

Candidates were asked to translate a simple Tamil tale into English, and the best responses were received for this question. However, there were instances where the candidates' lexical skills were inadequate, both in Tamil and English.

Marks were deducted for errors and omissions arising out of faulty comprehension, distortion of the meaning of the passage and mistakes in grammar and spelling.

Question 2

Although it was clear that most candidates did not have much difficulty in understanding the English passage, they found it difficult to translate into Tamil, which accounted for the low scores. Many were unable to write correctly the Tamil equivalents for 'cultivation', 'evenly', 'desert', 'parched', 'climate' and 'weather'. There were many mistakes in spelling and in simple structures.

Question 3

Although some candidates did well, most of them were lacking in grammatical knowledge and ability to translate the English sentences into idiomatic Tamil with an acceptable degree of accuracy.

Question 4

For the essay, most candidates selected topic (b), 'Life in the Year 2001', while topic (a), 'A national festival' was the next favourite. Generally the candidates had interesting ideas to express but their organisation and presentation were not very satisfactory. Here again, inadequate linguistic skills and lexical competence were responsible for lower scores.

Teachers and candidates should note that indifferent orthography, faulty construction and other mistakes in grammar and expression will result in poor marks.

TAMIL 7644, GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	70	55	40	35	30

Note: Grade boundaries may vary from year to year and from subject to subject, depending on the demands of the question paper.

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