

Edexcel International  
London Examinations  
GCE Ordinary Level

**Mark Scheme with Examiners Report**

**London Examinations Ordinary Level GCE in  
Tamil (7644)**

**June 2002**

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Mark Scheme and Chief Examiner's Report  
June 2002

## **TAMIL 7644**

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### **Mark Scheme**

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## **TAMIL 7644, MARK SCHEME**

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### **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**

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### **General Comments**

Although the performance of some of the candidates was encouraging, the majority of the candidates did not perform up to expectations because they were not conversant with the grammar of written Tamil and made mistakes even in simple structures. This accounted for the low scores in exercises involving translation into Tamil (questions 2 and 3) and the essay (question 4). Spelling errors continue to cause concern. Candidates and their teachers should be advised to pay more attention to orthography and the construction of sentences.

### **Question 1**

The best responses were received for this question where candidates were asked to translate an easy passage from Tamil into English. The lack of lexical skills in English and Tamil and imprecise comprehension accounted for the low marks scored by some of the candidates.

### **Question 2**

It appears that candidates had greater difficulty in translating the passage into Tamil rather than in comprehending the English original. Most Candidates found that translating a few phrases into Tamil was a hard task; consequently, some measures were taken to provide these candidates some relief in marking the scripts. However, it was most disappointing to find that many candidates were unable to write correctly the Tamil equivalents for words like "grass," "environment," "dictionary," "wheat," "sugar-cane," "ornaments," and "handicraft."

### **Question 3**

It was observed that this question, involving the translation of complex sentences not idiomatic Tamil, proved most difficult for the candidates. Their inadequate command of the written idiom in complex structures was responsible for the low score obtained. No candidate was able to translate all the sentences accurately.

### **Question 4**

Most of the candidates selected the essay topic "Why we Need Friends," while topic (c) "Computers in Daily Life" was the next in order of popularity. It was apparent that the candidates possessed good ideas and the capacity to organise and present an argument; their inability to express themselves in accurate Tamil, however, led to low scores.

It is disheartening to note that most candidates who appeared to be native speakers of the language were unable to use Tamil in its proper, idiomatic written form.

## **TAMIL 7644, GRADE BOUNDARIES**

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Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	72	56	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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