

Edexcel International
London Examinations
GCE Ordinary Level

Mark Scheme with Examiners' Report

London Examinations Ordinary Level GCE in Tamil (7644)

June 2003

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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

There were some pleasing performances this year. However, the inability to use literary Tamil continues to be the most striking weakness observed in a large number of responses. It is obvious that the attention paid to orthography and to the construction of sentences is rather inadequate. It is depressing to see few candidates not conversant enough with the Tamil alphabets.

Question 1

The candidates had no difficulty in understanding the passage which was narrative in content, and they were able to render it into English satisfactorily. However, there were instances where the candidates' lexical skills, both in Tamil and English, were evidently inadequate, and that accounted for the low scores obtained by some of the candidates.

Question 2

Though it was clear that the candidates did not have much difficulty in comprehending the given English passage, the majority of them had difficulty in rendering it into Tamil. Candidates made many mistakes in spelling and in simple structures. A number of candidates were unable to give Tamil equivalents for words like "bear", "sky", "east" and "west".

Question 3

This question proved the most difficult for candidates. Most of them were lacking in grammatical knowledge and in the ability to translate. Very few candidates were able to translate all the sentences with an acceptable degree of accuracy. Even though most of the candidates had no problem in understanding the meaning of the sentences, they had difficulty in translating them properly into idiomatic Tamil.

Question 4

From the choice of titles offered, all were attempted, with topic (c) "Environmental Pollution and Public Health" the most popular choice. Quite a considerable number of candidates had ideas to express and the organisation of the subject matter was satisfactory. However, inadequate linguistics skills and lexical competence often led to low levels of attainment.

TAMIL 7644, GRADE BOUNDARIES

| 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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