

Examiners' Report

GCE O Level Tamil (7644)

June 2006

delivered locally, recognised globally

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7644 TAMIL, CHIEF EXAMINER'S REPORT

General comments

The examination paper, as a whole, was of comparable standard to those of previous years. The majority of candidates found the paper fairly accessible and a good proportion of candidates performed well and scored high marks on the paper. The overall performance of candidates showed that the standard of literacy including the transmission skills to and from the target language was very good. However, teachers must be emphasize the importance grammar and spelling.

Question 1

Candidates were asked to translate a Tamil passage into English. Candidates produced good translations and understood very well the passage. However, it was apparent that many candidates who had no problem in understanding the passage, faced difficulties in translating it satisfactorily into idiomatic English. Many candidates were unable to find the English equivalents for the following words :

'capital city', 'daytime' and 'retail'

Most of the candidates were not aware of the Tamil phrase commonly used to denote 'mirage' and hence allowance was made for it when marking the scripts.

Question 2

This passage proved to be more challenging than the previous one. A number of mistakes in spelling and in simple structures were found. Many could not write correctly the Tamil words for 'rice', 'source', 'grains', 'women', 'common', 'loan' and 'interest'.

Question 3

The sentences test knowledge of the candidates over a wide range of grammar and syntax. It is recommended that teachers should get their students to be familiar with at least the categories of grammar reflected in the sentences. Inadequate command of the written idiom accounted for the low scores obtained.

Question 4

The most popular choice was topic (d) 'a letter to a friend in the city explaining why you prefer to live in the village'. The next favourite topic was (a) 'Road accidents and their prevention'. It was obvious that many candidates possessed fascinating ideas, imagination and the capacity to organise an argument. However, the inability of some candidates to express themselves in accurate Tamil has resulted in low scores.

GRADE BOUNDARIES

Grade	A	B	C	D	E
Lowest mark for award of grade	65	52	40	35	26

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